




Sara's health tips

Sara Ali Khan talks about the challenges of preserving mental well-being in the demanding world of entertainment


LEISURE | **P2**



Coup in Madagascar

Madagascar's military has taken charge of the Indian Ocean island, an army colonel said Tuesday, after President Andry Rajoelina fled abroad

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Markets decline

Benchmark BSE Sensex falls by 297 points due to weak global cues in Asian and European markets and FI outflow

BUSINESS | **P11**



Series sweep

India outclass WI in the second Test, reaching the 121-run target with 7 wickets to spare to bag the series

SPORTS | **P12**

HOMeward JOURNEY



A fisherman carries fishing net while walking with his bicycle on the bank of the Ganga river amid sunset in Prayagraj, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

\$15bn: Google's biggest ever India investment in Andhra

NEW DELHI: In its biggest ever investment in India, tech giant Google on Tuesday said it will invest USD 15 billion in building an AI infrastructure hub in Andhra Pradesh, which would include a gigawatt-scale data centre in partnership with Adani Group. The project is expected to create 5,000–6,000 direct jobs and 20,000–30,000 total jobs in Andhra Pradesh. The AI hub at Visakhapatnam will be Google's largest outside the US and include a data centre fuelled by clean energy and a fibre-optic network. Business tycoon Gautam Adani said his company AdaniConneX would partner with Google on the project, along with Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest mobile operator. The amount will be invested over the next five years (2026-2030).

P11

₹ depreciates to 88.80

MUMBAI: The rupee depreciated 12 paise to revisit its all-time low of 88.80 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday, weighed down by negative domestic equities and overnight gains in the American currency. Forex traders said foreign fund outflows amid a risk-off mode globally further dented investor sentiment. However, a decline in crude oil prices and reports of RBI intervention supported the local unit and restricted the slide. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.73 against the greenback and fell to an intraday low of 88.81 and a high of 88.73. It finally closed the day at 88.80 against the greenback, registering a decline of 12 paise over its previous close of 88.68. On September 30, the rupee had fallen to an all-time low of 88.80 against the US dollar.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Please carry the newspaper that says inflation has come down—we'll need to show it to the vegetable vendors!

20 burnt alive, 16 hurt as bus catches fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaisalmer, Oct 14: Twenty passengers were burnt alive and 16 were critically injured when a private bus travelling from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur caught fire Tuesday, police said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of deceased.

According to police, the bus, carrying 57 passengers, left Jaisalmer around 3 pm. On the Jaisalmer-Jodhpur highway, smoke began emerging from the rear portion. The driver stopped the bus along the roadside, but within moments, the

flames engulfed the vehicle. Locals and passers-by rushed to the spot and assisted in the rescue efforts. Army personnel also assisted in the operation.

Fire tenders and police were informed, and the injured passengers were taken to Jawahar

Hospital in Jaisalmer for treatment. Police said 16 critically injured passengers have been referred to a hospital in Jodhpur.

Prima facie, it appears that the fire broke out due to a short circuit, police said. BJP MLA from Pokran Pratap Puri in-

formed this agency about the death toll of 20 passengers. He said, "19 passengers died in the bus and one succumbed to burn injuries on the way to Jodhpur."

He said that the bus caught fire ten minutes after leaving Jaisalmer.

Following the accident, the district administration has issued an appeal for information to the kin of the victims to ascertain their identity. The bodies will be handed over to family members after DNA matching, officials said.

Upon receiving information regarding the incident, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma reached Jaisalmer and was briefed by the officers.



DURGAPUR GANGRAPE SURVIVOR'S FRIEND HELD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 14: Police Tuesday evening arrested a friend of the medical student of a private college, who was allegedly gangraped in West Bengal's Durgapur, taking the total number of arrests in the case to six, a senior police officer said.

The accused had accompanied the victim when she had gone outside the campus of the medical college to fetch food on the evening of the alleged crime, he said. The Malda res-

ident was arrested after police found his replies to be incoherent, the officer said.

West Bengal Police Tuesday afternoon took the five arrested accused and the friend of the Durgapur gang rape survivor to the crime spot for reconstruction of the crime as a part of their ongoing probe, a senior officer said. The six were taken to the scene adjacent to Paranaganj Kali Bari cremation ground, and asked to 're-enact' their respective roles when the alleged crime took place there Friday night.

P3

Foolproof security soon for Srimandir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Oct 14: A comprehensive security plan will be prepared soon for foolproof security of the 12th-century Shree Jagannath temple here, Girish Chandra Murmu, the head of the security sub-committee of the shrine, said Tuesday.

Murmu, a former Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Comptroller and Auditor General of India, said this after presiding over a meeting of the Shree Jagannath Temple's sub-committee on security aspects.

Puri District Collector and



SP, apart from senior servants of the temple, are among the members of the security sub-committee.

"A comprehensive security plan is being made which will take care of the safety of both

inside the temple and its outer circles," Murmu told reporters.

He said that the views of all stakeholders will be taken to ensure that the proposed plan does not put devotees and servants in trouble.

Sources said that the proposed comprehensive security plan is to ensure protection of the temple's physical and digital assets from all kinds of threats from any sector. Therefore, a policy and procedural plan will be drawn up after making risk assessment, vulnerability management, physical security, cybersecurity and others.

India's wild elephant numbers drop by 18%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: India's wild elephant population has been estimated at 22,446, lower than the 2017 figure of 27,312, according to the country's first-ever DNA-based count.

The All-India Synchronous Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2025 puts India's elephant population between 18,255 and 26,645, with an average of 22,446. The government released the long-delayed report Tuesday, nearly four years after the survey began in 2021.

Officials said the delay was due to the complex genetic analysis and data validation involved in the exercise.

Scientists collected 21,056

dung samples from across elephant landscapes and used DNA fingerprinting to identify individual animals, much like identifying humans through their genetic code. The total field effort covered nearly 6.7 lakh km of forest trails and included over 3.1 lakh dung plots.

Region-wise, the Western Ghats remain the biggest stronghold with 11,934 elephants, followed by the North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra floodplains with 6,559. The Shivalik Hills and Gangetic plains support 2,062 elephants, while Central India and the Eastern Ghats together have 1,891.

Karnataka continues to host the largest number of elephants at 6,013, followed by Assam



(4,159), Tamil Nadu (3,136), Kerala (2,785) and Uttarakhand (1,792).

Odisha has 912 elephants, while Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand together account for over 650. Smaller populations survive in northeastern states such as Arunachal Pradesh

Ministry, Project Elephant and the Wildlife Institute of India, establishes a new scientific baseline for future monitoring and conservation planning.

The new count used a three-phase process combining ground surveys, satellite-based mapping and genetic analysis.

In the first phase, forest teams used the M-Stripes app to record elephant presence during extensive foot surveys.

The second phase assessed habitat quality and human footprint using satellite data.

The third phase involved DNA extraction from dung to identify 4,065 unique elephants, with scientists using the mark-recapture model to estimate the overall population.

Global alert over Indian cough syrups

India's pharmaceutical reputation is again under fire after contaminated cough syrups—Coldrif, Respifresh TR, and ReLife—killed at least 24 Indian children this month. The syrups, manufactured by Sresan, Rednex, and Shape Pharma, contained up to 49 % diethylene glycol, an industrial poison. The WHO urged national regulatory authorities worldwide to immediately notify it if these are detected in their countries. Though the police arrested Sresan's owner and plants were shuttered, global alarm is rising because previous Indian syrups caused over 300 child deaths in Gambia, Uzbekistan and Cameroon during 2022-23



for increased surveillance and diligence within the supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected by these substandard products.

"Increased surveillance of the informal/unregulated market is also advised," the alert issued Monday said.

The affected products are oral liquid medicines containing active ingredients commonly used to relieve symptoms of common cold, flu, or cough

According to the alert, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) of India reported to WHO the presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in at least three oral liquid medicines in October 8. This followed information identified by WHO September 30 of localised clusters of acute illness and child fatalities in India.

The CDSCO informed WHO that the contaminated products were reportedly consumed by the affected children and confirmed that relevant state authorities have ordered an immediate halt to production at implicated manufacturing sites and have suspended product authorisations. In addition, a recall of the contaminated products has been initiated by relevant state authorities.

5100 cough syrup bottles seized **P5**

2 hours for bursting crackers this Diwali

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) Tuesday issued comprehensive guidelines ahead of Diwali celebrations, appealing to citizens to observe the festival in an environmentally responsible manner and in compliance with noise and air pollution norms.

As per the advisory, people have been urged to celebrate Diwali by lighting traditional lamps instead of fireworks and to limit the timing for lighting green crackers between 7 pm and 9 pm only. The use of all other types of firecrackers has been banned in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The board has clarified that only green crackers—environment-friendly fireworks that emit less smoke and sound—are permitted. The permissible noise level must not exceed 125 decibels (dB). Firecrackers must not be used within 100 meters of hospitals, educational institutions, religious places, or other sensitive zones. The guidelines also stress several safety precautions including avoiding bursting crackers near trees, shops, houses, crowded areas, or on public roads, no noisy or explosive crackers for children below 10 years of age.

The rules also mandate to wear cotton clothing and protective eyewear while lighting fireworks and keeping water or sand nearby for emergency use.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

With your substantial inter-personal abilities, you will accomplish a great deal today, says Ganesha. Your power of expression will impress many people. Financial rewards are on the cards, but be cautious about minor accidents and illnesses.

TAURUS

You have a very pleasant day ahead. Though you are, by nature, restless and excitable you will be very steady and focused in whatever you do today. So says Ganesha. Later you will desire to enjoy the company of your friends and will call them over to chat and gossip with them. The evening will provide you lots of fun and laughter.

GEMINI

You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesha.

CANCER

In all likelihood, this is going to be a fairly easy day for you, says Ganesha. The only tough part of the day would be how to spend it. There will be hardly anything to do, anyone to talk to. Ideally, this is what you would call a perfect day. But not today. Today, you'll miss people. You will find yourself more at peace with the unbearable chaos of the outer world than the deafening calm of your solitude.

LEO

A lot of people will sing your praises, however you will not be satisfied with whatever is occurring. The answers to some questions that have been bothering you will remain elusive. You may become emotional owing to feelings of personal loss. You will also be bothered about the near future, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Family affairs will predominate today. They will even control your thoughts to the exclusion of everything else. Things will look up on the business front. You may spend time relaxing in the evening. Ganesha says a trip to a place of worship is on the cards.

LIBRA

Health is always a key issue, and today, you may have to pay some special attention to the same. It may be some elderly person in the family, or even you. Take the time to give it your full attention in order to avoid any further complications. You may do well to undergo a physical examination yourself.

SCORPIO

A cloud of emotions surrounds you today and you would like to spend the entire day in introspection and self-analysis. You will try to raise your bar at professional level. Your far sightedness and capability to understand human psychology promises a leader in you, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Variety is the spice of life. Add variety of activities to your daily schedule and nothing would seem boring any more, foretells Ganesha. Indulge in creative activities like writing, cooking, gardening or even reading. Catch up with friends and memories of old times; have a blast!

CAPRICORN

You'll have apparently no time for anything else, as partnerships and projects will keep you on your toes. You communication skills and diplomacy will fetch you accolades in meetings, and also enable you to judge a person or a situation correctly, and form the right opinion. The efforts you have in the past may come to fruition today, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You will be able to strike a balance between the emotional and rational side of your personality. You will find pleasure in your work and may successfully mix your personal life into your professional life. Financially, there are no major issues, but negligible matters may keep your mind occupied, feels Ganesha.

PISCES

You could find yourself re-establishing contact with long lost friends abroad, possibly on matters of business. You will also likely find yourself attending social events. There is a possibility that those who are unmarried, may find their match in these social settings. Long term personal or business relationships will likely be established today, says Ganesha.



BEN STILLER OPENS UP ON LIFE'S 'WORST DECISION'

Ben Stiller, 59, reflects on past regrets in his new documentary *Stiller & Meara: Nothing Is Lost*. Exploring his parents' influence on his life, he admits inheriting his father's perfectionism and confesses to his daughter Ella, 23, that cutting her from *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* was his worst decision.

JENNIFER: I WANT MY OWN DNA IN A LITTLE PERSON

Jennifer Aniston opened up about her two-decade struggle to become a mother, revealing she underwent several unsuccessful IVF treatments. Speaking on a podcast, the *Friends* actress explained why she never chose adoption, saying she wanted a child with her own DNA, calling it a deeply personal and honest desire.



