Actor Bhumi shares insights on her physical transformation, stressing that genuine fitness comes from self-love

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LEISURE | P2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CM: Nuapada's devpt my

personal responsibility

PNN & AGENCIES

Nuapada, Oct 16: Chief Min-

ister Mohan Charan Majhi

Thursday declared that the

development of Nuapada is his

Addressing a gathering here at BJP's 'Bijay Sankalp Samabesh',

part of the campaign for the Nu-

apada bypoll scheduled for No-

vember 11. Maihi criticised for-

mer CM Naveen Patnaik for not

being able to keep his words. "In

previous bypolls, the then CM

used to announce that develop-

ment of the area was his responsibility. But, after elections, he

forgot all the promises made to

the people," Majhi said.

"However, we do what we speak. The state BJP government

has fulfilled most of the promis-

es during the last 16 months. I

assure you that development of

Nuapada is my personal respon-

sibility," the CM said. The CM al-

so launched a scathing attack on

the BJD and Congress, question-

ing their alleged silence over the

gangrape of an Odia medical college student in West Bengal's

Durgapur. "What was the role of

both BJD and the Congress when

a woman from the state was gan-

graped in West Bengal? Did they

hit the streets or criticise Mamata

Banerjee government? No, both

My family and I never make noise.

We always fizzle out. You see, we

are environment friendly

personal responsibility.

Washington/New Delhi/

Moscow, Oct 16: US Pres-

ident Donald Trump has

claimed that his 'friend'

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has assured him

that India would stop

purchasing oil from

the parties preferred to remain

silent. This speaks about their

concern for women," Majhi said.

The CM's remark came a day af-

ter BJD leaders accused the ruling BJP of doing politics over the

heinous crime like gangrape of a

Majhi also criticised the Con-

gress for its MLAs' paralysing

proceedings of the Assembly

over women issues. "The party

which creates a lot of noise in

the Assembly over women is-

sues, remained silent over the

Majhi also criticised Pat-

Durgapur incident," he said.

naik over the alleged personal

attack on BJP's Nuapada candidate Jay Dholakia. "Some BJD leaders have made personal

comments, calling Jay Dhola-

kia an 'adopted son' of late MLA

Rajendra Dholakia. We expected Naveen Babu, being a sensi-

tive person, to condemn such

remarks. But he has chosen to

remain silent," he said. Referring to BJD candidate Snehangini

Chhuria, the CM said, "The BJD

could not get a candidate from Nuapada district and imported

one from Attabira in Bargarh.

Nuapada's people consider her as

Debi Prasad Mishra said, "Ch-

huria is not an outsider. She

was born in nearby Padmapur

and has close ties to Nuapada.

She was an observer for the dis-

trict for over four years and is

of a win for the BJP citing sup-

port from the organisational

base built by former MP Bas-

anta Panda and the goodwill of

late MLA Rajendra Dholakia.

Majhi expressed confidence

well known to the people."

an outsider and will reject her." BJD senior vice-president

female student.

Russia, a move he



#### **China warns US**

China defends Russian oil imports, warns US of 'countermeasures' over any sanctions affecting Beijing's interests

INTERNATIONAL | P10



#### Flls return

After relentless selling, FIIs are turning the tide in October, pumping over Rs 3,000 crore into Indian stocks in just 7 sessions

BUSINESS | P11



#### Mann's milestone

Mann Sharma scripts history by completing the world's first-ever Burpees Marathon, covering an astonishing 42.195 kilometres

SPORTS | P12

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**BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 17, 2025** 

Trump: Modi assured to stop buying Russian oil

described as a 'big step' towards increasing pressure on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking to reporters at his Oval Office Wednesday (local time), Trump said the US was 'not happy' that India was buying Russian crude, arguing such purchases helped finance President Vladimir Putin's war.

"He (Modi) is a friend of mine, we have a great relationship... we were not happy with him buying oil from Russia because that let Russia continue on with this ridiculous war where they've lost a million and a half people," Trump said in response to a question.

"I was not happy that India was buying oil, and (Modi) assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia. That's a big step. Now we've got to get China to do the same thing," he said.

India is the second-largest

New Delhi says no Modi-Trump phone conversation Wednesday (local time)

Russia confident of continuing energy trade with India

buyer of Russian fossil fuels behind China, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

Describing Modi as 'a great man', Trump said, "He loves Trump... I don't want you to take the word love any differently... I don't want to destroy his political career." Praising Modi's leadership, Trump said, "I have watched India for years. It's an incredible country, and every single year you would

have a new leader. Some would be in there for a few months, and this was year after year after year, and my friend has been there now for a long time, and he's assured me there will be no oil purchases from Russia.

He added that the phase-out would take time but that it was already underway. Trump said India could resume energy trade with Moscow after the Russia-Ukraine war is over.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Ministry (EAM) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to questions on Trump's remarks that Modi made the assurance to him Wednesday, said he was not aware of any such phone conversation between the two leaders.

"Ensuring stable energy prices and secured supplies have been the twin goals of our energy policy. This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions," Jaiswal added.

However, he did not directly reply to questions on Trump's claim. "As per my information, there was no phone conversation between PM Modi and President Trump yesterday (Wednesday local time)," he said. The last phone conversation between them was October 9, he suggested.

Later in the day, Russian Deputy PM Alexander Novak said Moscow is confident that its energy cooperation with India will 'continue'. "We continue to cooperate with our friendly partners. Our energy resource is in demand. It is economically viable and feasible," Novak said.

"....I am confident that our partners (like India) will continue to work with us, interact. and develop energy cooperation," he said.

#### **Gujarat plane crash:** Pilot's dad moves SC

New Delhi, Oct 16: Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of deceased Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, and the Federation of Indian Pilots have moved the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored inqui ry headed by a former apex court judge into the June 12 crash of Air India flight AI171 in Ahmedabad that killed 260 people.

On September 22, the SC said certain aspects of the AAIB preliminary report on the crash indicated lapses on the part of pilots, and had issued notices to the Centre and the Director Gen eral of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on another plea seeking an indepen dent, fair and expeditious probe.

Pushkaraj, 91, has sought a 'fair, transparent and technically robust' investigation into the tragic incident.

"An incomplete and prejudiced inquiry, without identification of the exact cause of the accident, endangers the lives of future passengers and undermines aviation safety at large. causing a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution," the plea said. The petition, filed through AP&J Chambers October 10, made the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, the DGCA, and the Director General of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) as respondents, and is likely to come up for hearing after Diwali vacation.

### 3% DA hike for state employees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday announced a 3 per cent increase in dearness allowance (DA) of state government employees.

The DA rate has now increased from 55 per cent to 58 per cent, according to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

'It will be implemented ret rospectively from July 1, 2025,

The dearness relief for pensioners has also been increased by three per cent, it said.

The decision will benefit about 8.5 lakh government employees and pensioners in

Odisha, it pointed out.

#### Real-life Rancho helps woman Now, worms in MP medicine deliver baby on train platform

ANTI-CRIME STIR: A protester tries to attack police in riot gear in Peru's Lima, Thursday. Youth-led demonstrations brought thousands of Peruvians,

Gwalior, Oct 16: Amid child deaths linked to a toxic cough syrup in Madhya Pradesh (MP), a government hospital here is now facing a complaint over worms allegedly found in a bottle of antibiotic medicine given to a child. officials said Thursday

Following a complaint by a woman whose child was given the medicine, the entire stock of Azithromycin antibiotic at the government hospital in Morar town of Gwalior has been

sealed and samples have been sent to a laboratory in Bhopal for testing, they said.

frustrated by the authorities' failure to resolve a worsening crime crisis, onto the streets in Lima and several other cities

Azithromycin antibiotic's oral suspension is commonly given to children for various infections. According to officials, the medicine was generic and manufactured by a MP-based company. Drug inspector Anubhuti Sharma said, "A woman at the government hospital in Morar complained of worms in a bottle of Azithromycin oral suspension.'

Although the bottle of medicine that the woman had brought

was open, the matter was imme diately investigated, she said. All 306 bottles of this medicine which had been distributed and stored at the hospital in Morar, have been recalled and seized, the official said. A preliminary inspection of some of the medicine bottles revealed no signs of insects.

but testing is necessary, she said. Some of the bottles have been sent to a laboratory in Bhopal

for testing. A sample of this medicine will also be sent to the Central Drug Laboratory in Kolkata, Sharma said.

adjacent compartment went into labour as the train neared Ram Mandir station in north Mumbai. Ambika Jha, 24, the woman, a resident of Suburhan Virar, was accompanied by her nephew and niece. What happened later was shared by an eyewitness on so-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thursday.

Mumbai, Oct 16: An alert

Mumbai man helped a woman,

who went into labour in a mov-

ing local train, deliver a baby

on a railway platform with the

help of a doctor who guided him

over a video call, sources said

Vikas Bedre, 27, a video

cameraman, was travelling

in a local train at around 1am

Tuesday, when a woman in the

cial media. In an Instagram post, Manjeet Dhillon said the man noticed the woman -- in severe pain and immediately pulled the train's emergency chain to stop it.

"This man is truly brave -- words aren't enough to describe him. The baby was already halfway out. It truly felt like God had sent him there for

a reason," Dhillon wrote. Bedre said he immediately called his doctor friend Devika Deshmukh, who after realising the gravity of the situation,

him on how to proceed with the delivery. "He managed to get a pair of scissors from a tea stall on the platform," the doctor told a Marathi news channel Thursday. He also gathered some bed sheets to help prepare for the delivery, she added.

"I was very scared, but De vika's help gave me courage. It was because of her guidance that I was able to manage the delivery," said Bedre, who was supposed to catch a flight, but staved on to help.

Both the mother and the baby boy are doing well.

A video of what happened on the platform was shared by Dhillon. It got several reactions, with some praising Bedre as a 'real-life Rancho' (from the film 3 Idiots) for his quick thinking and compassion, and turning the railway platform into an impromptu delivery room.

"His (Bedre's) courage in that moment was beyond words, Dhillon wrote.



# dinosaur species in the Andes

search agency announced. A paleontological team led by the institute found the almost complete skeleton of the small long-necked reptile, named Huayracursor Jaguensis, at an altitude of 3,000 metres (9,842 feet) in Argentina's northwest.

The team found part of the dinosaur's skull, a complete vertebral column extending to the tail, and nearly intact forelimbs and hindlimbs, said CONICET



Wednesday. The discovery was published in Nature magazine, with the authors saying it could inform studies into evolution.

Huayracursor is estimated to have roamed the earth between 230 and 225 million years ago, making it one of the oldest dinosaurs

long-necked reptile, named

Huayracursor Jaguensis, at

an altitude of 3,000 metres

Agustin Martinelli, one

Agustin Martinelli, one of the authors, said that the Huayracursor is estimated to have roamed the earth between

nosaurs in the world. The species lived at the end of the Triassic period, during which the first dinosaurs and the

230 and 225 million years ago,

making it one of the oldest di-

ancestors of mammals started to appear, the researchers said. Although the discovered

species is part of a lineage of herbivorous dinosaurs that includes long-necked giants, the researchers noted that an adult Huayracursor Jaguensis only measured about two metres in length and weighed approximately 18 kilograms (40 pounds).

#### One of world's oldest dinosaurs found rgentinian scientists have A paleontological team found the almost complete found fossilised bones of skeleton of the small

one of the world's oldest Mountains, the CONICET re-

switched to video call to guide

# eisure



#### KATY PERRY'S 'ROMANCE' **WITH JUSTIN TRUDEAU**

Photos of popstar Katy Perry and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sharing a kiss on her yacht near Santa Barbara went viral this week. During her London concert, when a fan proposed on stage, Perry quipped, "I wish you'd asked me 48 hours ago," seemingly hinting at her rumoured romance.

#### WHY JLO WAS WORRIED ABOUT HER NEW LOOK

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez revealed her concerns about transforming for Kiss of the Spider Woman. She shared that going platinum blonde worried her since blonde wigs never suited her skin tone. "It was a whole transformation," JLo said, adding she even adjusted her makeup, using more pink in her foundation to balance her look.



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You may want to meet up with friends you haven't met in a long time, and the stars indicate that you will have great fun. Your enthusiasm will add a glow to whatever you do. Your sincerity in approach is what makes it special, says Ganesha

#### **TAURUS**

You will focus on nurturing the positive aspects of your life today, says Ganesha. You might exhaust yourself mentally trying to set things straight. It would be better to brainstorm with someone close to you or approach people whom you have differences with. The nitty-gritty is fine, but do not forget the larger picture, suggests Ganesha.

#### **GEMINI**

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine. Monetary gains can be expected either in the form of inheritance of ancestral property or as increment in your basic salary.

You may feel like flaunting vour so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked. However, if you only stick to buying a household item for your spouse. it may turn out to be a pretty satisfying day.

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I'm in a

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routine. I

remind my-

self I'm doing

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body, to live

as

If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesha. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into any thing is not the solution: it is always the slow and steady who wins the race.

#### **VIRGO** Today, your power and

finance will be greater than ever before, says Ganesha. You will also be inclined to make monetary provisions for any future economic instability that may arise. The people around you will stand up and take notice of the leader in you. A word of caution from Ganesha: there may be unprecedented fluctuations in financial transactions.

Today promises to be a busy day that will keep you occupied. You may also engage some old contacts. Ganesha doesn't rule out optimum use of the phone for this purpose. When it comes to the work front. Ganesha predicts you will be asked to bring order to the workplace.

#### **SCORPIO**

You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter. As the day progresses, things will begin to look up. Take a break from the rigmarole if stress begins to take a toll on you, advises Ganesha.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesha. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

#### **CAPRICORN**

You may be attentive, as much as an eagle is while chasing its prey, but you still need to be careful when signing any important legal documents, advises Ganesha, Brokers and dealers, especially, are likely to incur heavy losses unless they take necessary precautions to avert misfortune.

#### AQUARIUS

Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesha savs you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

#### PISCES

Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesha.

# **BHUM**bats for self-love

MUMBAI: Bhumi Pednekar made a remarkable debut in Bollywood with Dum Laga Ke Haisha, weighing around 100 kg and quickly breaking stereotypes with her talent. Since then, she has embarked on a journey of fitness and selflove, though she admits that body image challenges never fully disappear.

kg or now — and there In a recent interview, are always opin-Bhumi opened up about ions. I listen, but I transformation on and off screen. "It doesn't ever go right," she said about overcoming body image issues, adding, "We've grown up in an environment with constant comments. but you have to learn to love yourself — it's process." She explained that her fitness iournev is as much about

longer, and for mental clarity, she shared.

Bhumi emphasised that fitness is rooted in self-love. "If you love yourself, you will be fit," she said. Despite facing harsh trolling over her appearance and transformation, she remains unfazed. "I've seen both ends of the spectrum — 96

> do what's right for me," she affirmed. On the work front Bhumi hinted at a busy year ahead, promising, "Next year, you'll see me onscreen three or four times, leaving fans excited for her upcoming projects.

> > Since then, Pooja has delivered hits across industries. She was last seen



### Govinda breaks silence on divorce rumours

MUMBAI: Star couples often make headlines for their personal lives, and Govinda and his wife Ssunita Ahuja are no exception. Earlier this year, rumours about their separation sparked widespread speculation. However, the couple seemed to dismiss the buzz when they warmly hosted paparazzi at their Mumbai residence during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. The

gossip mill reignited recently after reports of Govinda's alleged affair with a younger Marathi actress surfaced, prompting Ssunita to comment publicly.

Govinda finallv addressed the rumours during his appearance on Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle, where he was joined by

his longtime co-star Chunky Panday. Breaking his silence, the actor firmly stated, "Koi hume alag nahi kar sakta." Speaking about Ssunita, he added, "She's like a child at heart. Her honesty and straightforwardness sometimes lead her to say things she shouldn't, but her intentions are always pure.' When asked if Ssunita corrects his

mistakes, Govinda laughed, replying, "She has made so many mistakes herself... I've forgiven her and the entire family many times. While Ssunita is currently

> focused on her YouTube vlog channel, Govinda is preparing for his comeback film Duniyadari. Reports also suggest that Sajid Khan plans to launch their son Yashvardan Ahuja opposite Nitanshi Goel in an upcoming project. AGENCIES

#### OLLYWOOD ROUND-UP



### Ladhei: Makers fume over delay in censor clearance

Bhubaneswar: The much-anticipated Odia film Ladhei, featuring debutant Lohitakshya Pattnaik in lead, has been forced to postpone its Diwali release due to unexpected delay in getting censor clearance

Despite clearing the Odisha State Censor Board and being ready for release with all promotional activities underway and theaters booked, the film's certification was unexpectedly held up by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) office in Mumbai, leaving the makers fuming. Producer Debashish Pattnaik and director

Ashok Pati, at a press conference Thursday, expressed their disappointment, stating that Ladhei contains only a few scenes of mild violence. They questioned why the film did not receive even an adult ('A') certificate locally, especially when several Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada films with far more graphic violence-such as Animal-have recently been screened in Odisha without issues. Producer Sanjay Nayak described the in-

cident as demoralising for Odia filmmakers, raising concerns about possible bias against new actors and regional films.

#### *Vaastav* to hit theatres October 18

BHUBANESWAR: The new Odia film Vaastav, produced by Banaswarna Television in collaboration with LT Production, has wrapped up its shooting and is set to release October 18.

The movie is a suspense thriller intricately woven elements with of romance and family drama. The plot follows a girl who faces severe torment, revealing a tangled web of revenge and deceit among the characters. The film's

SUDOKU



story, screenplay, and direction come from the Lubun Tubun duo, with dialogues penned by Sanjay Mahakul. Produced by Badrinath Patnaik and co-pro-

duced by Nivedita Pattnaik, the film has its music scored by Baidyanath Dash. Arun Mantri, Nihar Priyashish, and Biku Babu have written lyrics while Humane Sagar and Antarika Nayak have lent their voice to the songs. Lubun Tubun team has done the choreography for the movie. The film stars Tushar Bedi, Ankita Dash,

Ravi Mishra, Abhijit Dash and Bhupati Tripathy in key roles.

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

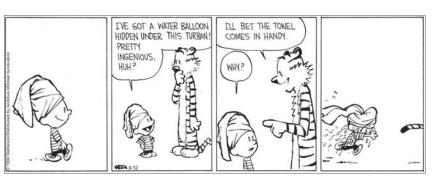
#### **PEANUTS**







#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

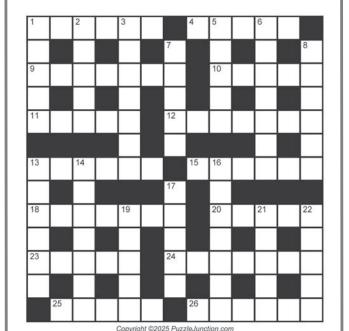


#### BREVITY



### FUN

#### **CROSSWORD**



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- one 9 Llama relatives
- 10 Appian Way locale
- 11 Part of an act
- 12 Turkish dynasty
- 13 Fencing move
- 15 Kind of beetle
- 18 Zinfandel, e.g. (3,4)
- 20 Fiends

- 23 Hawaiian
- veranda 24 It's used to
- prying 25 "All kidding

26 Princess loved

- by Cupid
- Down 1 Phobias
- 2 Syrup flavour
- 3 They're found
- in gyms
- 5 Floor support
  - 6 Driver's aid (4,3)
  - 7 Fancy tie
  - 8 Young swan 13 Tickle pink
  - 14 Marmots and
  - jerboas 16 Passionate
  - 17 Instruct
  - 19 Trojan War epic 21 Renaissance
  - fiddle 22 Tennis starter

# SUDOKU

# the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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#### **SOLUTIONS**

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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# **DURGAPUR GANGRAPE MYSTERY DEEPENS**

owntown

11 CONDOMS FROM THE HOSTEL ROOM OF VICTIM'S MALE FRIEND WASIF ALI. AND ANOTHER FROM THE CRIME SCENE RECOVERED



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 16: Mystery surrounding the Durgapur 'gangrape' incident deepened as the police Thursday recovered a condom from the crime scene, while at least 11 condoms have also been recovered from the hostel room of Wasif Ali, the arrested male friend of the victim, said police sources.

The discovery was made after the police further expanded the cordoned-off area of the crime scene as part of their investigation into the matter. Police said an additional 50 metres of area was cordoned off next to the previously cordoned off area Thursday. The crime scene is located in a forested area outside the private medical college and hospital.

In the morning, the police went to the crime scene again with the arrested male friend,

According to the investigators. Ali was arrested due to various inconsistencies in his statements. The forensic team also went to the scene again for investigative purposes. It was at that time, a condom was recovered from the spot. Later,

the investigators searched his hostel room and recovered 11 condoms. A forensic team was also taken to the spot. According to sources, they also collect-

ed samples.

The second-year medical student from Odisha was allegedly 'gangraped' by five persons in a forest area outside a private medical college and hospital in West Burdwan district's Durgapur October 10.

Based on the complaint lodged by the victim, the police earlier arrested all five accused persons in the case. They are currently in police custody. Later, the police arrested the male friend of the victim, with whom she had gone off the campus of the private medical college and hospital on that fateful night.

The male friend was arrest ed after investigators found inconsistencies in his response during interrogation. He is also presently in police custody.

The victim's father, meanwhile, demanded a CBI probe into the incident to punish the culprits quickly.