Sara on prioritising mental health

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan has opened up about the challenges of maintaining mental well-being in the demanding entertainment industry, stressing the importance of acknowledging emotions and seeking support.

In a recent interview, she emphasised that true strength lies not in handling everything alone, but in recognising and addressing one's feelings. "I've always believed that strength isn't about bottling up your emotions; it's about having the courage to acknowledge them," she said. Sara highlighted that the pressures of the industry often make actors feel they must manage everything independently, but taking care of one's mind is as crucial as caring for the body. She added, "Therapy and mental health support aren't signs of weakness; they're tools for growth, self-awareness, and making sure you're truly okay."

Reflecting on a particularly overwhelming period, Sara recalled feeling mentally and emotionally burdened. During that time, simple activities such as spending quality moments with her mother, Amrita Singh, and enjoying light-hearted entertainment provided solace. "Those small acts really helped me come back to myself," she noted. She also stressed the need to normalise conversations around mental health, saying, "Education, awareness, and leading by example are key. When public figures, workplaces, and families openly discuss therapy, it helps break the fear of judgement."

AGENCIES

Elli hits back at trolls

Mumbai: Elli Avram has addressed the backlash following a widely circulated picture of her with YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani, which sparked rumours about her "body count" and led to misogynistic comments targeting her personal life. In an interview, Elli admitted she was unaware

of the term until her Gen Z friends explained it, calling it "nasty." She criticised the double standard in how society judges men and women, stating, "It always happens with women. It never happens with men. We are the demons... probably very hurt men; we can just pray for them, bless them with more light, and hope they become more mature, heal, and understand how to respect women."

Elli clarified that "body count" refers to the number of people one has been physically involved with,

which she found distasteful. She also appreciated support from fellow actor Urfi Javed, calling her advocacy "really sweet."

Ashish Chanchlani also responded, condemning the vitriol directed at Elli. He emphasised that many abusive comments were from individuals who don't follow him and do not reflect his audience or fans.

AGENCIES

REMINISCING A LEGEND



The members of Sachi Das Memorial Trust presented Odia play *Indrapurire Sachi* at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. Written by Rabi Sahoo and directed by Gobinda Mahapatra, the play marked the 91st birth anniversary of eminent theatre and jatra director Sachi Das who passed away last year

Triptii's travel ritual

Mumbai: Actress Triptii Dimri, who is currently in New York shared a glimpse of her favourite travel ritual.

Triptii took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a string of images and clips from her visit to the Big Apple.

The first was a glimpse of her onboard a flight and wrote: "6 hours..1 flight and a skin care routine later."

The actress then treated fans to a cosy cafe moment as she captured her mid-sip, savouring a steaming cup of coffee against a warm, rustic backdrop and captioned it: "One of my favorite things to do when I travel is to find cute cafes sip on my coffee... and people watch. Best feeling."

Triptii also shared an image of the iconic Manhattan Bridge in New York City taken from the famous Washington Street viewpoint in the Dumbo neighborhood of Brooklyn, which is known as a popular photography spot for tourists.

The *Animal* actress did not share details about her visit to the US.

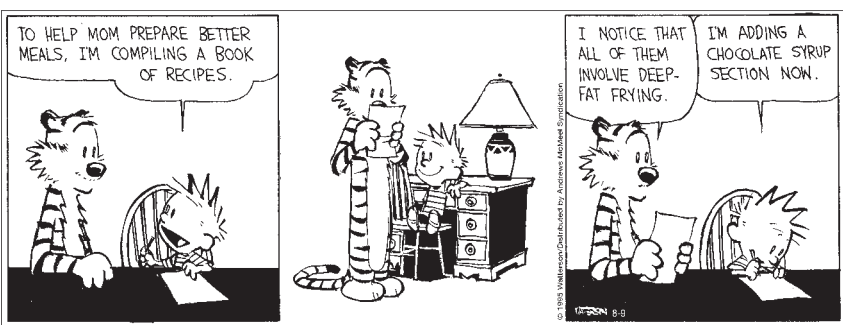
On the work front, she will next be seen alongside Shahid Kapoor in *O' Romeo* by Vishal Bhardwaj.

IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

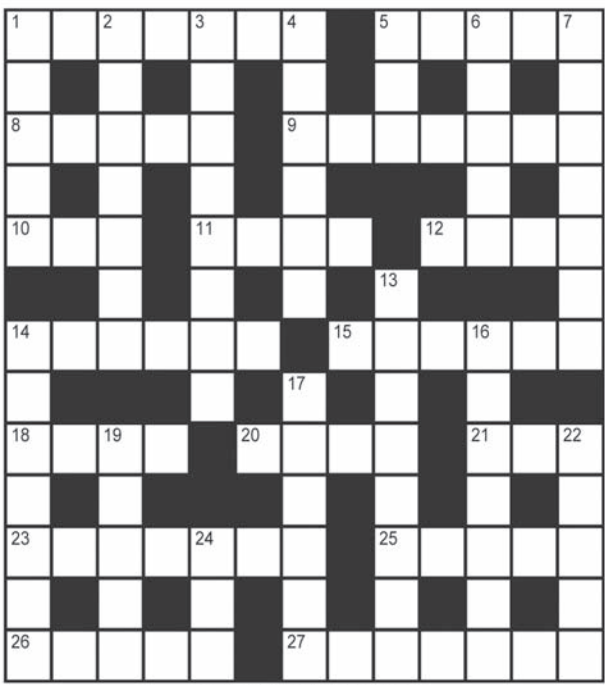


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Spartan
- 5 Recipe direction
- 8 World record?
- 9 Nightclub
- 10 Roadhouse
- 11 Competent
- 12 Eyebrow shape
- 14 Lowlife
- 15 Kingdoms
- 18 Declare openly
- 20 Paltry

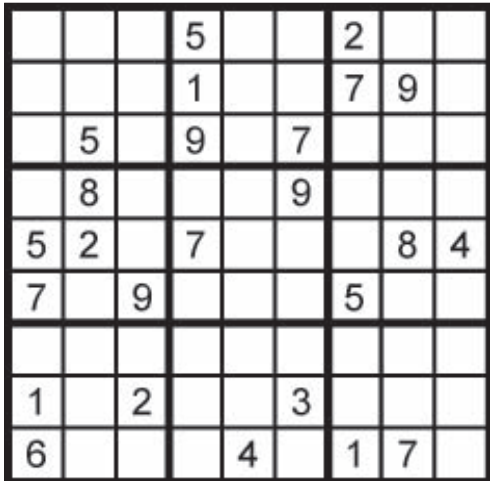
Down

- 21 Curtain holder
- 23 Kitchen appliance
- 25 Went nowhere
- 26 Fantasise
- 27 Foes
- 1 Fine fiddle
- 2 Be quiet!
- 3 Delighted
- 4 Surpasses expectations

- 5 Blubber
- 6 Miscue
- 7 Fire starters
- 13 Broadcast
- 14 Mapped out
- 16 Siren of German legend
- 17 Formal order
- 19 Pontificate
- 22 Extinct flightless birds
- 24 Scottish cap

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Online-offline auto drivers' dispute disrupts City traffic



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Members of the Smart City Online Auto Group (SCOAG) staged a protest Tuesday by parking their auto-rickshaws in front of the Capital police station, following a violent clash with members of the Station Auto Drivers' Association (SADA). The protest brought traffic to a standstill from AG Square to Raj Mahal Square.

According to reports, October 5, a member of the online auto association picked up a passenger near the City railway station, which was opposed by members of the offline auto association. The situation escalated when the offline drivers allegedly attacked the online auto driver, leaving him critically injured and requiring hospitalisation.

An online auto driver was allegedly attacked by offline drivers near Bhubaneswar railway station October 5, leaving him injured

Both groups filed complaints, leading to arrests from each side; online auto drivers later protested, claiming police detained an innocent member

The online auto association alleged harassment by offline drivers, saying they are barred from operating near the railway station

Following the incident, both parties lodged complaints at the police station. During the investigation, arrests were

made from both groups. Subsequently, the online auto association staged a protest, alleging that the police had arrested an innocent member from their association. The online auto association further alleged that its members are not being allowed to operate freely across the City by the offline auto association. They claimed that they are forced to stay 400-500 metres away from the Bhubaneswar railway station to pick up passengers, as offline auto drivers prevent them from approaching the station area.

Smart City Online Auto Group president Dinabandhu Nayak said, "When our member was attacked, we immediately lodged a complaint with the police. However, the police have arrested an innocent member of our association. We demand his immediate release and strict action against the real culprits. We also urge that we be allowed to serve passengers without any restrictions. The dispute between online and offline auto drivers has persisted for the past 10 years without any resolution."

Nayak added that a discussion is currently underway in the presence of police officials to resolve the issue.

AMA GOURAV, AMA COLLEGE

₹3.45cr for devpt of 9 colleges, 2 varsities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: In a bid to ensure robust infrastructure and academic excellence, the Higher Education department has sanctioned ₹3.45 crore for nine colleges and two universities in the state under 'Ama Gourav, Ama College' scheme.

The institutions that would benefit from this initiative are: Fakir Mohan University (Balasore), Ravenshaw University (Cuttack), Panchagarh So-manath Singh Jagadev Degree Mahavidyalaya (Angul), Jagannath Degree College, Jaleswar (Balasore), Mahanadi Vihar Women's (Degree) College



(Cuttack), Niali Degree College (Cuttack), Anchalika Degree Mahavidyalaya (Ganjam), Panchayat Anchalika Degree Mahavidyalaya (Jharsuguda), Tulasi Women's Degree College (Kendrapara), Jashipur Degree College (Mayurbhanj) and Sukra Behera Degree College (Nayagarh).

Govt issues new SOP for part plot registrations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: The Revenue and Disaster Management department has introduced a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to streamline the registration of part plots across the state.

The resolution, released Monday, aims to address widespread confusion among Registering Officers. According to the department, many Registering Officers have not been fully conversant with provisions under the Registration Act, 1908, the Odisha Registration Rules, 1988, and the Registration (Odisha Amendment) Act, 2013.

The SOP was introduced by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh kumar Pujari due to many Registering Officers lacking full knowledge of laws and procedures for part plot registrations, aiming to enhance uniformity and public convenience. The registration of part plots in rural areas is permitted without pre-conditions, except for Jalasaya Kissam plots, which must be transferred as full plots, with sub-divisions not exceeding 500 square meters. The Sub-division is permitted if the plot remains agricultural Kissam, supported by a self-declaration in 'Form D' confirming agricultural use only.

Governed by the Odisha Development Authorities and Town Planning Acts, with exemptions for family sub-divisions, small sub-divisions (under 500 square meters with no real estate use), and co-sharer divisions (with consent and proportionate shares). Sub-division of plots, under 500 square meters, recorded before the 2025 ODA & OTP & IT Second Amendment Rules, is allowed without prejudice to other laws.

Registering Officers must verify maps, boundaries, and declarations, ensure compliance with exemptions, and preserve self-declarations in records.

BJP holds workshop ahead of Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: The state unit of the BJP Tuesday organised a preparatory workshop at its party headquarters here ahead of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and a prominent freedom fighter. Scheduled to be observed from October 31 to December 6, the initiative—drawing inspiration from Patel's ideals of unity and patriotism—aims to encourage youth to uphold national integration and civic responsibility.

The workshop was attended by BJP state president Manmohan Samal, Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, MP Kavita Patidar, and several other senior party leaders.

State BJP vice president Golak Mohapatra said the celebration will be conducted in three phases. In the first phase (October 31–November 25), a three-day "Sardar at 150 Ekta Padayatra" will be organised in each parliamentary constituency, covering 8–10 km daily with participation from students, youth groups, and the public. Cultural events, health camps, Swachh Bharat

The funding aims to support infrastructure and academic development projects for the institutions. The sanctioned funds will be utilised for multiple development projects, including strengthening library resources, construction of sports and academic complexes, installation of Wi-Fi connectivity, and CCTV surveillance.

The project aims to modernise infrastructure, ensuring better opportunities for the students.

"Ama Gaurav, Ama College" is a one-of-a-kind platform that aspires to build meaningful collaborative models for the Global Alumni Network of Odisha

students and resources, with the purpose of exchanging ideas on how to rediscover the joy of giving back to one's Alma mater," said an official.

It is a state government initiative that rebranded and restructured the "Mo College Abhijan" programme being implemented during the previous government. It aims to build a strong global alumni network to help improve colleges through collaboration, resource sharing, and active participation in college development. The scheme encourages alumni to "give back" to their alma maters by fostering a deeper connection with their colleges.



The programme, to be held from October 31 to December 6, seeks to inspire youth to uphold national unity and civic responsibility, drawing from Sardar Patel's ideals of patriotism and integration

drives, and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiatives will be held at 63 locations across Odisha, along with fairs promoting local products and pledges for a drug-free India under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

In the second phase (November 26–December 6), five selected participants from each of the 30 districts will visit Karamsad in Gujarat, Sardar Patel's birthplace. The final phase will feature a 150 km padayatra from Karamsad to Kevadia, home to the Statue of Unity, marking the grand culmination of the celebrations.

Man held for posting obscene videos of public figures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: A man was arrested in Cuttack Tuesday for allegedly posting morphed obscene videos of various public figures on social media, police said.

The accused was identified as Biswaballabh Nanda, aka Kummun, a resident of Salipur, they said. The videos he posted were found to be offensive, promoting obscenity, and outraging the modesty of women depicted therein, they added.

Among the items seized from him were a smartphone and some CDs, police said.

RDWU hosts film seminar

Bhubaneswar: A seminar on the films Nalanda University and Money Mobile was organised by the department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Rama Devi Women's University's (RDWU) new auditorium here Tuesday, celebrating cinema's role as a medium of social and cultural expression. The event was inaugurated by in-charge VC Chandni Charan Rath who highlighted the power of films in delivering impactful messages and shaping public perception. Filmmakers Mohammad Shakeel and Archana Nayak attended the seminar and shared their creative journeys.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By affidavit before Notary Public, Chandahandi I, Mohammed Sajid Memon, father of minor Mohammed Safan, permanently residing Village/P.O.: Chandahandi, Block: Chandahandi, Dist.: Nabarangpur declare that I renounce my Son's former name, MD Shapan and assume his name as Mohammed Safan. He shall henceforth be known as Mohammed Safan for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak dtd.- 13.09.2025, I, Shubhalaxmi Dash (40), W/o- Sambit Kumar Dash, permanent Address: At/P.O.-Saraikella, Kharasawan, Jharakhand, presently At- Mathasahi, P.S./ Dist.- Bhadrak, Odisha PIN- 756100 declare that I have changed my name Shubhalaxmi Satapathy to Shubhalaxmi Dash and changed my address permanent to present address. Henceforth, I shall be known as Shubhalaxmi Dash for all future purposes.

Dy CM urges Centre to raise riceprocurement target



Deputy CM Singh Deo also requests Union Minister Joshi to extend the CMR delivery deadline from October 31 to December 31

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo has urged Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi to enhance the state's procurement target of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) and extend its delivery period under the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2024-25.

During his visit to New Delhi, Singh Deo called on the

union Minister and sought his intervention for revising the CMR procurement target fixed by the Government of India at 50 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), noting that the actual resultant CMR from paddy in Odisha stands at 62.54 LMT.

He also requested an extension of the CMR delivery deadline from October 31, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

The Deputy CM, who also holds the Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment portfolio, urged the Union Minister to direct the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to expedite lifting and complete evacuation of the remaining stock within the extended period, saying it would help the state manage storage and distribution effectively.

Push for climate-resilient WASH systems in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Emphasising the urgent need for stronger climate action, experts, youth leaders, and development professionals at a Pre-COP Dialogue in Bhubaneswar underscored the importance of boosting investment and fostering collaboration to build climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems across Odisha.

Organised jointly by the Odisha Development Innovation Alliance (ODEIA), Jeevan Rekha Parishad (JRP), and Unicef Odisha, the dialogue was held Tuesday ahead of the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. The event underscored the pressing need to strengthen critical infrastructure and enhance community preparedness in the face of intensifying climate impacts, including extreme rainfall, cyclones, and flooding.



WASH systems—vital for public health, education, and livelihoods—are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the growing impacts of climate change. Participants stressed that disruptions to these essential services can have far-reaching consequences, affecting both rural and urban populations.

Chief of Field Office, Unicef Odisha, William Hanlon Jr. emphasised that COP30 should focus on translating global commitments into measurable local actions and fostering intergen-

erational climate resilience, with WASH systems placed at the centre of these efforts.

Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta from IIT Roorkee highlighted the need for climate risk-informed WASH planning to address social inequities in water and sanitation access.

Opportunities through government schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and BASUDHA were identified to integrate climate resilience in design and delivery.

Blended financing, green and blue bonds, and capacity-build-

ing at the local level (ULBs and GPs) were recommended as essential for sustainable WASH systems.

Unicef WASH and climate specialist Shipra Saxena pointed out the potential for improved inter-departmental coordination and data-sharing to enhance climate resilience.

Environmentalist and climate expert Sudarshan Chhotaray sought to negotiate for more funds from Green Climate Fund and Climate Finance for states like Odisha, which, being a climate hotspot, need more funds to strengthen their Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector.

Subhrasima Mohanty from Youth4Water Plus said, "Resilient communities are built not only by policy but by everyday choices and youth leadership," highlighting efforts in pond conservation, menstrual hygiene, and plastic waste reduction.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.85 ▲ 0.11	SENSEX	82029.98 ▼ 297.07	GOLD	₹126,025 ▲ ₹1,396
EURO	102.81 ▼ 0.17	NIFTY	25145.50 ▼ 81.85	SILVER	₹159,170 ▲ ₹4,525

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.2°	31.4°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	22.8°	21.5°	
Humidity	77%	87%	
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**-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, **Airport Road**-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, **Anish Infotech**- Tankapani Road-9861341488, **Bapuji Nagar**- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, **Baramunda Rental Colony**-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, **Baramunda Housing Board Colony**-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, **Cuttack Road**-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, **District Center (Chandrasekharpur)**-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, **Forest Park**-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, **IRC Village**-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, **Janpath**-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, **Jaydev Vihar**-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, **Jagannath Mobile Point**- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, **Kanan Vihar**-Auro Electronics-8260697560, **Khandagiri**- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, **KIIT Road**-Jugad Jn-9338545031, **Laxmi Sagar**-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, **Lewis Road**-Spider Web-7809186415, **Metro Satellite City**-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, **Madhusudan Nagar**-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, **Maa Santoshi travels**- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, **Nayapalli**- The Cake Room- 7873660137, **Near Mayfair Lagoon**-Cookiemann-9439491273, **Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels**-9668284823, **Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate**- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, **Net Square**- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, **Priyadarshini Market**-Astro Point-9938134346, **R.N. General Store**-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, **Sahid Nagar**- Maa Communication- 9437353424, **Sahini General Store**- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, **Satya Nagar**-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, **Samantapur**- Download Point-7504557743, **Sailashree Vihar**-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, **Saheed Nagar**-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, **Siripur**-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, **Sushree fashion**- Jagmara-9938714347, **Shree Vision**- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, **Unit-3**-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, **Unit-7**- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, **VSS Nagar**-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, **XIMB Square**-LD Books-9658061373.



Bank of India

Bank of India

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

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice Under Rule 8(6) of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

(E-Auction) Sale of secured movable / immovable Assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIO TO 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/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Legal Heirs that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the **Bank of India**, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of India**, will be sold on "**As is where is**", "**As is what is**" and "**Whatever there is**" basis on Auction Date mentioned hereunder, for recovery of balance due to the **Bank of India** from the Borrower as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Legal Heirs, amount due, short description of the immovable properties and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-Borrower / Guarantor/Mortgagor/Legal Heirs Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	GOPALPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9007488999 / Borrower: Mr. Sukanta Charan Sethy, S/o: Late Santilata Sethy / Guarantor: Mr. Basanta Kumar Sethy & Legal Heirs of Late Santilata Sethy (Mortgagor) are: 1) Mr. Sukanta Charan Sethy, 2) Mr. Basanta Kumar Sethy, 3) Mr. Bisanta Charan Sethy, 4) Mr. Hemant Kumar Sethy, 5) Mamita Sethy, 6) Miss Meghana Priyadarshini Sethy (Grand Daughter of Late Santilata Sethy), 7) The Soumya Ranjan Sethy (Grandson of Late Santilata Sethy). All are At: Elampur, P.O.: Ramakrishnapur, P.S.: Salipur, Dist.: Cuttack / Total Dues: ₹28,60,392/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of Residential Land & Building situated over Khata No.: 355/78, Plot No.: 810, Area: Ac.0.135 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Plot No.: 811, Area: Ac.0.080 Dec., KISSAM: Bagayat-3, Mouza: Elampur, SRO: Salipur, Tahasil: Salipur, Tahasil No.: 451, P.S.: Salipur, P.S. No.: 75, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Late Santilata Sethy, Plot No.: 810 is Bounded by North: Road, South: Maheswar Bhoi, East: Vendee, West: Road, Plot No.: 811 is Bounded by North: Road, South: Ramachandra Bhoi, East: Road, West: Vendee	₹20,65,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,06,500/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH, PH.: 9438456140 / Borrower: Mrs. Prativa Das, W/o.: Mr. Narottam Mohanty, Address-1: At: Flat No.: 202, "Tridhara Enclave", Mahadev Nagar, Jharapada, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-751006, Address-2: At: Flat No.: 403, 4th Floor, "Maa Santoshi Enclave", Plot No.: 1050, Khata No.: 668/568, Mouza: Bhagabanpur, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda-751019 / Guarantor: Mr. Narottam Mohanty, S/o.: Muralidhar Mohanty, At: Flat No.: 202, "Tridhara Enclave", Mahadev Nagar, Jharapada, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-751006 / Total Dues: ₹30,80,178.11 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No.: 403, 4 th Floor, "Maa Santoshi Enclave Apartment", Plot No.: 1050, Khata No.: 668/568, Mouza: Bhagabanpur, P.S./SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Super Built Up Area: 680 Sqft, standing in the name of Mrs. Prativa Das, Apartment is Bounded by North: BDA Land, South: Road, East: Sub Plot No.: B (Rest part of Plot No.: 1050), West: Land of GA Department, Flat is Bounded by North: Community Hall, South: Flat No.: 401, East: Corridor, West: Open Space	₹29,00,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,90,000/- / ₹ 50,000/-
3.	CHANDAKA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BRANCH, PH.: 7008910582 / Borrower: Mr. Rahit Behera, S/o: Mr. Raghunath Behera / Co-Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Raghunath Behera, S/o: Late Fakira Behera, Both are at Plot No.: 2109, Mansinghpur, Near Narayan Mandir, Kuhudi - Chilikka Road, P.O.: Sorana, Dist.: Khurda - 752027, Odisha / Total Dues: ₹8,78,887.59 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of Residential Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 1002/194, Plot No.: 2109, Land Area: Ac. 0.030 Dec. i.e. 1306.80 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Mansinghpur, P.S.: Tangi (Thana No.: 43), SRO: Tangi, Tahasil: Chilikka (Tahasil No.: 457), Dist.: Khurda - 752027, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Raghunath Behera, S/o: Late Fakira Behera, Bounded by North: Hadu Palai, South: Sanatan Behera, East: Road, West: Road	₹16,19,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,61,900/- / ₹ 50,000/-
4.	ARB, CUTTACK, PH.: 8249067773 / Borrower: M/s. Dandeswar Pharmaceuticals, Prop.: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Gobinda Sahu / Guarantor: Mrs. Sarmista Sahu, W/o.: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, Both are At: 101-A, Budheswari Colony, Laxmisagar, Cuttack Road, Bhubaneswar - 751006, Odisha / Total Dues: ₹2,83,45,452/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Vacant Land at Khata No.: 797/196, Plot No.: 2099, Area: Ac.0.295 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Phasi, P.S.: Kodala, Tahasil: Kodala, Dist.: Ganjam Standing in the name of Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Gobinda Sahu, Bounded by North: Plot of Laxmi Narayan Sahoo (Barren Land), South: Road, East: Plot of Laxmi Narayan Sahoo (Barren Land), West: Plot of Kabiraj Sahoo (Barren Land)	₹37,47,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,74,700/- / ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.11.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.

Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 25.11.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 24.11.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

***Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.**

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com>

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 15.10.2025

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS GENDER DISCRIMINATION

BAN GOES ONLINE

Four years after the Taliban excluded girls and women in Afghanistan from secondary and higher education, the regime shut down the internet, depriving them of one of their last opportunities to learn. What started as a ban in a few provinces to “prevent immoral activities” escalated to a nationwide internet blackout on 29 September. While access was restored on 1 October, many Afghans say that service remains slow and unstable.