He also said that they will leave for Odisha soon and never come back to Bengal again.

#### **Complaint against food** aggregator app for online sale of 'Mahaprasad'

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The Shri Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) in Puri has lodged a complaint against an online food delivery aggregator for "unauthorised sale" of 'Mahaprasad' of the deity, an official said Thursday.

The leading online food delivery service provider has claimed to have been selling the 'Mahaprasad' of Lord Jagannath and used the picture of the 12th-century shrine to mislead the people, Jagannath temple administrator (security) Hemant Kumar Padhi said.

"We have filed a complaint against the food aggregator before the cyber police station on Wednesday," he said.

Puri SP Prateek Singh said the cyber police station is investigating the case, and the online food delivery aggregator has been asked to remove the promotional content for online sale of 'Mahaprasad' of Lord Jagannath from its mobile application.

Earlier, the state government had rejected proposals made by some organisations for the sale of Puri Jagannath temple's 'Mahaprasad' on online platforms.

Though it was a good idea to provide the 'Mahaprasad' to devotees worldwide, the government and the SJTA rejected such proposals to preserve the sanctity of the deities," Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan had stated two months ago.

# Nuapada bypoll: BJP, BJD release campaigners' list

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: As the political atmosphere starts heating up ahead of Nuapada byelection, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Thursday released lists of their respective campaigners.

While the BJP's star campaigners' list included two Chief Ministers, three Deputy CMs and as many Union ministers, who will campaign for party candidate Jay Dholakia, BJD's campaigners' list included many MPs and MLAs.

The saffron party Thurs day submitted a list of its star campaigners with the Election Commission (EC), which includes names of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, his Chhattisgarh counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai, three Union ministers - Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Jual Oram —, among others.

Seven other senior BJP leaders from Chhattisgarh will also campaign in Nuapada. They include Arun Sao, Brijmohan Agrawal, Guru Khushwant Saheb, Roopkumari Choudhary Anuj Sharma, Rohit Sahu, and Yogeshwar Raju Sinha.

president Odisha BJP Manmohan Samal, and film



actors-turned-politicians Siddhant Mohapatra, Akash Das Navak, and Anubhay Mohanty will also take part in the campaign, Panda added.

Odisha BJP prabharis Sunil Bansal, Vijay Pal Singh Tomar and Lata Usendi, along with Deputy CMs Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, will also campaign for Dholakia.

BJP national vice president Baijayant Panda, former state president Samir Mohanty, senior leader Basanta Panda, and several ministers, MPs, MLAs, and party stalwarts are also part of the party's campaign strategy in this politically significant western Odisha constituency.

Speaking to the media, BJP state spokesperson Satyabrata Panda said the party is fully prepared for the bypoll. "After formation of the double-engine

government, all-round develop ment of Odisha has been our priority. The faith of the people in BJP has grown manifold. This by election will reflect the peo ple's endorsement of our commitment to development and good governance," Panda said.

Similarly, the BJD deployed 18 leaders: Niranjan Pujari Sanjay Das Burma, Arun Sa hoo, Pratap Jena, Captain Dib yashankar Mishra, Pritiranjan Gharai, Devi Ranjan Tripathy for Nuapada block.

For Nuapada NAC the party has appointed eight leaders which include Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Sarada Prasad Nayak, Debesh Acharya, Manorama Mohanty, Deepali Das, Ayub Khan, Rita Sahu and Sworup Das.

The byelection to Nuapada Assembly seat is scheduled to be held November 11.

**Cyber security awareness** 

campaign from Oct 18

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The state government will launch a month-long statewide cyber

security awareness campaign,

both online and offline, from

Chief Minister Mohan Cha-

ran Majhi will inaugurate the

campaign at Kalinga Stadium

and flag off the "Cyber Rath"

awareness drives through vid-

eos, leaflets, theme songs, and

other promotional materials

across all districts. It will focus

on key issues such as protection

(Cyber Awareness Van). The campaign will include

AGENCIES

October 18.

#### **70TH STATE POLICE DUTY MEET-2025**

## DGP: Communal harmony, women safety priorities



K9 warriors (dogs) and their handlers at the 70th State Police Duty Meet-2025 at Reserve Police Ground in Cuttack, Thursday

Cuttack, Oct 16: Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania Thursday said maintaining communal harmony and ensuring safety of women and children are the

top priorities of Odisha Police. Khurania said this while inaugurating the 70th State Police Duty Meet-2025 at Reserve Police Ground here, Thursday morning.

As many as 282 competitors, 43 K9 warriors (dogs), 43 handlers from 34 police districts of the state are participating in the professional competition to display excellence in policing skills. The meet will continue till October 19.

Addressing the police officers, the DGP said crime prevention and investigation are the main responsibilities of the police who have a key role in ensuring that the culprit gets appropriate punishment.

If the police do not conduct a proper investigation, there is a high possibility that the culprit will escape, he said, while stressing the need for improvement in the conviction rate by using science and technology.

Due to the application of proper investigative methods. professional skills, and scientific techniques in Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases, the accused are getting identified, convicted and sentenced in a very short period of time, said the top cop.

Along with this, the police have also taken strict action against inter-state robbery gangs, arms smuggling, ganja

smuggling, brown sugar and ganja cultivation, he said. Khurania also mentioned special operations like "Prahar" "Gaja", "Chakra", "Agni" and "Garuda" carried out by the state police to crack down on notorious criminals and habit-

ual offenders. In the coming days, the police department will lay stress on enhancing the professional skills of the police personnel, acquiring skills in forensic investigation and cybercrime, the police chief said.

## Jay Dholakia to file nomination Oct 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: BJP candidate Jay Dholakia Thursday said he will file his nomination papers for Nuapada Assembly bypoll October 18.

BJP's Central Election Committee had Wednesday announced Jay's name as its candidate for Nuapada byelection, and he was to file his nomination papers Thursday.

'Yes, we had decided to file nomination papers Thursday. But, I received a call from our 'Maharaj' and he advised me to file nomination at the 'Amrut Bela' October 18. We give respect to the advice of our 'Maharaj' and therefore postponed the nomination filing plan today," Jay told reporters at his Nuapada residence.

Jay, son of former BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia, was tipped to become BJD candidate for the bypoll, but he switched over to the ruling BJP last week and became the BJP candidate.

The Nuapada Assembly by-

poll is necessitated due to the untimely demise of Rajendra Dholakia September 8. The voting will take place Novem-

It was planned that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Minister KV Sigh Deo, BJP state president Manmohan Samal and other senior leaders would be present when Dholakia would file his nomination papers Thursday.

However, Jay said that as per the plan, the CM and other senior leaders will attend a huge 'Misran Parv' (joining programme) to be attended by around 40,000 people.

Earlier, Congress candidate Ghasiram Majhi had also announced that he would file nomination papers October 18.

Though BJD has named its senior woman leader Snehangini Chhuria as its candidate for the bypoll, she is yet to announce the date for filing her nomination paper. The process of nomination paper filing for the bypoll will continue till October 20, sources said.



#### of children from cybercrimes investment and online frauds sextortion, illegal sale of bank accounts and SIM cards, hotel booking scams, digital arrests and safe use of social media. With the tagline "Stop, Ver-

ify, Be Secure," and mascot "Saira," the initiative will engage multiple departments and community groups. The School and Mass Education and High er Education Departments will conduct awareness sessions and speech competitions in schools and colleges.

Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department will ensure extensive publicity while the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department, with local representatives, will organise grassroots awareness drives. ASHA workers and selfhelp group (SHG) members will also participate.

The Odia Language, Literature and Culture department will promote the message through street plays and folk performances, and the Electronics and IT department will provide technical support. Activities such as quiz contests, mass runs, rallies, and awareness programs through television, radio, and cinema halls will be held to reach wider audiences.

The campaign aims to enhance cyber security awareness among students, parents, teachers, youth, job seekers women, senior citizens, SHG members, professionals, and entrepreneurs across the state. The Cyber Rath will travel through different districts to spread the message.

Citizens will also be educated about the cybercrime helpline number (7030) and the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal to encourage prompt reporting of cyber offenses.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday, emphasized making the campaign impactful and people-centric.

# Naveen: Will continue to serve Odisha till end of life

**ODISHA'S FIVE-TIME CHIEF MINISTER LED THE** MARCH AT GANGA NAGAR PALLI UNDER **EKAMRA-BHUBANESWAR ASSEMBLY SEGMENT** AND WALKED A FEW STEPS AS PART OF THE PARTY'S JAN SAMPARK PADYATRA

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Odisha Assembly and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik Thursday said he would continue to serve the state and its people till the end of his life. Patnaik said this while joining the party's ongoing annual 'Jan Sampark Padvatra' on his 79th birthday.

Notably, this was Patnaik's first public appearance after nearly six months during which he underwent treatment at hospitals in Mumbai and Bhubaneswar. After recovery, he took rest for around



a month in Delhi and returned Bhubaneswar last week

Odisha's five-time chief minister led the march at

Ganga Nagar Palli under Ekamra-Bhubaneswar Assembly segment and walked a few steps as part of the party's Jan Sampark padyatra.

"I'm always with you (people of Odisha) and will remain so. I will continue to serve Mother Odisha till the end of my life," Patnaik told the gathering

Starting his brief speech with the 'Jai Jagannath' slogan, Patnaik thanked all the people present at the venue for joining BJD's annual foot march. "BJD is yours party and a party of the people of Odisha," Patnaik, who turned 79 October 16, said.

The Jan Sampark Padyatra, which started October 9 on the occasion of 'Utkalmani' Gopabandhu Das's birth anniversary, will continue till November 9. During the month-long yatra, BJD will highlight the alleged failure of the BJP government in Odisha.

After joining the yatra, Patnaik visited the 'SOS' village in Khandagiri area and spent time with its residents, and distributed sweets to children. He also cut the cake at the SOS village on his birthday. The SOS Children's village in Bhubaneswar is run by a voluntary organisation.

**OrissaPOST** 

#### **State BJP announces** new office bearers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Thursday, announced new office bearers to further strengthen the organisation at a core level.

The list of the new members was approved by the party's state president Manmohan

As per the official notification, 10 vice presidents, four general secretaries, 10 secretaries, a treasurer and a joint treasurer have been appointed

BJP leaders Jatin Mohanty, Ashok Mishra, Kusum Tete, Ramesh Chandra Sahoo and others were appointed as vice presidents. Similarly, Biranchi Narayan Tripathy, Sarada Prasad Satpathy, Simanchal Khatei and Purnima Priyadarshani Navak have been appointed as general secretaries.

Meanwhile, Saroj Kumar Kar, Kalandi Samal, Smruti Pattanayak and others have been appointed as secretaries.