The nearly 2.2 million Afghan girls barred from attending school beyond the primary level now live in fear that they will lose their last lifeline to an education. Remote learning is one of the few available alternatives (together with underground and homeschooling) for these girls to receive a secondary education while remaining in the country.

Over the last four years, Education Cannot Wait (ECW), (which I used to chair), UNICEF, and strategic partners have provided an education to 160,000 Afghan girls excluded from the classroom by scaling up community-based and accelerated learning programmes in remote and underserved areas. But many of these programmes have an online component and thus are almost impossible to continue when the Taliban curtails access to the internet. While the regime has yet to give an official explanation for the recent shutdown, it knew that such a cut would deny Afghans – in particular, girls and women – access to knowledge from the outside world.

The internet blackout is only the latest example of the Taliban’s increasingly brutal assault on girls’ and women’s rights. After banning girls over the age of 12 from getting an education, the regime barred women from most forms of employment, excluded



The nearly 2.2 million Afghan girls barred from attending school beyond the primary level now live in fear that they will lose their last lifeline to an education

ed them from nearly all public spaces, and prohibited them from travelling anywhere without a male chaperone. The Taliban’s draconian dress code requires women to wear burqas covering them from head to toe.

By 2024, the Taliban’s edicts became even more repressive. Women – already banned from speaking in public – were prohibited from praying aloud or reciting the Quran in the presence of other women. In 2025, as part of a broader ban outlawing the teaching of human rights and sexual harassment, the Taliban removed books written by women from universities. This included titles like Safety in the Chemical Laboratory, which the regime found to be of “concern” due to “anti-Sharia and Taliban policies.”

Against this backdrop of tightening restrictions, access to the online world was one of the few freedoms Af-

ghan girls and women were allowed. “The only hope left for us was the internet and online learning,” one woman from the northern province of Takhar explained to the BBC. “When I heard that the internet had been cut, the world felt dark to me,” she added. Another woman, who lives in an eastern province, described feeling “helpless” in the face of internet outages: “[My sisters and I] dreamed of finishing our education and helping our father financially, but now... we all sit at home doing nothing.”

The Taliban’s cruel policies and human-rights violations have long-term consequences not only for Afghan girls and women, but also for the country’s economic growth. According to UNESCO, the lost income from the exclusion of women and girls from education will total \$9.6 billion – equivalent to two-thirds of today’s GDP – by 2066. Such a huge loss would be catastrophic

ic for a country where roughly 85% of people live on less than \$1 a day, and around half the population needs humanitarian assistance to survive.

This is not the future Afghans want. A recent United Nations Women report found that 92% of the country’s population supports girls’ secondary schooling. Afghan girls continue to risk arrest by sharing their powerful testimonies and demanding the right to study in ECW’s #AfghanGirlsVoices campaign.

Muslim-majority countries have vociferously criticised the Taliban’s education ban. Qatar, which has long served as a mediator between the regime and the West, expressed deep concern about the policy. Saudi Arabia also condemned the decision, which it described as “astonishing in all Islamic countries” and as “contrary to giving Afghan women their full legitimate rights, foremost of which is the right to education.” The United Arab Emirates pushed for the ban’s swift reversal, denouncing it as a violation of “the teachings of Islam.”

Although the Taliban’s internet blackout was abruptly lifted, the expansion of its assault on girls’ education into the online realm is a worrying development. The regime’s leadership, in particular its religious leaders who reside in Kandahar, must be reminded as often as possible that there is no foundation in Islamic law for the Taliban’s efforts to revoke the right to learn. And the international community must take steps to hold the Taliban accountable, especially as its activities penetrate well into Pakistan, and before it pushes its inhumane policy to yet another new extreme.

The writer is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Gordon Brown

THE INTERNET BLACKOUT IS ONLY THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF THE TALIBAN'S INCREASINGLY BRUTAL ASSAULT ON GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

IN JEST THIS



Melvin Durai

TRUST ME, YOU’LL BE MUCH HAPPIER IN YOUR OLD AGE IF YOU CAN STILL REMEMBER WHERE YOU DEPOSITED YOUR MONEY

Getting regular exercise is important, but many of us — especially older adults — focus too much on physical exercise and not enough on mental exercise. We exercise our bodies, but not our brains. We go for long walks, but not to the library. We participate in yoga, but not in chess.

Here’s some good news though: physical activity does benefit our brain health, unless we’re participating in a sport like boxing that involves our heads getting pounded.

A research study led by Dr. Sanjula Singh, a principal investigator at the Brain Care Labs at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, US, identified six factors that lower our risk of brain diseases. Assuming we’re still able to use our brains, we’d better pay attention to these factors.

Not many of us are worried about preventing brain diseases (or dementia), especially since they mostly affect people in their eighties and nineties.

But what’s the point in saving money for retirement if you haven’t saved your brain? Trust me, you’ll be much happier in your old age if you can still remember where you deposited your money.

If you want to be as mentally sharp as possible in your old age, you should not neglect these six factors:

1. Low to moderate alcohol intake. The biggest benefit to your brain comes from consuming less than one drink a day, but you can also lower your risk by staying under three drinks a day. Three drinks per day seems like a lot to me, but admittedly, the only time I ever feel like drinking is right after a presidential election. (To celebrate or drown my sorrows.)

2. Cognitive activity. This means that you should regularly participate in mentally stimulating activities such as playing chess, reading and solving puzzles. Give your brain some challenging work. Don’t let it take a long vaca-

tion. Just like your muscles, the more you use your brain, the stronger it becomes. I’m certainly guilty of not exercising my brain as much as I should. My favourite pastime, watching football, involves so little thinking that my brain goes into hibernation.

3. A diet high in vegetables, fruit, dairy, fish and nuts. Most people in middle-class households consume enough fruit, vegetables and dairy, but only a few make fish and nuts a priority. Fish is widely touted as a brain food, but if you’re a strict vegetarian, you’re probably saying to yourself, “That’s very fishy.”

4. Moderate or high levels of physical activity. A moderate level of exercise raises your heart rate or breathing, but not so much that you cannot have a conversation. Picture yourself running five kilometers with a partner and discussing inflation along the way. You’ll have two reasons to sweat.

5. A sense of purpose in life.

This is so important, because it keeps you active, both physically and mentally. Having purpose means that you are always working toward something. Even if you’re retired and your only purpose is to spend time with your grandchildren, you’ll have a good reason to keep those neurons in your brain firing. Your brain will be challenged just answering questions from your grandkids, such as, “Why is it so hot outside?” and “Why is your hair so white?”

6. A large social network. No, this does not mean owning stock in Facebook. This means having enough people in your life that you do not feel lonely. You have friends who care about you and can help you when you’re in need. As a result, you’re less likely to be depressed, which enhances your brain health. Having friends also helps you keep your brain active. It’s not much fun, after all, playing chess against yourself.

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010



Statistical illusions

Sir, This refers to “Retail inflation slips to over 8-yr low,” **Orissa POST**, Oct 14. India’s retail inflation plunging to an eight-year low of 1.54% in September may look like a stroke of good fortune for households, but the headline figure hides more than it reveals. At first glance, it seems that prices are cooling and family budgets may finally ease. However, the decline largely stems from a technical base effect — a statistical distortion rather than genuine price moderation. Inflation is measured year-on-year, and July 2024 witnessed exceptionally high food prices. That inflated base now makes this year’s reading appear deceptively soft. The reality is that most goods and services have not become significantly cheaper; rather, food prices are simply lower compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, core inflation, which strips out volatile food and fuel components, remains sticky, signaling persistent pressures in housing, healthcare, education, and other essentials. For households, these sectors dominate monthly expenses, leaving little room for comfort despite the headline decline. The apparent relief, therefore, is statistical rather than practical. Policymakers must look beyond numbers and focus on restoring real purchasing power. Sustainable comfort will come only when broad-based price stability accompanies income growth, not through fleeting statistical illusions.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Hygiene first

Sir, Hand washing with soap is a significant step towards health care. Diarrheal disorders can be reduced to half the number and the possibility of developing respiratory infections is diminished by 15 per cent by proper hand wash. Studies indicate that a 15-second thorough washing of both hands together can approximately eliminate 90 per cent of germs. Since dampness of hands can facilitate spread of transfer of bacteria to the body, drying of hands is too vital to be sidetracked. Paper cloth, clean towel, air dryer or drying the hands under the fan are common ways. Hungarian physician Ignaz Semmelweis and the famous Joseph Lister were the pioneers in this field. October 15 is World Hand Hygiene Day with the theme “It might be gloves, it’s always hand hygiene.”

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



We have every one of us a role to fulfil, a work to do, a place which we alone can occupy

THE MOTHER

Historic Deal

There is no doubt the way fighting in Gaza was ended and a peace process set in motion in the presence of 20 top world leaders, including the US President Donald Trump, represented October 13 a historic moment. In Israel, the release of living hostages was greeted with elation surcharged with intense emotions by the entire population. In Gaza and the West Bank too there were celebrations since around 2,000 Palestinian detainees started to be released, though the uncertainty over who is being released and where they will be sent causes distress. In northern Gaza, people can finally return to piece together the remains of an estimated 10,000 missing people.

It was nothing sort of a miracle that things could turn out on such an optimistic note as even three weeks ago the possibility of a ceasefire appeared to be doomed with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressing his resolve not to make any peace overtures till the Hamas and its terror network was razed to the ground. Hamas was equally belligerent and evasive. The main credit for making the impossible possible goes to President Trump, while leaders of prominent Moslem countries in the Middle East did their best to make Hamas see reason and accept peace as non-negotiable. It was in the fitness of things that Trump travelled from Jerusalem, where he was cheered in the Knesset, to Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt where he joined a high-powered peace summit. The peace process initiated in Egypt is to be continued at a conference in the UK. Trump can legitimately claim that he is the chief architect of this peace as he succeeded in making Netanyahu abandon his hawkish policy and work for the restoration of peace. It was not an easy task and Trump used both his military prowess and prodding to shun the path of war as a solution to the vexed problem festering for decades.

With this hopes for the deal being the first step toward Palestinian statehood have brightened, though the history of the region may make one circumspect about such an eventual outcome. There are reasons for expressing cautious optimism, since the deal does not offer a path to sovereignty for Palestinians. On the other hand, there are risks of splitting Gaza from the West Bank. The sheer scale of devastation in Gaza wreaked by this war with 60 million tons of rubble strewn all around makes the future very uncertain. The lack of any timeline for Palestinian self-determination in Trump’s plan makes his glowing references in his Knesset speech to the “historic dawn” of a “golden age” sound rather rhetorical.

All the same it is reassuring the way Trump has vowed to use the power of his presidency to ensure that Israel accepts the fact that it has achieved “all that it can by force of arms” and begin an age of cooperation in the Middle East.

In a speech to the Israeli Knesset, made hours after the last remaining Israeli hostages were released from Gaza, Trump hailed what he called an end to the “long and painful nightmare” of the Gaza war. He used the occasion well to declare that this was also “the end of an age of terror and death.” The most significant message that he gave to Israel was that it had won “with our help” all that it could by using the power of arms. He sounded like a true claimant for the world’s highest honour for peace when he said now it is time to turn these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the “ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East.”

By repeatedly insisting that Israel’s military victory was complete, Trump seems to have emphasised that his remarks were intended as a reassurance to Arab states that he would neither allow Israel to reopen the conflict with Hamas nor permit Hamas to reestablish itself inside Gaza.

This is the real gain achieved at the cost of over 1,200 Israeli and 67,000 Palestinian lives. Now, it is the duty of the top leaders of the world to make sure that both Israel and Hamas or any other outfit using terror as a tool for negotiation bid farewell to arms and work for durable peace.

WISDOM CORNER

The degree of freedom from unwanted thoughts and the degree of concentration on a single thought are the measures to gauge spiritual progress.

RAMANA MAHARSHI

Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people.

CARL SAGAN

Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

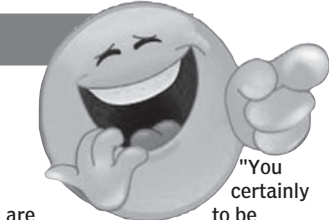
THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1844: Classical scholar and philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, one of the most influential of all modern thinkers, was born in Prussia.
- 1917: Dutch dancer and courtesan Mata Hari was executed by the French near Paris, charged with spying for Germany during World War I.
- 1934: Chinese communists began the Long March, the 6,000-mile (10,000-km) trek that resulted in the relocation of the communist revolutionary base from southeast China to northwest China and the emergence of Mao Zedong as the undisputed leader of the Chinese Communist Party.
- 1940: The comedy classic The Great Dictator premiered in New York City; Charlie Chaplin’s biggest box-office success, it satirized Adolf Hitler and Nazism and condemned anti-Semitism.
- 1966: Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party, the mission of which was to protect African Americans from police brutality; it later developed into a Marxist revolutionary group that, among other things, called for the arming of all African Americans and the release of Blacks from jail.
- 1987: A military coup in Burkina Faso overthrew head of state Thomas Sankara, killing him and eight others.

LOL

CALM DOWN ALBERT

In the supermarket was a man pushing a cart which contained a screaming, bellowing baby. The gentleman kept repeating softly, "Don't get excited, Albert; don't scream, Albert; don't yell, Albert; keep calm, Albert." A woman standing next to him said,



"You certainly are commended for trying to soothe your son, Albert." The man looked at her and said, "Lady, I'm Albert."

UNVEIL THE UNSEEN

Arunachal discovers new Balsam species

Scientists at the BSI have been actively involved in discovering and documenting new balsam species, particularly in Northeastern region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Oct 14: A team of the Botanical Survey of India has discovered ‘Impatiens rajibiana’, a new species of balsam flower found in the natural forests of Shergaon in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said Tuesday.

The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has identified many balsam species in India, including newly discovered ones from states like Arunachal Pradesh, such as Impatiens godfreyi and Impatiens sashinborthakurii.

While the total number of Indian species is around 230, well-known examples like Impatiens balsamina (garden balsam or touch-me-not) are also native to India and are widely cultivated.

“Heartiest congratulations to Dr Krishna Chowlu and her



dedicated research team from the Botanical Survey of India for their remarkable discovery of Impatiens rajibiana- a new species of balsam found in the natural forests of Shergaon, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh,” Chief Minister Khandu wrote on ‘X’ (social media platform).

He said this scientific milestone not only enriches India's floral diversity but also high-

lights the unmatched biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh, a true treasure of the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot. “Such achievements reaffirm the importance of continued scientific exploration and conservation of our pristine natural heritage. Kudos to the entire team for bringing this new discovery from Arunachal to the world of science!” he said.

Scientists at the BSI have been actively involved in discovering and documenting new balsam species, particularly in Northeastern region.

Many of these species are endemic, meaning they are found only in the Northeast and often exist in very small numbers in their natural habitat.

India has about 230 known balsam species, with over 16 new ones discovered between 2013 and 2017 in Arunachal Pradesh alone.

Missing army porter rescued from Arunachal's Upper Siang

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Oct 14: An army porter who went missing for 20 days in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh was rescued after an extensive multi-agency search and rescue operation, police said.

The rescued porter, Unnot Taye, a resident of Akshipur village in Dhemaji district of Assam, went missing in the Midak area, about 25 km from Panggo village in the district, September 20, while returning from duty, the police said Monday.

Taye, along with 11 other porters from Assam, had been engaged on September 17 by a contractor for work along the Panggo-Jorging foot track in the Tingo-1 and Tingo-2 border areas. When Taye failed to return, a missing report was lodged at Tuting Police Station on September 23.

Following the report, a rigorous search and rescue (SAR) operation was launched under Tuting police station officer-in-charge Jumken Rina, with active participation



from NGOs, army porters, and villagers from Panggo and Migging, guided by head gaon burahs (village headman) and gram panchayat chairpersons (GPCs).

The joint team combed through the dense forests, steep hills, and riverbanks of the Shirapate river from September 21 to October 9, often under harsh conditions.

October 10, another army

porter from Kugging village spotted Taye in an unconscious condition near Midak Camp.

Upon receiving the information, a rescue team comprising police personnel, a medical team, and villagers, including members of the Arunachal Pradesh Women Welfare Society (Panggo Unit), immediately reached the location.

Tuting medical officer Dr Maktel Yompang provided on-

site medical aid, stabilising the victim before he was carried on foot for nearly 25 km through rugged terrain to the nearest road point on October 11.

From there, Taye was evacuated to District Hospital at Yingkiang, October 12, and later shifted to Bakin Pertin General Hospital at Pasighat, in East Siang district on October 13 for further treatment.

After medical evaluation and stabilisation, he was reunited with his family the same day.

Expressing relief and gratitude, Upper Siang deputy commissioner Talo Jerang commended the dedication and teamwork of all those involved in the operation.

“The successful rescue of Unnot Taye is a result of tireless efforts, unity, and commitment shown by all teams and local volunteers,” the deputy commissioner said.

Jerang extended appreciation to Upper Siang SP Token Saring, Tuting ADC Pandov Perme, SI Jumken Rina Dr Yompang, and others for their coordinated action and humanitarian spirit.

North Tripura to begin water conservation drive



A soak pit is a porous underground chamber that allows water to slowly seep into the surrounding soil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, Oct 14: The North Tripura district administration Tuesday announced the launch of a major water conservation drive – ‘Uttar Jal Sanchay Yatra’ - to construct 50,000 soak pits in two days in November.

A soak pit is a porous underground chamber that allows water to slowly seep into the surrounding soil.

The mission is scheduled to be launched on November 3 and 4, an official said.

“The district administration has already geared up to launch a historic mission, 50,000 soak pits in just 2 days! We will together make water conservation a people's movement,” District Magistrate (DM), North Tripura, Chandni Chandran told reporters.

She laid emphasis that while soak pits may appear simple, their impact is powerful, they help rainwater seep into the ground, reduce the risk of flooding, and improve soil health and agriculture.

A demonstration of soak pit

construction was held at the DM's residence in the presence of senior officials, including Additional District Magistrate L Darlong Sunday.

The demonstration video has been shared on social media to inspire citizens across the district to join the mission.

Chandran appealed to people to join hands in this campaign. "Now, we need you! Join this mission in your home, your village, your institution. Together, let's make Uttar Jal Sanchay Yatra a historic success."

The initiative aims to make water conservation a mass movement and aligns with the national call to “catch the rain where it falls”.

She said the district administration has partnered with several government departments and organisations, including Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G), MyGov Tripura, RD Department, and TRLM, to implement this campaign efficiently.

Chandran added local panchayats, schools, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and clubs will be involved in the mission to make the programme a grand success in the entire district.

“There will be special awareness campaign in each village and ward of municipal bodies and gram panchayats,” he said.

HISTORY MAKER

Andhra mountaineer becomes first Indian to summit nine 8,000m peaks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 14: Bharath Thammineni, a 36-year old mountaineer from Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, Tuesday became the first Indian to summit all nine of the world's 14 highest peaks, after successfully climbing Mt Cho Oyu (8,188m), the sixth-highest mountain, sources close to the climber claimed.

Prior to this latest achievement, Thammineni had summited Mt Everest in May 2017, Mt Manaslu in September 2018, Mt Lhotse in May 2019, Mt Annapurna in March 2022, Mt Kanchenjunga in April 2022, Mt Makalu in May 2023, Mt Shishapangma in October 2024 and Mt Dhaulagiri in April 2025 – all 8,000 plus metre peaks, they said.

Five of the remaining top



peaks – Mt K2, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I and II and Broad Peak -- are in Pakistan and are currently out of bounds for Indian climbers.

Thammineni reached the Cho Oyu base camp in China on September 30 and had to abandon initial attempts to climb the mountain on account of inclement weather and heavy

HISTORY MAKER

his successful ascent.

Thammineni's climb assumed further significance since his push to the summit from base camp had no Sherpa support.

Founder of Boots & Crampons, a mountaineering company, Thammineni has already won the recognition as India's one of most accomplished high-altitude climbers, sources close to the climber claimed.

“Over the last decade, Bharath has guided expedition teams across six continents and inspired a new generation of Indian climbers. Under his leadership, the Everest 2025 expedition achieved landmark milestones after Chhonzin Angmo from Himachal Pradesh became the world's first blind woman to summit the world's highest peak and Vishwanath

Karthikey, then a 16-year old, became the youngest Indian to complete the Seven Summits challenge,” said Dipanjan Das, a friend of Thammineni who has closely monitored the mountaineer's career, said.

In a recorded message from the summit camp, the climber dedicated his achievement to the newer generation of adventure sports enthusiasts in this country.

“This is not just a personal achievement, but a testament to the potential of Indian adventure sports,” he said.

“The mountains demand respect, perseverance, and patience. Standing on the summit of Cho Oyu today, I feel immense gratitude for the journey and hope this inspires a new generation of Indian climbers to aim for the highest peaks,” he added.

Meghalaya, NorthEast United FC to promote Football in shillong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Oct 14: The Meghalaya government has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NorthEast United FC aimed at boosting football development and promote Shillong as the 'Football Capital' of India, officials said Tuesday.

The partnership, effective from 2025 to 2028, brings together NorthEast United FC, the Department of Tourism, and the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs in a joint effort to promote football culture, encourage youth participation, and strengthen Meghalaya's image as a key tourism destination, they said.

The MoU was signed by representatives of NorthEast United FC, Department of Tourism, Government of Meghalaya, and the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya. Under the MoU, the parties will collaborate on football camps, coach education programmes, fan parks, and youth-focused awareness initiatives.

Andhra introduces rapid kits to curb illegal transport of ration rice

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister N Manohar Tuesday said major reforms are being implemented in the Civil Supplies Department, including the introduction of rapid kits to curb the illegal transport of ration rice and strengthen monitoring mechanisms. The government has formulated a new strategy to prevent smuggling networks and ensure swift action against those involved, the minister stated in a press release. The kits contain Potassium Thiocyanide and Hydrochloric Acid solutions, which turn fortified ration rice red upon application, while ordinary rice remains unchanged. With these rapid kits, officials can now conduct on-the-spot verification and take prompt action against illegal transporters.

Arunachal CM unveils railway expansion plan

ITANAGAR: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu Monday said his government was committed to transforming the state through railway connectivity, describing the ongoing projects as a “giant leap” towards economic growth. In a post on X, the CM shared updates about the railway projects that are underway in the state. “Transforming Arunachal through Rail Connectivity! Major strides are being made to link every corner of our state with the national railway network,” he said.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BANSPAL

E-mail-eerwbanspal@gmail.com

Letter No. 876

Date: 10.10.2025

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Building online NCB No.02 invited this office letter No.787 Dt.25.09.2025.

No.O-1024:- The changes as detailed below are hereby made in the above N.I.T.:-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
		To		Technical Bid
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Banspal	Building Online NCB No. 02	Previously fixed on 17.10.2025 to 05.00 P.M.	Presently Modified on 18.10.2025 to 09.00 A.M.	Previously fixed on 16.10.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.
				Presently Modified on 17.10.2025 up to 09.00 A.M.
				Previously fixed on 18.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
				Presently Modified on 18.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
				Previously fixed on Will be intimated later
				Presently Modified on Will be intimated later

Encl:- Copy of NIT enclosed.

OIPR-25198/11/0004/2526

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Banspal

OFFICE OF THE CDM & PHO & DISTRICT MISSION DIRECTOR, BHADRAK

DISTRICT HEALTH MISSION

(Department of Health & FW, Govt. of Orissa)

Advt. No. 24/2025

Date: 13.10.2025

Ref.: RFP No. Nirmal/Mechanised Laundry/Bhadrak/22/2025 dated 18.09.2025

Corrigendum

No.E-441:- It is for information of all concerned that the last date for submission of RFP regarding outsourcing of Mechanized Laundry services for Bhadrak District under NIRMAL is hereby extended upto 24.10.25 (05.00 PM). Bidders who have already applied need not apply further. All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. The Technical Bid will be opened on 28.10.2025 at 11.00 AM at O/o the CDM & PHO, Bhadrak.

OIPR-10123/11/0027/2526

Sd./- CDM & PHO, Bhadrak

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, DEOGAON

INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.-01/2025-26/DGN

Invitation for Bids

No.I-340:-

1. The BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, DEOGAON, BALANGIR on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites per centate rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE only for Construction of Building work as detailed below.