Ajaya Kumar Agarwal has been appointed as treasurer and Dibakar Harichandan has been appointed as joint

#### CLASSIFIED

#### AFFIDAVIT

I, Manoranjan Sahoo father of Sneha Sahu, Address: ward No.-01, Majhi Sahi, Patana, P.O.- Kantilo, Dist.- Nayagarh, PIN-752078, Odisha, have changed my name to Manoranjan Sahoo for all the purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit in the Court of Executive Magistrate, Khaira, I, Debasmita Ghanta, W/o- Arun Kumar Jena of Vill-Sampei, P.S.- Khaira, Dist.- Balasore declare that in my Aadhaar Card my name has been recorded as Debasmita Ghanta but in my Husband's service regd (Military) my name has been mentioned as Debasmita Jena. Both the above names belongs to one & same person.

Debasmita Ghanta

#### LOST

Anil Kumar Bansal Prop. of M/S Ram Pratap Rice & Chuda Mill At - Dunguripali, P.S. - Belpada, Dist. - Bolangir reported at Kantabanji P.S. bearing GD No.014/ dtd. 16.10.2025 that the Security Deposit Receipt of an amount Rs. 5,81,554.60 paisa for **Electric Connection** bearing Consumer No.9120000000019 was issued on 1.11.2021 has been lost somewhere in residential House at near Govt. Boys High School, Kantabanji Po/P.S. - Kantabanji, Dist. - Bolangir.

# **Tripartite agreement inked** to drive clean energy shift

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: In a significant step toward a sustainable and energy-efficient future, NITI Aayog, the Government of Odisha, and the Institute for Sustainability, Employment and Growth (ISEG) Foundation have signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to collaborate on a transformative clean energy transition initiative in Odisha.

The tripartite agreement, signed Thursday here by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, and director and founding partner of ISEG Foundation Shirish Sankhe, marks the beginning of a strategic partnership aimed at developing and implementing a cost-effective energy transition roadmap for the state.

The initiative aligns with the state's long-term development vision. Viksit Odisha 2036 and 2047, and is focused on making the power sector more sustainable, accessible, self-reliant, and environmentally responsible. It will be anchored on the ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition) platform an initiative led by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. ASSET is designed to support Indian states in crafting customized energy transition blueprints, scaling up solutions, building institutional capacity, and accessing sustainable climate finance.

Under the agreement, NITI Aayog will provide strategic guidance, foster stakeholder collaboration, and support the design and review of Odisha's

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: To

manage the anticipated surge

of passengers during the festive

season, Indian Railways has

announced operating festival

special express trains between

Puri and New Delhi. The spe-

cial services, under the East

Coast Railway (ECoR) zone,

aims to provide additional

travel options and ensure pas-

senger convenience during the

According to railway sourc-

es, an unreserved festival spe-

cial express (Train no 04408)

will run between Anand Vi-

busy festive period.

POST NEWS NETWORK



#### NITI Aayog CEO urges skill devpt in schools, colleges

Bhubaneswar: NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam advised that integrating skill development into school and college curricula is crucial to help students explore diverse career pathways. He assured full technical support from NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the state government and leading national institutions, to advance this initiative. During his two-day visit, Subrahmanyam held extensive discussions with Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner and ACS Anu Garg, and senior officials on implementing Odisha Vision 2036 and 2047, as well as other key developmental programmes. He stressed the importance of evidence-based decision-making for effective governance and offered strategic recommendations to strengthen administrative processes and accelerate sectoral development.

energy transition plan. The state government will lead implementation, ensure data availability, coordinate departments, and provide logistical support. ISEG Foundation, as the strategic technical partner, will contribute expertise in energy planning, renewable strategies, and implementation frameworks, including setting up an "Energy War Room" to monitor progress.

The partnership aims to develop and execute a strategic energy roadmap, promote cleaner and cost-effective generation, enhance energy access via a resilient transmission and distribution system, integrate advanced energy technologies, and mobilise climate finance through robust institutional

Key objectives of the partnership include the develop-

Anand Vihar–Puri Festival

18 (Saturday), and during its

ment and implementation of a strategic roadmap for energy transition, promotion of cleaner and cost-effective energy generation, enhancement of energy access through a smarter and more resilient transmission and distribution system, integration of advanced technologies in energy storage and management, and mobilization of climate finance with robust institutional frameworks.

To ensure coordinated and effective implementation, a Central Oversight Committee chaired by the CEO of NITI Aayog, and a State Steering Committee, led by the Principal Secretary (Energy), Government of Odisha, will be established. These committees will oversee progress, tackle challenges, and provide strategic guidance throughout the initiative's lifecycle.

## ECoR to run spl trains between Puri & New Delhi

Special Express will depart from AVT at 11pm October

return journey, Pu-

**FESTIVE** ri-Anand Vihar Festival Special Express **RUSH** (Train no 04407), will leave Puri at 4:30pm October 20 (Monday). Some of the major stoppages for these trains include Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Balasore, Tatanagar, Bokaro Steel City, Hazaribagh Road, Gaya, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction, Mirzapur, and

Ghaziabad. The train will have

15 general and sleeper coaches.

and one Divyangjan coach. press special train will operate between Puri and Hazrat Nizamuddin via Sam-

guda Road. Puri-Hazrat Nizamuddin Special (Train no 08475) will depart from Puri at 4:50am October 19 (Sunday). It will have major stoppages at Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda Road, Bilaspur, Jhansi, and Agra Cantt. The train will have four general coaches, four-

In addition, a one-way ex-

balpur City and Jharsu-

Express teen sleeper coaches, and two luggage-cum-brake van-cum-

#### Forest dept holds senior officials' review meeting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The Forest, Environment and Climate Change department recently held a review meeting with senior officials through a virtual platform at the departmental conference hall in Lok Seva Bhavan. The meeting was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary Satyabra-

Sahu emphasised the need for expediting the implementation of all departmental plans and projects within the stipulated timelines. He directed officials to ensure timely and efficient utilisation of allocated funds and to maintain a structured workflow for all activities.

Special focus was given to procedural matters such as RACP, MACP, pension, vigilance, and court-related cases. Sahu instructed that all pending pension cases be finalised by the end of the current month and that vigilance and court cases be addressed on a priority basis.

On the issue of diversion proposals. Sahu stressed the need to fast-track approvals in coordination with concerned de partments for priority projects of the state and central governments, including national highways, railways, industrial, and major domestic projects.

The Additional Chief Secre tary also announced plans to brand and market products of the Medicinal Plant Board following the successful model adopted in Chhattisgarh. He further directed the Chief Conservator of Forests and heads of forest force brigades to conduct campus visits.

### **AHPGIC** opens Paediatric Library for young patients

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack. Oct 16: In a compassionate initiative aimed at bringing joy, comfort, and learning opportunities to young patients, a Paediatric Library has been set up on the first floor of the old building at the Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC), Cuttack.

The newly established library is dedicated to children undergoing treatment at AHP-GIC, offering them a friendly, vibrant, and nurturing space to learn and relax amidst their treatment schedules. The facility features a wide collection of storybooks, picture books, comics, drawing and colouring materials, educational games, and digital learning tools—creating a cheerful and engaging environment within the hospital premises.

The initiative aims to promote holistic care for paedipatients—addressing not only their medical needs but also nurturing their mental, emotional, and creative well-being. By fostering curios ity, imagination, and learning the library serves as a welcome escape from the monotony of hospital routines.

It provides young patients with an avenue to express themselves, engage in joyful activities, and regain a sense of normalcy, thereby helping build positivity, confidence and resilience during their re covery journey.

The library will be open during hospital visiting hours will assist children in reading, storytelling, and interactive sessions.

This thoughtful initiative reinforces AHPGIC's dedication to comprehensive cancer care, integrating compassion, education, and emotional sup port into its service delivery especially for its youngest pa tients. Currently, it has seating arrangements for 10 patients with their parents. The library is designed by administration along with a few NGOs.



### Odisha F&ES, GLCF partner for fire personnel health awareness

ees, sponsored by the National

Fire Service College, Nagpur and

29 personnel from the Nagaland

Fire Service participated in the

event. The collaboration aims

to focus on preventive health-

care, liver screening and overall

wellness through regular health

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The Odisha Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) department, Thursday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gastro Liver Care Foundation (GLCF) under the initiative titled 'Krutagyanta' to promote preventive healthcare and liver health awareness among fire service personnel

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the Fire Training Centre here in presence of Fire Services DG Sudhanshu Sarangi, DIG Umashankar Dash and GLCF trustee and senior gastroenterologist Manoj Kumar Sahu, along with senior officers from both

check-ups, awareness camps and consultations. Speaking on the occasion, Sa-

rangi said, "Our fire personnel

work under immense physi cal and mental stress. Ensur ing their fitness and well-being is our responsibility. This programme is a vital step towards promoting a healthy life style along with occupational

Sahu lauded the proactive role of Odisha Fire Services in prioritising employee health and emphasised that liver diseases often remain silent in early stages and can severely affect life quality if undetected. "Through 'Krutagyanta', Odisha Fire Services is setting new standards in employee welfare.

**MARKET WATCH** BOURSES VARIATION VARIATION **INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR 87.94 0.17 GOLD ₹129,074 **↑** ₹1864 SENSEX 83467.66 A 862.23 EURO 102.53 • 0.07 NIFTY 25585.30 • 261.75 SILVER ₹**166,571** ↑ ₹4365

### EU delegation explores Smart City collaboration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: A high-level delegation from the European Union (EU) to India, led by Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, First Counsellor, Research & Innovation, EU, visited Bhubaneswar Thursday to explore opportunities for strengthening collaboration in Bhubaneswar Smart City initiative promoting sustainable urban development.

The 12-member delegation, which included representatives from several EU member states such as France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic, engaged with the Odisha government in a strategic meeting over governance, community participation, academia, and research & knowledge exchange to strengthen global collabora-

According to reports, the EU delegation aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the Bhubaneswar Smart City initiative, particularly its integration of research, academic institutions, and startups as well as approach to community participation in governance



Earlier in the day, the delegation, led by Vivek V. Dham, Advisor, Research & Innovation, visited Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar to explore avenues for fostering research, innovation, and academic collaboration between European

institutions and the IIT. Dham highlighted EU's commitment to strengthening scientific and technological collaboration with India, stating, "India is a key partner in our global research and innovation ecosystem. Our visit to IIT-Bhubaneswar underscores our shared vision of tackling global challenges through joint

scientific excellence."

During the interaction, the High Commissioner met with IIT-Bhubaneswar director Shreepad Karmalkar, along with, dean of Alumni, Corporate and International Relations Ashis Biswas, dean of Student Affairs Rajesh Roshan Dash, dean of PG & Research Programmes Chandrashekhar N Bhende, dean of Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy Dinakar Pasla, registrar Bamadev Acharya as well as heads of Schools, faculty members, and representatives from the Research and Entrepre-

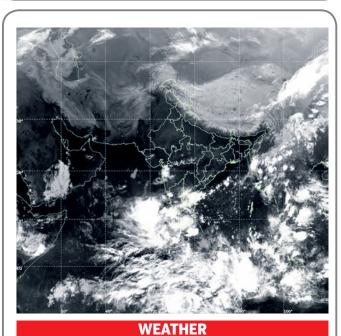
neurship Park (REP). On this occasion, Karmalkar delivered a detailed presentation

highlighting IIT-Bhubaneswar's distinctive strengths across various domains, including teaching and learning, cutting-edge research, industry-academia partnerships, entrepreneurship development, teacher education and initiatives promoting mental wellness among students and staff.

The EU representatives, in turn, shared valuable insights on ongoing and upcoming opportunities for EU-India collaboration, including fellowships, research exchanges, and bilateral funding schemes.

The delegation also visited the Institute's advanced research laboratories, Central Research Instrumentation Facility (CRIF), Silicon Carbide Research and Innovation Centre and startup incubation centre gaining first-hand insights into IIT-Bhubaneswar's ongoing projects aligned with sustainability and technological innovation.

The visit marked a significant step towards strengthening EU–India academic and research cooperation, aligning with the shared vision of advancing sustainable, inclusive, and technology-driven growth.



	WEATH	ER .	
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.4°	34.4°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	23.1°	21.8°	with Haze
Humidity	76%	85%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

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# Yogajanma Purusha — 'Gadjat Gandhi' Sarangadhar Das



Nabin Nanda

mong the many great personalities born in India, one of the most remarkable was "Gadjat Gandhi" Sarangadhar Das. He was born 17 October 1887 in the then little-known village of Harekrishnapur in Dhenkanal district, to Harekrishna Das and Manika Devi.

In 1905, he passed the matriculation examination and enrolled at Ravenshaw College for higher studies. While staying in the hostel, his roommate was Pandit Nilakantha Das, through whom he came into close contact with Gopabandhu Das and Acharya Harihar Das.

Sarangadhar lost his father at the tender age of 11. While at Ravenshaw, he also lost his elder brother Gadadhar and his sister Savitri to cholera. His middle brother Gangadhar managed the family's farming back in the village and, despite strained finances, toiled to support Sarangadhar's education.

After completing his studies at Ra-

Das, Sarangadhar briefly worked as a teacher in Nilgiri. His larger aspirations, however, could not be contained by a teaching job. Hearing that a student-aid organisation in Calcutta was offering scholarships for meritorious students to study abroad, he applied and was selected to study Agricultural Science in Japan for two years with a monthly stipend of ₹25. Owing to his uncle Banamali Das's good relations with the Dhenkanal royal family, the king also promised support, and Gopabandhu Das and Acharya Harihar also contributed funds.

In 1907, Sarangadhar went to Japan-becoming the first Odia to pursue higher studies abroad. He initially trained in industrial production and, recognising the importance of chemistry for sugar, cement, and paper industries, enrolled in Tokyo to specialise in Chemistry. Six months later, he proceeded to the United States and studied at Stanford University (California), where he became close to Frieda Hauswirth. After completing his studies in sugar technology, he worked briefly as chief chemist at a sugar factory in Hawaii and, in 1917, married Frieda.

In 1920, on receiving news of his mother's illness, he decided to return to India. Dreaming of setting up a sugar mill in his homeland, he and Frieda arrived in Bombay the tion in a sugar industry in Cochin, where the couple spent about two vears. Still determined to industrialise Dhenkanal, he resigned in 1924 and returned home.

With encouragement from King Surapratap Mahindra Bahadur of Dhenkanal, Sarangadhar began groundwork for a sugar project. By then, however, the king had passed away; the minor prince Shankar Pratap Singh ruled under a British political agent. Sarangadhar secured land near the Brahmakund waterfall at Kamakhvanagar for sugarcane cultivation and the proposed mill, cleared forestland, and imported machinery worth about ₹2 lakh from Japan. He hired Engineer Manohar Lal Khanna of Lahore to oversee maintenance assisted by his nephew Narottam Das.

Sarangadhar and his wife lived in a thatched cottage near Dom Shal village, but their dreams soon met misfortune. As a foreign woman, Frieda faced severe social prejudice. Realising the distress it caused her husband, she returned to America in 1930, and later published two books-My Marriage to India and My Hindu Husband—giving vivid accounts of her experiences in Dhenkanal and of royal oppression.

Meanwhile, under the new ruler Shankar Pratap Singh, tyranny spread; forced labour, illegal seizure

#### **138TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY**



of crops, exploitation of the poor, and abuse of women became rampant. Suspecting Sarangadhar of fomenting dissent, the regime grew hostile. Writing under the pen name "Nanda Dehuri," Sarangadhar exposed these injustices in Krushak Patrika. When he left for Calcutta for malaria treatment, the authorities revoked his land lease, destroyed the mill's machinery, and burned his house at Harekrishnapur, crushing his

To repay debts from the aborted project, he worked in sugar factories in Calcutta and Champaran (Bihar), where he met Mahatma Gandhi. Inspired by Gandhi, Sarangadhar plunged into the freedom movement and the Gadjat (princely states) agitations. Along with Nabakrushna Choudhury, Malati Choudhury, Bhagavati Charan Panigrahi, Surendra Nath Dwivedi, Ananta Charan Pattnayak, Sachi Rautray, and Baishnaba Pattnayak, he intensified the movement—earning the honorific "Gadjat Gandhi."

He joined the All India States' People's Conference—with Sitaramayya as president on Jawaharlal Nehru's advice-and served as general secretary. On 1 September 1938, a massive farmers' rally at Jenapur drew some 20,000 peasants from Dhenkanal. The Dhenkanal Prajamandal (People's Association) was formed, with Sarangadhar as advisor.

During the Quit India Movement (1942), he was imprisoned. In 1946, he was elected MLA from Tirtol-Erasama on a Congress ticket and argued for the advancement of agriculture and industry. Differences with the Congress leadership led to his resignation, and in 1948 he joined the Socialist Party. In 1952, during independent India's first general election, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Dhenkanal-West Cuttack

constituency and became the Leader of the Socialist Party in the House. He delivered several substantive speeches on the sugar industry and agriculture—contributions that remain noteworthy.

While still an MP, he passed away in 1957 after a period of illness.

Before his death, Sarangadhar donated all his properties through two public trusts for the welfare of women and children. Sadly, due to long-standing mismanagement, the noble purposes of these trustsfounded by Gadjat Gandhi Sarangadhar Das in 1957—have not yet been fulfilled. We therefore urge the Collector & District Magistrate, Dhenkanal (the permanent Trustee named by Sarangadhar) to reconstitute the trust memberships without delay.

There is, however, good news. Following my request to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the Government of Odisha has decided-from this year-to observe at the state level both the birth and death anniversaries of the great freedom fighter Sarangadhar Das, as a mark of respect.

On 17 October 2025, the Sahitya Akademi will celebrate the birth anniversary of Gadjat Gandhi Sarangadhar Das at Sanskruti Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, with eminent speakers and dignitaries invited to grace

> The writer is a former MLA of Dhenkanal.

#### **BJP LEADER'S MURDER**

# Mastermind, 5 others detained

Berhampur, Oct 16: Police Thursday detained six suspects including the mastermind from outside the state in connection with the gruesome murder of advocate and BJP leader Pitabas Panda in this city of Ganjam district. Investigators said they have

identified the mastermind behind the plot and the murder has links outside of the state. Sources said police analysed footage of more than 100 CCTV cameras and dump data analysis to trace the shooter and other conspirators. Six people, including the suspected mastermind and the gunman, have reportedly been taken into custody. The men are believed to be from Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand.



Investigators learned that a youth from Bihar allegedly shot Panda at point blank range. A police team that travelled to the other states returned to Berhampur Thursday. The detained suspects are being questioned at different locations, and police sources indicated that the case may be cracked very soon.

Panda was shot dead on the night of October 6, during Kumar Purnima festival. In the days that followed, police rounded up more than 70 people from the city and district, including

nel and suspected mafia figures and interrogated them in this connection.

Investigators also examined a year's worth of call data records from Panda's mobile phone to identify who had contacted him and what was discussed. During preliminary questioning, police gathered several important leads.

Family members earlier told police that Panda had no known personal enmity with anyone. Investigators, however, began to suspect a contract killing and collected mobile tower data from Berhampur and some other states to track suspects.

Police officials said advanced investigative techniques were used to identify and trace those involved in

#### 2 boys from Bihar working as child labourers rescued

Berhampur: The state government has rescued two boys from Bihar who were allegedly engaged as child labourers in Ganjam district, officials said The minors, aged 12 and 14, hail from Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts of Bihar, respectively, they said. "The rescued children will be provided assistance as per the government provisions. They will be handed over to their parents soon," said Subasis Baral, Sub-Collector, Chhatrapur. The children had been trafficked from Bihar to Ganiam's Hiniil after their parents were lured with false promises, the officials said. "They were working as child labourers at two panipuri stalls in Hinjili," an official said. It was also alleged that the children were not paid wages for the past seven months, he said. A case has been registered against the employer, against whom acion will be taken soon, the official added.

#### 2 kids drown in village pond

Rairangpur: Two boys drowned while bathing in a village pond in Mayurbhanj district Thursday morning. The incident took place in Chadiripahad village under the Rairangpur Rural police limits. The deceased were identified as Sakila Singh, 9, son of Dasarathi Hansda, and Subodh Murmu, 8, son of Muniram Murmu — both residents of the village. The incident occurred when the boys went to the village pond around 9am for a bath. They reportedly slipped into deep water and drowned. Informed, firefighters from Damatalia reached the spot, pulled the boys out and rushed them to the Rairangpur hospital, where doctors pronounced them dead.