2. Nature of work : Civil & El works

3. No. of work : 5 nos.

4. Bid Cost : ₹ 6,000/-

5. Class of Contractor : "D" & "C" and "C" & "B" (Registered with CDMS)

6. Availability of Bid Documents in : From 10.00 AM of 14.10.2025 to 5.00 PM of 28.10.2025

7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.29.10.2025 at 11.00 AM.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

• Any corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above website only.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Deogaon

OIPR-19253/11/0002/2526

Fisheries & ARD Department

Government of Odisha

Dated:15.10.2025

Corrigendum No.1

Extension of deadline in EOI for the design, construction, exhibit development and operation of a State-of-the Art-Marine Aquarium and under water zoo at/near Puri Sea Beach

No.M-31:1. With reference to EOI for the design, construction, exhibit development and operation of a State-of-the Art-Marine Aquarium and under water zoo at/near Puri Sea Beach dated 12.09.2025 issued by Fisheries & ARD Department all prospective developers/ companies are hereby informed that, it has been decided to revise the last date and time for submission of proposal, review of the proposal and the final decision announcement. The revised dates are given below.

Proposal submission deadline : 25.10.2025, 5 PM

Proposal review period : 04.11.2025, 5 PM

Final Decision Announcement : 15.11.2025, 5 PM

2.All other conditions in the EOI document remain the same. Developers/ Companies / Firms are advised to submit the proposal well in advance in PDF format to pmufard@gmail.com by 25.10.2025, 5 PM. Detailed EOI document is available in the website of F&ARD Department, Government of Odisha.

Sd./- Principal Secretary

Fisheries & ARD Department, Lok Seva Bhawan

Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

OIPR-52014/11/0002/2526

Office of the Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Puri

Grand Road, Medical Square, Puri, Pin No.-752002

Phone No.-06752-222124 (O) & 232294 (C.S), E-mail- cdsupuri@gmail.com

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. 4530 Sub Store, Puri Dated 14.10.25

FOR SUPPLY OF DRUGS & MEDICAL CONSUMABLES, LABORATORY REAGENTS & KITS FOR PURI DISTRICT

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF BID DOCUMENT IN WEBSITE	Dt.15.10.25 from 11.00 A.M.
PRE BID MEETING	Dt.22.10.25 at 11.00 A.M.
LAST DATE & TIME OF RECEIPT OF BID DOCUMENTS	Dt.06.11.25 upto 04.30 P.M.
DATE & TIME OF OPENING OF TENDER (Cover-A)	Dt.07.11.25 at 11.00 A.M.
Venue	D.T.U.-1, O/o- CDM & PHO, Puri

*For detail regarding this tender call notice please visit the website www.puri.nic.in or contact office of the undersigned during the office hour in all working days.

Sd./- Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Puri

OIPR-10021/11/0023/2526

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT FISHERIES OFFICER, CUTTACK

Email: dfocuttack@gmail.com

EOI No.4416, Dt.10.10.2025

EOI FOR ERECTION OF FISHERIES STALL (5000 Sq. Ft.) ON THE OCCASION OF HISTORIC BALIYATRA- 2025 FROM 05TH NOVEMBER TO 12TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT BALIYATRA GROUND, CUTTACK.

No. M-32:- The District Fisheries Officer, Cuttack intends to invite sealed EOI from reputed, registered and experienced Event Management Organizations for erection of Fisheries Pavilion to display the Departmental activities in the Baliyatra Ground, Cuttack from 05th November to 12th November 2025. Bidder fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the EOI can access and download the complete EOI document and other details from www.cuttack.odisha.gov.in

Schedule of invitation of EOI are:

Sl.	List of Critical Events	Key Dates
1	Date of Issue of EOI	10.10.2025
2	Bid Processing Fee	EMD of Rs 40,000/- in shape of bank draft
3	Last Date of Submission of EOI	27.10.2025, 11.00 A.M
4	Technical Bid Opening Date	27.10.2025, 12.00 P.M
5	Financial Bid Opening Date	27.10.2025, 03.30 P.M
6	EOI Submission and opening at (Address)	Office Chamber of District Fisheries Officer, Jobra, Cuttack

The EOI has been invited under dual bid system as Technical Bid and Financial Bid. The bid complete in all respects should reach before the undersigned by Speed Post/ Registered post latest by 27.10.2025 before 11.00 A.M in sealed envelopes clearly mentioning "EOI FOR ERECTION OF FISHERIES STALL (5000 Sq. Ft.) ON THE OCCASION OF HISTORIC BALIYATRA-2025" in which two separate sealed envelope super scribed as Technical and Financial bid shall be kept. The financial bid processing fee EMD of Rs 40,000/- (Rupees Forty thousand only) shall be in shape of bank draft in favour of District Fisheries Officer, Cuttack drawn in any scheduled commercial bank payable at Cuttack. The proposals received beyond the last date and time shall not be entertained. The District Fisheries Officer, Cuttack reserves the right to alter the date of opening of EOI and also to reject any or all the EOI without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-06075/11/0003/2526

Sd./- District Fisheries Officer, Cuttack



Fatal road accidents in the national capital have declined by 2.9 per cent and deaths due such crashed have also reduced by 2.5 per cent till September, as compared to the corresponding period last year, according to data shared by the Delhi Police Tuesday



A National Security Guard (NSG) commando with a sniffer dog during the 41st Raising Day ceremony of NSG at the NSG Garrison, Manesar in Gurugram, Haryana, Tuesday

According to sources, Venu-gopal, alias Bhupathi alias Sonu, was considered one of the most influential strategists in the Maoist organisation and had long supervised platoon op-

Earlier this year, Bhupathi's wife, Tarakka, also surrendered. She was a member of the Dandkaranya special zone committee of the outlawed movement.

Yadav met UN climate chief Simon Stiell, COP30 President-Designate André Corrêa do Lago and EU Commissioner for Climate Action Wopke

“Appreciate his acknowledgment of India's leadership and remarkable progress in renew-

The two-day pre-COP brings together environment and cli-

In the run-up to the annual climate meeting, disagreement over climate finance, the pace and responsibility for the energy transition, and the burden on developing countries remain sharp.

of the day

quote

India is a growing force on the world stage, on track to have the third largest economy by 2028

KEIR STARMER | BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

The United States negotiated deals with various countries and provided multiple exemptions. Most countries refrained from retaliation, keeping instead the trading system largely open

PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCHAS | IMF CHIEF ECONOMIST

This country has always welcomed those who come to this country and contribute, but it is unacceptable for migrants to come here without learning our language, unable to contribute to our national life

SHABANA MAHMOOD | UK HOME SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

China making 4th aircraft carrier

Beijing: China is reportedly building its fourth aircraft carrier even as it is set to launch the third one called Fujian which has completed its sea trials. The building of the fourth aircraft carrier is under progress at a shipyard in Dalian, Liaoning province, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Tuesday posting the satellite images of the hull. China, which was the last among the major countries to opt for the aircraft carriers for its navy, currently has two of them, the Liaoning, a reift of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012 and Shandong, an indigenously built second aircraft carrier operationalised in 2019. The third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, which has been successfully conducting tests and training will be commissioned soon, Chinese military spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said last month. He said that carrier-based aircraft J-15T, J-35 and Kongjing-600 have successfully completed catapult-assisted take-off and arrested landing training aboard the Fujian aircraft carrier. All the three carriers are conventionally powered. The fourth carrier, however, could be powered by nuclear propulsion, which would increase its endurance and global reach and provide significantly more power to run advanced systems, the Post report said.

B'desh: 16 killed in factory fire

Dhaka: At least 16 workers were killed and several others injured Tuesday in a fire that broke out at a garment factory and a chemical warehouse in the Bangladeshi capital, officials said. The devastating fire broke out at a chemical warehouse next to the garment factory in Dhaka's Rupnagar area, Talha Bin Jasim, an officer at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Media Wing, was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency. "During the search campaign, 16 bodies were recovered from the garment factory alone," Fire Service spokesman Anwarul Islam told the agency. He said fire was suspected to have broken out from the chemical warehouse and spread to the garments unit - Anwar Fashion Garments Factory and Shah Alam Chemical Warehouse. "We have extinguished the fire at the four-storey garment factory, but efforts are still underway to douse the blaze at the chemical depot," Islam said. Fire Service and Civil Defence Director (Operation and Maintenance) Lt Col Mohammad Tajul Islam Chowdhury confirmed the toll, but said the victims have not yet been identified.

Hamas fighters tighten grip in Gaza

REUTERS

Cairo/Jerusalem, Oct 14: Hamas fighters tightened their grip in Gaza Tuesday after carrying out public executions, defying Israel's assertion that war cannot end under US President Donald Trump's plan until the militants are disarmed.

In a stark assertion of the group's return, fighters executed men they accused of collaborating with Israeli forces. In one video circulated late Monday, Hamas fighters dragged seven men into a circle of people in Gaza City, forced them to their knees and shot them from behind. A Hamas source confirmed the authenticity of the video.

Gaza residents said fighters were increasingly visible Tuesday, deploying along routes needed for aid deliveries. Palestinian security sources say dozens of people have been killed in clashes between Hamas fighters and rivals in recent days.

Although Israeli troops have withdrawn from urban areas in Gaza under the ceasefire that began last week, drone fire killed five people as they went to check on houses in a suburb east of Gaza City and an air strike killed one person and injured another near Khan Younis, Gaza health authorities said.

Hamas accused Israel of violating the ceasefire. The Israeli military said it had fired on people who crossed truce lines and approached its forces after ignoring calls to turn back.



Hamas' resumption of power in Gaza and continued flashes of violence underscore the daunting hurdles facing efforts to move Trump's ceasefire plan towards a longer-term resolution of the conflict.

While Trump proclaimed the "historic dawn of a new Middle East" to Israel's parliament on Monday, some of the most difficult elements of his plan have yet to be negotiated to resolve issues that wrecked previous efforts to end the war.

Israeli forces remain entrenched across much of Gaza after their partial pullback inside the tiny, crowded territory. Promised increases in aid deliveries have not yet materialised

Russian aerial attack hits Ukrainian hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Oct 14: Russian forces launched powerful glide bombs and drones against Ukraine's second-largest city in overnight attacks, hitting a hospital and wounding seven people, an official said Tuesday, as European military aid for Kyiv dropped sharply and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prepared to ask US President Donald Trump for Tomahawk missiles.

The Russian attack on Kharkiv in Ukraine's north-east hit the city's main hospital, forcing the evacuation of 50 patients, regional head Oleh Syniehubov said. The attack's main targets were energy facilities, Zelenskyy said, without providing details of what was hit.

"Every day, every night, Russia strikes power plants, power lines, and our (natural) gas facilities," Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Russian long-range strikes on its neighbour's power grid are part of a campaign since

Moscow launched a full-scale invasion in February 2022 to disable Ukraine's power supply, denying civilians heat and running water during the bitter winter.

The Ukrainian leader urged foreign countries to help blunt Russia's long-range attacks by providing more air defence systems for the country, which is almost the size of Texas and hard to defend from the air in its entirety.

"We are counting on the actions of the US and Europe, the G7, all partners who have these systems and can provide them to protect our people," Zelenskyy said. "The world must force Moscow to sit down at the table for real negotiations."

But the latest data on foreign military aid to Ukraine showed a sharp drop-off in recent help.

Military aid in July and August plunged by 43% compared to the first half of the year, Germany's Kiel Institute, which tracks support to Ukraine, said Tuesday.

Cyprus: The island of cats has a cat problem

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicosia, Oct 14: Officials in Cyprus, the small island nation in the eastern corner of the Mediterranean, estimate there is roughly one feral cat for every one of its 1 million inhabitants — though activists contend the actual population is hundreds of thousands higher.

In late September, the island's parliamentary committee on the environment was told that an existing sterilisation programme is too limited to contain the burgeoning cat population.

"It's a good programme, but it needs to expand," said Environment Commissioner Antonia Theodosiou, noting that the programme conducts only about 2,000 sterilisations annually on a budget of just 100,000 euros (USD 117,000).

While there is no official comparative data, Theodosiou said Cyprus has gained a reputation for having a cat population that is exceptionally large relative to its human inhabitants.

Change might be on the way,

but funding alone won't solve Cyprus's cat problem.

Appearing to heed calls for more funding, Environment Minister Maria Panayiotou announced on October 4 — World Animal Day — that the government would raise cat sterilisation funding to 300,000 euros annually. The decision was hailed as a significant step forward. However, Charalambos Theopemptou, chairman of the Parliamentary Environment Committee, warned against relying on money alone. "There has to be a plan," he said. "We can't just go ahead with sterilisations without having a plan," he said.