### Man gets 20-yr RI for raping 17-yr-old niece

Baripada: A POCSO court in Mayurbhanj district Thursday convicted a 50-year-old man for raping his niece in March 2023 and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, officials said. Special Court Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict, Sk Nasiruddin, an uncle of the 17-year-old victim, Special Public Prosecutor Manaranjan Pattnaik said. The judgment was based on the statement of the victim, nine witnesses and medical report, he said. The victim, who staved at her uncle's house in Bahalda police station area for studying, was allegedly forced by her uncle into a physical relationship, Pattnaik said. The convict even threatened to kill the girl if she disclosed about the illicit relationship, he said.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **AUL EMBANKMENT DIVISION, AUL**

Dist : Kendrapara, Odisha - 754219

Tel/Fax: 06729-295188, Mail id: aulembankment@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No. AUL-14 OF 2025-26

No. of the work 47 no. Flood Control & Road works Varies from ₹ 39,67,360.00 to ₹ 83,92,152.00 2. Tender Cost

Bid Document Cost Rs.6000.00 to 10000.00 Bid Security Class of Contractor Varies from Rs.39,700.00 to 84,000.00

C & B Class Period of Completion Other details are as follows

Availability of Tender Date of Opening of Procurement Officer Bid Identification No On-line for bidding Technical Bid AUL 01 of 2025-26 To AUL Superintending Engineer, Aul 18.10.2025 28.10.2025 11.00 A.M Embankment Division, Aul

aulembankment@gmail.com 9. If required Lottery will be held on dtd.18.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer **Aul Embankment Division** 

## Sec 163 imposed as land dispute between 2 villages turns violent

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi/Patapur, Oct 16: Tension prevailed after villagers of Singpur and Ratnamanipur under Singpur panchayat of Sanakhemundi block in Ganjam district clashed with each other over a long-standing land dispute Thursday afternoon, prompting police to impose Section 163 under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in the area.

The dispute is centred on a valuable stretch of panchayat land near a pond along the road in Ratnamanipur mouza. Some residents of Ratnamanipur and Dengaosta are alleged to have encroached upon the land and installed an idol of Lord Hanuman. They reportedly filled up the panchayat pond and proposed to build a park at the site, which angered villagers of Singpur.

Around 11am, more than 2,000 residents of Singpur marched to the Sanakhemundi tehsil office and gheraoed it. Tehsildar Ramachandra Pattnavak assured the protesters that construction on the disputed land would be stopped immediately.

Later, the agitated villagers went to Ratnamanipur and demolished boundary structures and ongoing construction works on the disputed plot. On being informed, a large number of locals from Ratnamanipur arrived at the site, leading to heated exchanges as both sides pelted stones resulting in multiple injuries.

Tires were set on fire to block the National Highway 326 and largescale vandalism was reported at the construction site.

On receiving information, Sanakhemundi Tehsildar and Executive Magistrate Ramachandra Pattnayak Additional SP of Chhatrapur Sima Swain, Aska SDPO Santosh Kumar Jena, Patapur IIC Deepti Ranjan Behera, Sheragada IIC Birendra Sial, Dharakote IIC Chandrika Swain and a police team from Digapahandi reached the spot. They held talks with agitated residents of both villages, but the groups refused to back down. People from both sides continued sitting on the road.

Later, after Berhampur sub-collector Abinash Kumar, the tehsildar and police officials intervened, the road blockade was lifted around

Police later deployed five platoons force to prevent further escalation. By evening, authorities declared the situation untenable and clamped Section 163 of BNS to restore order.

#### Bank of India

Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751015

Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest The Bank has granted following various credit facilities to the under mentioned Borrower & the amount outstanding dues mentioned below has not been paid in time. Therefore Demand Notice under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security

Interest Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the **Bank of India, Kharvel Nagar Branch** but the same could not be served on the below mentioned party. Therefore, the contents of the same including the amount outstanding, Loan mount and details to the secured assets are herein furnished below KHARVEL NAGAR BRANCH / Date of NPA Description of **Date of Demar** Notice under mortgaged Property Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) Limit SARFAESI Act Notice All the part and parcel of property situated over OSHB Plot No.: GE-36 Loan against ₹25 16 838 00 Borrower: Mr. Rabindra Nath Rout, S/o-29.06.2011 Dhaneswar Rout / Borrower & Mortgagor: Mrs. Anuradha Rout, W/o- Rabindra Nath **Property** as on 16.10.2025 (511262610000017) + interest &

Rout, Both are at Present Address: Odisha Housing Board Plot No.: G/E, VSS Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, PIN-751007, Permanent Address: At: Kumundi, PO: Badabanapur, PS: Khandapada, Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha, PIN-752078. As the above mentioned Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)of the Kharvel Nagar Branch have defaulted in repayment of the principal loan/facility in

Phase-III, VSS Nagar, Revenue Khata 16.10.2025 ₹4,50,000/expenses thereon No.: 113, Hal Plot No.: 9355 (Sabik Plot No.: 5160(P), Area: Ac.0.01 dec., i.e. 435 sqft., Kissam: Homestead at Mouza Bhubaneswar Sahara Unit 39, Gadakana, PS: New Capital No. 25, Tahasil Bhubaneswar No. 257, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, standing in the name of Smt Anuradha Rout, W/o: Rabindra Nath Rout. Bounded by- North: OSHB Plot No. GE 13, South: Road, East: Road & West: Plot No. GE/35.

nstallments/ interest/ both, the account has been classified as NPA, in accordance with the directions or guidelines issued by the RBI. In spite of ou epeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account, you have not discharged your liabilities ence, we are now constrained to make this publication of Demand Notice, required u/s 13(2) of the said Act and Rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. You are hereby called upon to pay the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, Incidental Expenses, Charge etc. within a period of 60 days from the date of Notice, failing which we will take necessary action under the provisions of sec 13(4) of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking necessary action under the provisions of sec 13(4) of the said Act, against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of your secured assets and sale them. If the dues are not fully recovered in the course of these actions against secured assets, then the Bank reserves the right to take action by filing recovery action against you before Debts Recovery Tribunal/Court for recovery of the same. It may be noted that under the provisions of section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, righ of redemption is available to you, by paying the dues of the Bank together with all cost, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. Please take note that as per sub section (13) of the aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from transferring or creating any encumbrances on the aforesaid secured assets whether by way of sale, lease, license, gift, mortgage or otherwise. This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the Bank available under any other law. Authorized Officer, Bank of India Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 16.10.2025

#### **Surprise visit: Collector suspends** senior assistant for negligence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Oct 16: The district administration Thursday suspended Kalu Mirdha, a senior assistant at the office of the Project Director, Watershed department and deputy director of the Soil Conservation department in Subarnapur on charge of dereliction of of-

District Collector Nruparaj Sahu issued the suspension order Thursday after finding Mirdha neglecting his duties during a surprise inspection of the Watershed Project Director office earlier in the day.

According to officials, the Collector walked into the office unannounced in the forenoon and found Mirdha sitting on a chair with both feet propped up on his desk. The Collector immediately ordered his suspension on charge of dereliction of duty.

Mirdha has been instructed to report during regular hours to the establishment branch of the Collector's office for the duration of the suspension. Sources said there had been several prior complaints against Mirdha for failing to discharge his responsibilities properly. The action has reportedly created a sense of caution among other officers and staff who may be neglecting official duties.

#### Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd VISTAAR Registered Office: Plot No 59 & 60-23,22nd Cross, 29th Mair BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560076. www.vistaarfinance.com

**DEMAND NOTICE** 

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 NOTICE is hereby given by Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd (VFSPL), that the followin owers who have availed loan against property from Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd and failed to pay Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) of their loan to and that their loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. The Borrowers have provided security of the immovable property towards the loan, the details of which are described herein below. The details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrowers to Vistaar Financial Services Pvi Ltd as on date are also indicated here below. The borrowers as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrowers under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and forcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrowers fails to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice along with further interest and other charges if any, the undersigned will exercise any ne or more of the powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property and sell the ame. The public in general is advised not to deal with property described here below

Account No	Name of the Borrowers and Co-Borrowers	Total Loan Outstanding (in INR)	Total Loan Outstanding As On
0207SB	1. Mr./Mrs. GAYADHAR NAYAK,	Rs.	20-09-2025
ML02123	2. Mr./Mrs. PADMABATI BISWAL	27,13,157/-	

bearing Khata No 1092/551, Plot No: 4493, Mouza-Bati, Tahasil-Simulia, PS-Simulia Thana No-164, Dist Balasore. Bounded by: East: Judhistir Panda, West: Self, North Bhagabat Nayak, South: Nayan Jori. Area - A0.230 Dec, Kissam/Type: Hoestead

Date: 17-10-2025 **Authorized Officer** Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd

### बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

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Regional Office (Sambalpur Region) G.M. College Chowk, Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001

**POSSESSION NOTICE** (Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia

ssets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Partners/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

10 provident of 500 5550 (6) 51 5550.			
OLANGIR BRANCH / Name & Address f the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors		Demand/ Possession Notice Date	
rtners: 1) Mrs. Amita Thanapati & 2) Mr. nmejaya Thanapati, Plot No.: 852 & 1319, Kuturapali, Via: Loisingha, PO.:	1) Equitable Mortgage of Land including shed, situated at Mouza: Kuturapali, Tahasil: Loisingha, P.S.: Bolangir, P.S. No.: 8, Dist.: Bolangir, having Khata No.: 191/145, Plot No.: 877/1301, Area: Ac.0.32	/ 14.10.2025	as on 11.10.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs,
7020, Guarantors: 1) Mr. Janmejaya	Dec, Plot No.: 874/1300/1326, Area: Ac.0.30 Dec, P 1299, Area: Ac.1.10 Dec. and Plot No.: 874/1300, A	lot No.: 872/ rea: Ac.0.37	charges and expenses till date of payment
<b>anapati,</b> At: Kuturapali, Pradhiapali,	Dec, Total Area: Ac.2.09 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, h	aving in the n	ame of Mr. Janmejava

Loisingha, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha, PIN- Thanapati, S/o.: Loknath Thanapati, 2) Equitable Mortgage of Land including shed, situated 767020, 2) Mrs. Amita Thanapati, D/o.: Mr. at Mouza: Kuturapali, Tahasil: Loisingha, P.S.: Bolangir, P.S. No.: 8, Dist.: Bolangir, having Padmalochan Thanapati, Ward No.: 6, Khata No.: 191/162, Plot No.: 852/1319, Area: Ac.0.18 Dec, Plot No.: 853/1320, Area Amapara, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha, PIN-767001 Ac.0.12 Dec, Total Area: Ac.0.30 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, having in the name of Mr. Janmejaya Thanapati, S/o.: Lokanath Thanapati and Mrs. Amita Thanapati, D/o.: Mr. Padmalochan Thanapati, Bounded by North: Road, South: Haldhar Thanapati, East: Amita Thanapati, West: Amita Thanapati

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda Place: Sambalpur, Date: 16.10.2025



Let us keep flaming in our heart the fire of progress.

THE MOTHER



The neoliberal

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### **Selfish Economics**

hese are harrowing times. Amid soaring inequality, political leaders in many countries are cutting programmes and services that benefit the poor, while stoking fear and anger against migrants and refugees. Their noble-sounding intentions - safeguarding individual freedom, promoting prosperity, and protecting citizens – are often a fig leaf for a policy agenda designed to enrich themselves

This deterioration in the practice of politics can be attributed to many causes. One of the most important may be found in the deterioration in how economics is practiced.

Economics is often described as a scientific discipline, which studies 'if-then" propositions without reference to morals and values. But scientific findings do affect our values and normative judgments, and claims of "scientific objectivity" can be used to rationalise actions that offend our moral sensibilities. In fact, the logic of mainstream economics - in particular, the long-dominant neoliberal ideology, which emphasizes growth, efficiency, and market freedom – has often justified and even encouraged greed, exploitation, and extreme inequality.

This may well be built into the discipline. A 2012 study based on the Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen's "capability approach" - a framework for evaluating economic arrangements that focuses

on people's ability to live the kinds of lives they value, not simply on material wealth - found that some educational approaches can help make people more caring and cooperative. But other studies indicate that students of economics tend to behave more selfishly than others, indicating that economics, as it is taught, may well promote selfishness as a normal or even desirable ethical principle

The problem, argued another Nobel laureate economist, the late Kenneth Arrow, in a relatively unknown 1978 paper, is that the "model laissez-faire world of total self-interest" that neoclassical economics envisions "would not survive for ten minutes" in a "world of any complexity." Markets cannot function unless economic actors, even 'competing firms and individuals," reliably honour "reciprocal obligations." In other words, they depend on trust and cooperation.

Arrow also challenged the tendency of mainstream economics to treat freedom and equality as contradictory. The neoliberal logic is that any amount of

inequality is natural and fair, and thus any intervention to reduce it erodes freedom: one reaps what one sows. If you are very wealthy, you must have earned it, such as through hard work or innovative thinking, and you should be "free" to enjoy the spoils of your contributions.

But, as Arrow pointed out, when "a few" are making the "major decisions on which human welfare depend[s]," they are doing so "in their own interests." In his view, freedom and equality were "close to identical" in "many contexts." Actions that undermine equality - such as strike-breaking and "more subtle forms of economic pressure" – cause the "freedom of workers" to be "much restricted," and the "absorption of the economy by a small elite" implies that "formal democracy and freedom" are a "sham." Ultimately, Arrow wrote, "institutions that lead to gross inequalities are affronts to the equal dignity of humans."

The philosopher Isaiah Berlin put it succinctly: "freedom for the wolves has often meant death for the sheep." This warning is especially prescient today, when the "wolves" have enormous resources to channel toward the political leaders and causes of their choosing, as well as unprecedented digital tools for influencing public opinion. As yet another Nobel laureate economist, Joseph E. Stiglitz, observed, the principle of "one person, one vote" has given way to "one dollar, one vote.

But an excessive focus on economic self-interest is only part of the problem. Virulent nationalism is also contributing to rising inequality.

There was a time when the nation-state was a vital institution for organising economic life, and national pride had a role to play in supporting progress. But in our globalised world, cross-border flows of people, goods, and capital are both inescapable and important drivers of prosperity – not least for the wealthiest few. At the same time, the super-rich and the politically powerful often cynically stoke nationalism to advance their interests. It is a time-tested formula: people who are fighting wars in defence of the "nation" will not mobilise against inequality of wealth or power - and may even increase it.

National pride is a relic of the past. Now is the time for global cooperation on collective goals, from mutually beneficial trade arrangements to just and inclusive climate action. But getting there will not be easy: like functioning markets, multilateral action on shared challenges depends on trust and cooperation.

The French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau's stag-hunt game illustrates the challenge. If two hunters each hunt a hare alone, the reward is small but certain. If they choose to hunt a stag together, they stand to gain far more, but only if they can count on each other to do their part; otherwise, they end up with nothing. Likewise, by bolstering faith in cooperation, multilateral organisations like the International Labour Organization and the International Court of Justice can help countries to achieve more than they ever could on their own.

But strengthening these and other cooperative institutions will require us to recalibrate our moral compass. Rather than viewing an exclusive focus on self-interest as "rational," or limiting our compassion to those who look, sound, or pray like us, we must value humanity more than nationality.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

### WISDOM CORNER

Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

People have a hard time letting go of their suffering. Out of a fear of the unknown, they prefer suffering that is familiar.

Boredom, anger, sadness, or fear are not 'yours,' not personal. They are conditions of the human mind. They come and go. Nothing that comes and goes is you.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# THE GAZA SYNDROME

war having passed into the bloodied history of modern times, celebrations were seen on both sides of the northern frontier as the 'historic' Gaza peace plan was foisted on Palestine by an American-led international order. This plan is likely to bite the dust like previous ones including the January agreement which was violated by Israel after just two months. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will try to subvert the agreement (finalised for the first phase only) to hold on to power with the Israeli Supreme Court waiting in the wings to oust him from office. In fact, Trump while signing the first phase plan stated that he couldn't guarantee that Israel would not attack Hamas again if they tried to regroup.

The first phase of the peace plan is done, and 20 living hostages were released from Hamas' captivity while Israel delivered on its agreement to free nearly 2,000 Palestinian militants and civilians. A grand ceremony jointly hosted by Egypt and the USA on 13 Oct at the Egyptian resort town of Sharm al-Sheikh brought some 20-odd world leaders from the Western world as well as the region to applaud the statesmanship of the US President. For the latter it has been a godsend as the Nobel Peace Prize for this year went to the Venezuelan Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado who in turn dedicated the prize to Trump for his "untiring efforts for peace.

It is important to note that neither the UN which is mandated to administer Gaza nor the Palestine Authority which is supposedly governing West Bank were in any way consulted on the peace plan. For instance, Navi Pillay, former Chair of UN Commission for Human Rights, the body that had found Israel responsible for committing genocide (subsequently taken by South Africa to the International



While 'Palestine' may have become taboo in public discourse, this position amounts to denying history and the long tradition of **India's support to the Palestinian cause** 

Court of Justice), claimed that Palestine was not a party to the plan.

The second phase of the plan dealing with the disarmament of Hamas and future governance of Gaza is in limbo as Hamas has not agreed to the subsequent phases of the plan. This suits the Far-Right Likud party headed by Netanyahu well as it will probably attribute all ensuing problems to the intransigence of Hamas. It is not surprising to understand the position which the resistance group has taken in the face of all obstacles and having lost sizeable men and arms besides its image within the Arab bloc. With 67,000 plus innocent lives lost, women and children murdered, maimed, raped and starved to death and with hospitals, schools, community centres bombed, food and medical supplies weaponised, homes destroyed with nowhere to go, what could have been their options?

As Franz Fanon, the celebrated author of the decolonisation primer The Wretched of the Earth, says, "Decolonisation is truly the creation of new men. But this creation owes nothing of its legitimacy to any supernatural power; the thing which has been colonised becomes man during the same process by which it frees itself." Hamas has thought fit not to surrender the right of the Palestinian

people to speak for themselves, for their self-determination and sovereignty. The legitimacy of Hamas derives from its mandate to govern Gaza since its victory in the 2006 elections no matter whether or not the Western powers who now clamour to recognise the State of Palestine think of it as

a terrorist group. While India had given its allout support to the peace plan - PM Modi congratulated both PM Netanyahu and President Trump several times on Oct 9 - Gaza or Hamas has been conspicuously absent in Delhi's political thinking. India, it needs to be noted, has not declared Hamas as a terrorist group, not until now. Then why does the mention of Gaza in the public space or civil society conversations ring alarm bells? India, it may be noted, had been one of the first non-Arab countries to recognise the PLO in 1974 and Palestine as a State in 1998 in line with its principled position on de-colonisation.

Writing in the Harijan in November 1938, Gandhiji had said, "My sympathy for Jews does not blind me to the requirements of justice. It is wrong and inhuman to impose the Jews on the Arabs." India had opposed the UN Resolution 181 which laid the ground for the UN Partition Plan of 1947. Contrast it with the present-day pattern

of India's voting in support of the "two-nation theory" on the floor of the UN along with 153 member nations when it has been an uncomfortable proposition for Delhi even after several resolutions calling out Israel's genocidal actions and proposing an immediate ceasefire in Gaza were vetoed. While 'Palestine' may have become taboo in public discourse, this position amounts to denying history and the long tradition of India's support to the Palestinian cause.

The Trump Peace Plan, a

cleverly manipulated instru-

ment of surrender for the Hamas leaves little room for any kind of Palestinian autonomy now or in future nor any scope for its participation in post-conflict reconstruction. The plan has been critiqued for its vagueness and top-down imposition by the global rules-based order clique in cahoots with global capitalism with the ideological sustenance of far-right evangelism and pro-Zionist support. Thus, soon after the Peace Summit and withdrawal of IDF from the proximate periphery of Gaza, militants released out of Israeli prison have publicly slaughtered scores of so-called infidels. With food aid having been halted, chaos has ruled the Gaza landscape again.

Peace is extremely fragile, the deftly crafted scheme under the Trump imprimatur so readily endorsed by Arab nations driven by their own plans have come to naught with Palestinian resistance showing no sign of dying out even after all the atrocities committed on them over the last two years. These atrocities are an unjust retribution for the Hamas attack on Israel on

Peace imposed by force can never withstand the increasing challenge of just demands for a homeland. This the global order needs to recognise.

> The writer is a retired diplomat and political analyst. ©THE BILLION PRESS

**SPECTRUM** 

Malay Mishra

**BY FORCE** 

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**CAN NEVER** 

**WITHSTAND** 

**INCREASING** 

**CHALLENGE** 

**DEMANDS FOR** 

**A HOMELAND** 

**OF JUST** 

**PEACE IMPOSED** 

#### SUSTAINABILITY

# Clean energy is inevitable despite Trump



Jennifer Morgan

**THIS ACCELERATION OF THE GREEN TRANSITION** IS HAPPENING **UNDER DIVERSE POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND ECONOMIC MODELS - PROOF THAT CLEAN ENERGY IS NOT** AN IDEOLOGICAL **ISSUE** 

rexit, Donald Trump, ables comprised 92.5% of all new COVID-19, Russia's war on Ukraine, Trump 2.0: During the decade since the Paris climate agreement was signed, the debates about global warming have become both more heated and, too often, more dishonest. I witnessed this as head of Greenpeace International - working with environmental scientists and climate campaigners on the ground - and as Germany's state secretary for climate policy and special envoy

for international climate action. The Paris agreement is one that all countries - whether fossil-fuel producers, island states, or the world's wealthiest economies - negotiated and ratified in record time. It combines effective measurement and monitoring with flexibility for countries to determine and devise their own plans to confront climate change. Every five years, all governments are asked to do more. So far, and to the surprise of many, the vast majority of governments have actually done that. To appreciate the Paris agreement's effectiveness, consider that renewinstalled electricity capacity in 2024, or that 75% of new wind and solar PV (photovoltaics) now offer cheaper power than existing coal, gas, and oil. All of this was unimaginable in 2015.

This acceleration of the green transition is happening under diverse political systems and economic models - proof that clean energy is not an ideological issue. Countries are embracing renewables because they work: clean energy drives growth, enhances competitiveness, reduces energy price volatility, and improves quality of life.