Given cats' predatory nature, a large population not only has the potential to wreak havoc with the island's ecosystem, but it could cause undue suffering for feral felines roaming car-choked streets in search of food and shelter.

Cyprus has a long history as a cat-loving nation where cat food dispensaries and clusters of tiny houses are a regular sight along popular footpaths.

Two decades ago, French ar-

We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us

DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

Body of Nepali hero reaches Israel

Kathmandu: The body of a Nepali hero who saved several lives during the October 7 Hamas attack in Israel has been brought back to Tel Aviv and will soon be returned to his family for proper burial, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said in a statement. Bipin Joshi, 23, was abducted from a shelter in Kibbutz Alumim by Hamas October 7 along with several others. "Bipin was abducted at the age of 23 from a shelter in Kibbutz Alumim by Hamas. It is assessed that he was murdered in captivity during the first months of the war," IDF said in a statement on social media Tuesday. The IDF said it will make necessary arrangements to return the body of the victim to his family for proper burial.

peared in the streets during the last ceasefire in January-March, Israel abandoned the truce and called off negotiations on an end to the war. But Trump, having announced that the war is now over, said on Monday Hamas still had a temporary green light 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," he said.

Hamas sources told Reuters Tuesday the group would tolerate no more violations of order in Gaza and would target collaborators, armed looters and drug dealers.

for a population of 2.2 million people, many facing famine.

A summit co-hosted by Trump in Egypt on Monday ended with no public announcement of major progress towards establishing an international military force for Gaza, or a new governing body. The remains of at least 23 dead hostages remain in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has consistently maintained that the war cannot end until Hamas gives up its weapons and ceases to control Gaza, a demand that the fighters have rejected, torpedoing all previous peace efforts.

When Hamas fighters ap-

MILITARY COUP IN MADAGASCAR

REUTERS

Antananrivo, Oct 14: Madagascar's military has taken charge of the Indian Ocean island, an army colonel said Tuesday, after President Andry Rajoelina fled abroad during a standoff with youth-led protesters and security forces.

"We have taken the power," Colonel Michael Randrianirina, who led a mutiny of soldiers joining anti-government Gen Z demonstrators, said on national radio. Randrianirina added that the military was dissolving all institutions except the lower house of parliament or National Assembly, which voted to impeach Rajoelina minutes earlier. In a day of turmoil for the nation off east Africa, the 51-year-old leader had sought to dissolve the assembly by decree.

Despite flying out on a French military jet, Rajoelina is refusing to step down in defiance of weeks of Gen Z protests demanding his resignation and widespread defections in the army.

The presidency did not immediately react to Randrianirina's comments but earlier



said the assembly meeting was unconstitutional and thus any resolution "null and void."

Rajoelina has said he has moved to a safe place because of threats to his life. An opposition official, a military source and a foreign diplomat told Reuters he had fled the country on Sunday aboard a French military plane.

Demonstrations erupted in the country on September 25 over water and power shortages and quickly escalated into an uprising over broader grievances, including corruption, bad governance and a lack of basic services.

The anger mirrored recent

French PM suspends flagship pension reform



REUTERS

Paris, Oct 14: French Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu Tuesday suspended a landmark 2023 pension reform until after the 2027 presidential election, bowing to pressure from leftist lawmakers who had demanded such a move to ensure his political survival.

Lecornu, who is facing an uphill battle to survive at least two no-confidence votes later this week, made the announcement in parliament as part of a last-ditch attempt to forge the conditions for passing a slimmed-down 2026 budget.

Lecornu's decision represents an acknowledgment by French President Emmanuel Macron that mothballing the pension reform - which he considers to be one of his main economic legacies - was the only way to ensure the survival of Lecornu, his sixth prime minister in less than two years.

France is in the midst of its worst political crisis in decades as a succession of minority governments seek to push deficit-reducing budgets

"I will propose to parliament, starting this autumn, that we suspend the 2023 pension reform until the presidential election," Lecornu told lawmakers. "No increase in the retirement age will take place from now until January 2028.

France is in the midst of its worst political crisis in decades as a succession of minority governments seek to push deficit-reducing budgets through a truculent legislature split into three distinct ideological blocs.

na took stage and asked: "Are you ready to accept a military takeover?," drawing cheers of approval from the crowd.

Earlier, French President Emmanuel Macron had said that constitutional order must be preserved and that while France understood the grievances of the youth, they should not be exploited by military factions. Rajoelina had appeared isolated after losing the support of CAPSAT, an elite unit which had helped him seize power in a 2009 coup. Randrianirina is a well-known commander in CAPSAT.

The unit had joined the protesters over the weekend, saying it would refuse to fire on them and escorting thousands of demonstrators in the main square of the capital Antananarivo.

The paramilitary gendarmerie and the police also broke ranks with Rajoelina.

Madagascar, where the average age is less than 20, has a population of about 30 million, three-quarters of whom live in poverty. GDP per capita plunged 45% from the time of independence in 1960 to 2020, according to the World Bank.

island every year. The well-fed felines are a common sight, often seen feasting on leftovers provided by visitors at the plethora of restaurants where they like to hang out. Deme- tris Epaminondas, president of the Veterinary Association, attributes the exploding population to unchecked breeding, particularly in high-concentration urban areas, and to more kittens surviving birth, thanks to ordinary folks offering care.

The current government-run program disburses its budget to municipalities which, in turn, fund private veterinarians to sterilise cats brought in by animal conservation groups.

Authorities acknowledge the program is ineffective. The country's state-run Veterinary Services, which is in charge of sterilisations, conceded that the program's capabilities are "lesser than the real need." To reassess where available funding could be redistributed, it has asked local government authorities to submit reports on locations with large feral cat concentrations.

of the day


quote

Our goal in joining the Deliver-E Coalition is to leverage the power of knowledge-sharing and collective action to accelerate this transition



ANJALI RAVI KUMAR | CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, ETERNAL LIMITED

India's new default is smart luxury, with savings on the bed, splurge on the day. With travel feeling slightly more affordable, people are more open to taking that extra trip or upgrading their stay. This is a healthy sign for both travellers and hospitality operators in emerging leisure destinations



ABHISHEK DAGA | CO-FOUNDER, THRILLOPHILIA

Tariff policy in India's edible oil sector must evolve from a reactive instrument to a strategic policy tool



TS VISHWANATH | VEK FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

SHORT TAKES

Maruti Suzuki, TN govt sign pact

Chennai: Automaker Maruti Suzuki India has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Tamil Nadu government towards automation of driving testing tracks in the state, the government said Tuesday. The initiative aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and uniformity in the conduct of driving tests across Tamil Nadu by leveraging advanced technology and automation, thereby contributing to improved road safety standards in the state.

LTSC, HYS partnership

New Delhi: L&T Semiconductor Technologies (LTSC) Tuesday announced a partnership with Foxconn subsidiary Hon Young Semiconductor (HYS) to jointly develop and produce high-voltage semiconductor wafers of 650-3300V. LTSC will leverage HYS's Taiwan facilities to design and manufacture wafers built to strict specifications for automotive and industrial use, catering to the surging demand for high-efficiency, durable power components in electrification platforms, the company said in a statement.

BOM Q2 profit rises

New Delhi: Public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra Tuesday reported a 23 per cent growth in its standalone net profit to ₹1,633 crore in the September quarter of the current fiscal (FY26), driven by a decline in bad loans and a rise in interest income. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹1,327 crore in the same quarter preceding fiscal (FY25). The state-owned bank earned interest income of ₹7,128 crore during the quarter, compared to ₹6,017 crore in the same period a year ago, Bank of Maharashtra said in a regulatory filing.

Soch enters Malaysia

New Delhi: Women's ethnic wear player Soch Apparels Pvt Ltd Tuesday announced its foray into the Malaysian market with the opening of three retail stores in the Southeast Asian country as part of its international expansion.

IREDA posts profit

New Delhi: IREDA Tuesday posted a 41 per cent year-on-year rise in standalone net profit to ₹549 crore in the September quarter, backed by higher income. It had clocked a net profit of ₹388 crore in the July-September period of FY2024-25, IREDA said in a statement.

Why can't we make Andaman the next big hub for global Internet data transfer? Andaman can actually help Google and every other Internet-based organisation to reach Southeast Asia, to Australia, to a large part of the world, which is today looking at totally new capacity



ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION IT AND ELECTRONICS MINISTER

Google's big bet on India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: In its biggest ever investment in India, tech giant Google Tuesday said it will invest \$15 billion in building an AI infrastructure hub in Andhra Pradesh, which would include a gigawatt-scale data centre in partnership with Adani Group.

The project is expected to create 5,000-6,000 direct jobs and 20,000-30,000 total jobs in Andhra Pradesh.

The AI hub at Visakhapatnam will be Google's largest outside the US and will include a data centre fuelled by clean energy and a fiber-optic network. Business tycoon Gautam Adani said his company AdaniConneX would partner with Google on the project, along with Bharti Airtel, India's second largest mobile operator.

The \$15 billion will be invested over the next five years (2026-2030).

Google joins a growing list of US tech giants ramping up investments in India amid the country's accelerating AI boom. Amazon.com Inc has announced plans to invest \$12.7 billion in cloud infrastructure by 2030, while OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, is preparing to establish a 1-gigawatt data centre in the region.

Microsoft is also expanding its data centre footprint in India, a key growth market with nearly a billion internet users. Billionaires Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani have similarly announced significant invest-



ments to boost data centre capacity in the country.

Analysts project India's data centre market to top \$100 billion by 2027.

While Google has committed to spend about \$85 billion this year to build out data centre capacity worldwide, the one planned at Visakhapatnam will have an initial capacity of 1 gigawatt (GW).

In the Visakhapatnam hub, Adani Group and Airtel have partnered with Google to build the infrastructure for its new project, which also includes construction of a new international subsea gateway.

The rapid advancement of AI, which demands massive computing power, is fuelling the need for high-performance data centres that connect thousands of chips into powerful comput-

ing clusters.

Calling it a "landmark development", Pichai said, "This hub combines gigawatt-scale compute capacity, a new international subsea gateway, and large-scale energy infrastructure. Through it we will bring our industry-leading technology to enterprises and users in India, accelerating AI innovation and driving growth across the country."

An analysis commissioned by Google suggests that the AI hub is expected to generate at least \$15 billion over five years (2026-2030) in American gross domestic product because of new economic activity from increased cloud and AI adoption, as well as the American talent and resources involved in developing and operating the AI hub.

NPCI INT'L SIGNS MOU WITH NTT DATA JAPAN
NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) Tuesday said it has signed a pact with NTT DATA Japan for acceptance of UPI in the Japanese market. In a statement National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said following the introduction of UPI in the Japanese market, Indian tourists will be able to make seamless payments at merchant locations acquired by NTT DATA by scanning QR codes using their familiar UPI applications. NTT DATA Japan is a leading player in the payments ecosystem and operates CAFIS® -- Japan's largest card payment processing network



Weak global trends decline stocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 14: Benchmark BSE Sensex fell by 107 points Tuesday in its second straight day of losses due to selling in metal, select auto and pharma shares amid weak trends in Asian and European markets.

Reversing its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 297.07 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at 82,029.98 as 23 of its constituents closed lower and seven with gains. During the day, it dropped 545.43 points or 0.66 per cent to 81,781.62.

The 50-share NSE Nifty went lower by 81.85 points or 0.32 per cent to 25,145.50.

Stock markets started the day on a high note but failed to hold momentum due to weak global trends and trade-related concerns, analysts said, adding that foreign fund outflows also impacted the sentiment.

Bajaj Finance was the biggest loser among Sensex stocks, dropping by 1.8 per cent. Tata Motors, TCS, Tata Steel, Bharat Electronics, NTPC, Trent, Asian Paints and Axis Bank were also among the laggards.

However, Tech Mahindra, ICI-ICI Bank, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries were among the gainers.

"Equity markets saw broad-based profit-booking amid a lack of fresh domestic triggers, as weak cues from Asian and European peers dampened investor sentiment. Renewed US-China trade tensions reignited risk

aversion, prompting a shift toward safe-haven assets such as gold and US Treasury bonds, while equities came under pressure on concerns of escalating global trade uncertainty," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, stock markets opened on a positive note but failed to sustain early gains, ending marginally lower as trade-related concerns overshadowed favorable domestic cues.

The BSE smallcap gauge dropped 0.95 per cent and mid-cap index declined 0.74 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended lower. Telecommunication dropped the most by 1.39 per cent, followed by oil & gas (1.01 per cent), realty (0.96 per cent), metal (0.95 per cent) and services (0.87 per cent).

As many as 2,870 stocks declined, 1,337 advanced and 127 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite Index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading lower.

US markets ended sharply higher Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dropped 1.82 per cent to \$62.17 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) off-loaded equities worth ₹240.10 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Ethanol industry urges govt for roadmap beyond E-20 blending

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: The country's sugar and biofuel industry bodies Tuesday urged the government to establish a national ethanol mobility roadmap beyond the current E-20 blending target and reduce taxes on flex-fuel vehicles to sustain the country's biofuel push.

The Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) and Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) sought GST rationalisation on flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) and smart hybrid vehicles, along with consumer incentives similar to those offered for electric vehicles under the FAME scheme.

The appeal comes after India achieved its E-20 ethanol blending target - mixing 20 per cent ethanol with petrol - five years ahead of schedule, ISMA said in a statement.

"India's sugar sector has risen to the challenge and delivered on its ethanol promise ahead of schedule," ISMA Director General Deepak Ballani said adding the industry believes that sustaining this ethanol revolution now depends on policy continuity.

The ethanol industry has offered 17.76 billion litres against oil marketing com-

panies' requirement of 10.50 billion litres, demonstrating readiness to support 27 per cent ethanol blending, Ballani said.

Without a defined roadmap beyond E-20, production capacities could remain underutilised, leading to idle investments and reduced mill revenues, he added.

The sugar industry has invested about ₹40,000 crore to create ethanol production capacity exceeding 900 crore litres per annum, ISMA said.

The industry also flagged financial pressures from stagnant ethanol procurement prices from B-heavy molasses and sugarcane juice over the past three years.

IFGE President Pramod Chaudhari said India must declare a National Ethanol Mobility Roadmap 2030 with clear targets beyond E-20, integrating vehicle adaptation norms and promoting advanced biofuels.

The current 43 per cent GST on FFVs and smart hybrids remains a "major disincentive" compared to the 5 per cent rate on electric vehicles, the groups said.

With appropriate policy support for FFVs, India could reduce its annual oil import bill by ₹50,000-75,000 crore, they added.

UNSTOPPABLE GOLD, SILVER RALLY BREAKS ALL RECORD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: Gold prices Tuesday surged by ₹2,850 to reach an all-time high of ₹1,30,800 per 10 grams in the national capital, driven by heavy festive buying by retailers and jewellers ahead of 'Dhanteras'.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹1,27,950 per 10 grams Monday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also advanced by ₹2,850 to hit a record ₹1,30,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), from the previous close of ₹1,27,350 per 10 grams. So far this year, gold prices have increased by ₹51,850 or 65.67 per cent from ₹78,950 per 10 grams on Decem-



ber 31, 2024.

Silver also surged by ₹6,000 to hit a lifetime high of ₹1,85,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), marking its fifth consecutive day of gains. The white metal had settled at ₹1,79,000 per kg in the previous market session.

Traders attributed the sharp rise in bullion prices to sustained demand from jewellers and retailers in the run-up to the festive and wedding sea-

India's million dollar energy transition deal

New Delhi: EIB Global, the development arm of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Tuesday committed \$60 million investment in the India Energy Transition Fund managed by EAAA Alternatives, which is targeting \$300 million equity funding in the domestic renewable energy sector. A formal agreement was signed between EAAA Alternatives and EIB in the national capital. EIB Global is investing up to \$60 million in the India Energy Transition Fund, which is a new greenfield infrastructure fund that will accelerate private capital investment and support decarbonisation efforts in India, EIB Vice-President Nicola Beer said. It is India's first energy transition fund managed by a domestic fund manager, she said. The fund has a target size of \$300 million and will channel equity and quasi-equity into greenfield infrastructure projects and growth-stage companies. Most commitments will go to climate action and environmental sustainability, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, transmission, battery energy storage and electric vehicles, including potentially supporting circular economy sectors, such as recycling and wastewater management, EAAA Alternatives CEO Subahoo Chordia said. EAAA Alternatives looks to raise the entire \$300 million over the next 4-5 years, Chordia said, adding that another \$200 million will be raised later.

Madhukunj Gold & Diamonds unveils 'ShubhDhanteras' offer



Bhubaneswar: Madhukunj Gold & Diamonds has announced its grand "ShubhDhanteras" offer, adding extra sparkle to the festival of prosperity for its valued customers. As part of this festive celebration, the brand is offering a flat 40 per cent discount on the making

charges of gold, diamond, and silver jewellery. The special offer period will be valid from October 10 to November 2, 2025. In addition, customers stand a chance to receive free gold and silver coins with their purchases, making the festive shopping experience even more rewarding. Reinforcing its commitment to quality and customer trust, Madhukunj Gold & Diamonds assures a lifetime buyback guarantee, 100 per cent 916 BIS hallmarked gold jewellery, 100 per cent IGI-certified diamond jewellery, free lifetime maintenance and repair, and zero deduction on old gold exchange. The company invites everyone to celebrate Dhanteras by investing in certified, high-quality jewellery that combines tradition, trust, and timeless elegance.

Fabindia opens new store



The ribbon cutting ceremony at Fabindia Balasore featured Bollywood star Sonu Sood, store owner Sanjib Mohanty along with his mother, both partners Monashish Das, and Nibedita Das with special guest Mitesh Khimji, owner of Khimji Jewellers.

Balasore: Fabindia, India's leading lifestyle brand known for its celebration of traditional craftsmanship and commitment to sustainable fashion, has inaugurated its new store at ITI Chhah, Balasore. The store was formally opened by renowned Bollywood actor SonuSood. The apparel section offers traditional and modern clothing for men, women, and children, including kurtas, sarees, tunics, shirts, and festive collections. The home décor section features handcrafted furniture, bed linen, curtains, rugs, and decorative items. In the wellness and personal care segment, customers will find naturally made skin and body care products. The organic food section offers a selection of pulses, spices, tea, oils, and other natural food products. In addition, the jewellery, scarves, bags, and accessories collection adds a touch of modern elegance and sophistication. Speaking on the occasion Sanjib Mohanty franchise owner and store partner of Fabindia Balasore said "We are proud to bring Fabindia's harmony of tradition and modernity closer to the people of Balasore. This store will offer customers a warm, welcoming, and family-friendly shopping environment."

IIM Sambalpur launches Delhi Chapter of I-Hub Foundation

New Delhi: IIM Sambalpur, one of India's premier management institutes, inaugurated the Delhi Chapter of its I-Hub Foundation — a business incubator aimed at fostering innovation-driven entrepreneurship in line with Viksit Bharat 2047. The launch took place during the curtain raiser of Marmagya 10.0, the institute's annual business conclave, held at its Delhi campus. The event was graced by Vibhor Jain, Acting CEO & CFO of ONDC, as Chief Guest; Altaf Hussain, Head of HR at ITC Ltd., as Guest of Honour; and Farhana Haque, Senior Director – Customer Consulting, Microsoft Asia, as Keynote Speaker. IIM Sambalpur Director Mahadeo Jaiswal said the new chapter will create a "connected, collaborative ecosystem for innovation," empowering alumni and entrepreneurs to contribute to national progress. The I-Hub Foundation also announced its Alumni Incubation Scheme, designed to support startups founded by IIM Sambalpur alumni through mentorship, funding, and investor networks. AtulPrashar, CEO-in-Charge of I-Hub, described the scheme as a commitment to "turning ideas into impact." Alumni such as Aryan Kushwaha praised the initiative for supporting next-generation ventures like Agentic AI.

India to resume postal services to US from Oct 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14 (PTI) India Post will resume international postal services of all categories to the US from October 15, according to an official statement issued Tuesday.

The Department of Posts said that, as per the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) guidelines, customs duty on postal shipments from India to the US is applicable at a flat rate of 50 per cent of the declared consignment value under the new tariff rule.

"The Department of Posts is pleased to announce the resumption of all categories of international postal services to the United States of America (USA) with effect from 15 October 2025," an official statement said.

India Posts said the postal services to the US were earlier suspended through an office memorandum dated August 22, following Executive Order 14324 issued by the US Administration.

"The suspension was necessitated by new regulatory requirements introduced by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for the collection and remittance of import duties," India Post said.

Unlike courier or commercial consignments, no additional base or product-specific duties are levied on postal items, it added.

"This favourable duty structure substantially lowers the overall cost burden for exporters, making the postal channel a more affordable and competitive logistics option for MS-MEs, artisans, small traders, and e-commerce exporters," the statement said.

The DoP said that it will not levy any additional charges on customers for facilitating DDP (delivered duty paid) and qualified party services.

"The postal tariffs will remain unchanged, ensuring that exporters continue to benefit from affordable international delivery rates while complying with the revised US import requirements. This measure has been introduced to maintain affordability, support MS-MEs, and boost India's exports through the postal channel," the statement said.

EPFO extends final settlement period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: Unemployed members of retirement fund body EPFO will now be able to avail final settlement or full withdrawal of funds from provident fund as well as pension accounts after 12 months and 36 months of unemployment, respectively.

The decision to amend the scheme was taken by apex decision making body of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the Central Board of Trustees headed by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in a meeting held on Monday.

Presently, the scheme provides for withdrawal of all funds from the provident fund as well as pension account after two months of continuous unemployment.

A senior official explained that the decision was taken to ensure social security benefits to the formal sector workers in the country who generally exit the ambit of the EPFO after two months of unemployment.

He explained that most of these unemployed youth are required to enrol again with the EPFO when they get another jobs and they lose chances of getting pension and other benefits as the account becomes pensionable only after combined service of 10 years or more.

The ministry in a statement on Monday said that it is also decided to change the period for availing premature final settlement of EPF from the existing 2 months to 12 months and final pension withdrawal from 2 months to 36 months.

Focus shifts to trap events as India renew medal hunt



Sudharsan added only nine runs to his overnight total, before his outside edge on an attempted drive was caught by a sharp one-handed diving catch from Sheji Hene at slip off Res-

New Delhi: India Test captain Shubman Gill Tuesday said he does not hesitate in taking “bold decisions” to extract the best out of his players as he gets used to the highly-scrutinised role. Gill’s first Test assignment as leader was the marquee five-match away series against England which was ended in a 2-2 draw, before he led the side to a 2-0 clean sweep over the West Indies following a seven-wicket win in the second match here Tuesday. “I try to make the most probable decision in the given situation that we’re in that game. And sometimes you have to take a little bit of bold decisions and that X factor depending on which player can get you certain runs or can get you those wickets,” he said. “I would say I am kind of getting used to it, managing all the players in this side,” the 26-year-old Gill answered when asked about his evolution as a leader. “I enjoy responsibility. I like to be the guy out there and I do it my way. Being involved in some of the key decisions is something that I really like and I think it brings out the best in me. I think that’s what’s happening in my life.” Gill performed well with the bat during the series, hitting a hundred and a fifty in the two matches, and he said he had to separate the roles concerning his batting and captaincy. Gill will captain senior players Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the upcoming three-match ODI series in Australia beginning Tuesday and he will be looking forward to it.

New Delhi: India Test captain Shubman Gill Tuesday said he does not hesitate in taking “bold decisions” to extract the best out of his players as he gets used to the highly-scrutinised role. Gill’s first Test assignment as leader was the marquee five-match away series against England which was ended in a 2-2 draw, before he led the side to a 2-0 clean sweep over the West Indies following a seven-wicket win in the second match here Tuesday. “I try to make the most probable decision in the given situation that we’re in that game. And sometimes you have to take a little bit of bold decisions and that X factor depending on which player can get you certain runs or can get you those wickets,” he said. “I would say I am kind of getting used to it, managing all the players in this side,” the 26-year-old Gill answered when asked about his evolution as a leader. “I enjoy responsibility. I like to be the guy out there and I do it my way. Being involved in some of the key decisions is something that I really like and I think it brings out the best in me. I think that’s what’s happening in my life.” Gill performed well with the bat during the series, hitting a hundred and a fifty in the two matches, and he said he had to separate the roles concerning his batting and captaincy. Gill will captain senior players Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the upcoming three-match ODI series in Australia beginning Tuesday and will lead the Indian side against South Africa.