True, the world is not on track to meet its climate targets, and the devastating effects of global warming are appearing faster than many of us anticipated. But the undeniable progress since 2015 provides reason to hope that more progress can be made. But it is also abundantly clear the Paris agreement is facing its toughest challenges. War, conflict, and strained public finances are making governments wary. The international order built after World War II is being shaken to its foundations.

climate debates today, I am optimistic that the collective spirit built over the last decade is now quietly but deliberately working to consolidate and build upon the gains that have been made.

Understandably, fossil-fuel interests – and the Trump administration - want nothing of the kind. They have not overlooked the rewiring of the global economy, and while they seem surprised and worried that it is going faster than any of them anticipated, they are not ready to accept their inevitable decline sitting on their hands.

This makes the upcoming COP30 to be held in Belém, Brazil a key moment where leaders must confirm, intensify, and accelerate their commitments to the Paris climate agreement. It means recommitting to delivering on the COP28 goals of modernizing energy systems, transitioning away from fossil fuels, and scaling up renewables. It means bringing deforestation down to zero by 2030. And it means hitting the agreed goals for climate finance. Investors need to know

If each country's national plans do not collectively keep global warming below the Paris agreement's target of 1.5° Celsius, leaders must commit to closing the gap with a range of available means. But to achieve a just energy transition requires devising a package of specific solutions on grids, storage, and homegrown renewable energy systems while remonstrating with producers and consumers of fossil fuels to accelerate the transition away from them.

This is a massive opportunity for Brazil to cement its legacy as a champion for the most vulnerable communities in all countries. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva can ensure he is remembered not just at home for lifting millions out of poverty but also for protecting our descendants from ecological and economic destruction.

> The writer is a former international executive director of Greenpeace International.

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:

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

Killer cough syrup

Sir, The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a global alert against three Indian cough syrups—Coldrif, Respifresh TR, and ReLife— all found contaminated with toxic diethylene glycol, causing fatal kidney injuries among children. This tragedy has stained India's pharmaceutical credibility worldwide, exposing grave regulatory lapses. India has failed to enforce quality checks, audits, and accountability within the drug control agencies, allowing negligence to thrive. To restore its global image, India must now launch transparent investigations, punish the guilty manufacturers and officials, and enforce stricter laws ensuring personal liability of regulators. Mandatory third-party testing, surprise audits, and global collaboration with the WHO are essential. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation must be overhauled to prioritise safety over profit. Human life is priceless—India must prove it values lives over industry interests by turning this national shame into systemic reform..

#### Nobel intentions

Sir, Though United States President Donald Trump has pulled off a diplomatic coup with the Gaza ceasefire, his clamour for the much coveted Nobel Peace Prize seems almost louder than the applause. From urging the Israeli Knesset to pursue peace with Iran to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hopeful remarks about Ukraine, Trump appears intent on turning diplomacy into a world tour — with himself as the grand conductor. His repeated claims of having helped ease tensions between India and Pakistan and his more recent boast of having "brought peace to several global conflicts," reveal a leader deeply conscious of his place in history — and perhaps in Oslo. While the US President's achievements in Gaza are tangible, his rhetoric often sounds like an audition before the Nobel Committee. Yet, if ambition fuels diplomacy instead of discord, the world may accept it. Motives may differ, but the reward of peace remains universal.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI



# TWO STATES





# **Unemployment, distrust cloud Bihar polls**

Bihar election crucial for Modi's coalition stability as PM faces voter anger

Patna, Oct 16: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national alliance faces a tough regional election in the state of Bihar next month, due to youth unemployment and distrust over voter rolls, which could pose risks to his coalition that relies on regional partners.

Bihar, in eastern India, is one of the country's poorest states with over 130 million people. Its chief minister Nitish Kumar has previously sided with both Modi and the opposition. but is currently a key partner in Modi's National Democratic Alliance.

The state is part of a politically crucial heartland region and any cracks within the NDA in November's assembly vote in Bihar could threaten Modi's coalition, with elections to follow within months in the states of Assam, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu. Modi's national alliance. which has 293 out of 543 seats in the Parliament, has a strong voter base only in Assam.

#### **WOMEN ARE A KEY VOTING BLOC IN TIGHT POLL**

The Vote Vibe agency said its opinion poll in Bihar showed the NDA had a marginal 1.6 percentage point lead over the opposition alliance, led by the Rashtriva Janata Dal and the Congress party as of October 8.



Women voters pivotal due to male migration for jobs

Voters angry over unemployment, distrust electoral rolls

ther way," the agency said in its outlook, noting that the NDA's slight edge was due to its recent programmes, such as money transfers to 12.1 million women under a self-employment subsidv that totalled more than ₹121 billion (\$1.37 billion).

Nivedita Jha, an activist based in Bihar's state capital Patna, said women will form a strong voting bloc in the poll because men usually leave Bihar in search of jobs in economic hubs like Mumbai and New Delhi and not all return to vote.

"Women take the decisions because the men are not here.' she said. "They talk about the opposition which has promto power, and my understanding is that they trust the oppo-

Some Bihar voters are also angry about the revision of the state voter list. In one case, 85-year-old Jitni Devi said she was removed from the list and can no longer vote or access her pension.

"They have declared me dead," she told Reuters. "People in my village tease me as a dead woman, and bank officials shoo me away when I go there to withdraw my money."

The state election commission did not respond to queries about Devi's case. The federal election body has previously said that all complaints are in-

#### YOUNG VOTERS ANGRY OVER UNEMPLOYMENT

Anxiety among young voters in Bihar over employment is another election issue, despite a falling unemployment rate. Government data showed that 9.9% of people aged 15-29 were unemployed in Bihar in the fiscal year 2023–24, a significant drop from 30.9% in 2018–19, but concerns persist.

"For me, I have seen my father going out of Bihar for work, so the issue of jobs matters the most," said Babloo Kumar, 25, who plans to vote for the first time in November.

A new political party, Jan Suraaj — founded by Prashant Kishor, Modi's former poll manager — said it aims to reset the political agenda in Bihar.

"Joblessness, migration, increasing debts, loss in agriculture revenue are the issues in Bihar.' said the party's national president Uday Singh. "There is a big dip in Modi's popularity here".

The opposition has promised a law guaranteeing at least one government job per family, if desired.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, however, said it remains confident of victory. "The NDA alliance is in a

very solid position," said Guru Prakash Paswan, a BJP spokesperson. "People have strong faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision".

Voting will be held November 6 and 11 for 243 state assembly seats, and results will be declared November 14.

### Rising pollution prompts caution despite SC green firecracker nod

Air pollution levels in Delhi-NCR have turned into the 'very poor' category, raising serious public health concerns even before the Diwali festivities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: Even as Supreme Court has allowed the limited use of "green" firecrackers, with Delhi's pollution levels beginning to rise ahead of the festival season, medical experts are calling for awareness and caution.

"Every year, after Diwali, hospitals see a surge in patients struggling to breathe,'

Firecrackers release toxic gases and ultra-fine particles that penetrate deep into the lungs, triggering asthma at tacks, bronchitis, pneumonia and other serious respiratory issues even in healthy individuals, said Dr Vikas Maurya, Senior Director and Head of De partment of Respiratory Medi cine and Critical Care Unit at Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh.

He advised people -- especially children, older adults and those with existing respiratorv or cardiac conditions -- to avoid outdoor exposure during high-pollution days.



**30 SHOWS IN 80 DAYS** 

Delhi sets stage to

be 'creative capital'

**The lineup includes American rapper Travis** 

Scott, Krishna Das, Zakir Khan, Papon, AP Dhillon,

Armaan Malik, Jonita Gandhi, Radhika Das, and

many others, the chief minister announced

must go out. Keep windows shut, and use air purifiers. Those with asthma or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) must not skip their medication. They should consult their doctors if symptoms worsen," he added.

The Supreme Court Wednesday permitted the sale and bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR during Diwali, but only under specific conditions: the use of these crackers will be restricted to designated hours -- 6 am to 7 am and 8 pm to 10 pm -- on the day before Diwali and on the festival day.

The apex court first imposed a ban on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR in 2014-15 due to rising pollution levels.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: The Del-

hi government is working on

making the city the "creative

capital" of the country, with

more than 30 major Indian and

international cultural events

planned to be hosted over the

next eighty days, Chief Minis-

ter Rekha Gupta said Thursday.

ence, she said the government

will develop world-class venues

equipped with modern facilities

to host large-scale concerts and

"event-friendly city", the rent-

als of major stadiums and au-

ditoriums have been reduced,

and several venues are being

upgraded to international stan-

has also been introduced to

streamline event permissions,

logistics and security clearanc-

es, she said, adding that the ini-

tiative aims to promote the live

entertainment industry in the

A single-window system

Delhi

cultural programmes.

make

dards. Gupta informed.

Addressing a press confer-

Doctor Ankita Gupta, Associate Professor at Department of Respiratory Medicine GTB Hospital, explained that burning firecrackers releases a cocktail of toxic gases and ultra-fine particulate matter which severely degrades air quality and significantly contributes to hazardous atmo-

spheric conditions. She emphasised that the fine particles, known as PM2.5, car penetrate deep into the lungs inflaming airways and reduc ing lung capacity. Firecracker smoke also adds heavy metals and sulphur compounds to an atmosphere already burdened by vehicular emissions and stubble-burning residue.

Vulnerable populations including infants, children, pregnant women, older adults and individuals with asthma COPD, or heart disease -- face

#### **OPERATION AAGHAT 2.0**

### Delhi Police reports 20% dip in street crime calls

New Delhi, Oct 16: The Delhi Police Thursday claimed a 20 per cent reduction in PCR calls related to street crimes over the hi district, attributing it to intensified night patrolling, vehicle checks and visible policing.

According to an official around 500 people were apprehended under Operation Aaghat 2.0, a crackdown on organised crime, habitual offenders, bootleggers and drug peddlers.

Launched under the supervision of Joint Commissioner of Police (Southern Range) Sanjay Jain Wednesday, and led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari, the coordinated operation involved over 600 police personnel across the district, the officer said.

According to the police, around 130 accused were arrested under the Arms Act, Delhi Excise Act, NDPS Act and Public Gambling Act, while another 360 were apprehended under preventive action measures.

Among those arrested were 64 'bad characters' (BCs) with a history of involvement in street crimes, police said. The operation led to the

seizure of 31 weapons, 5,826 quarters of illicit liquor, 5.5 kg of ganja, and ₹1.85 lakh from gambling dens. Additionally, 163 vehicles were impounded under Section 66 of the Delhi Police Act, police stated. According to the police, Operation Aaghat, first conducted

September 20, 2025, will now be held every month as part of a sustained campaign to dismantle organised criminal syndicates and discourage repeated criminal activity among habitual offenders. "This time, more gambling

dens were busted, resulting in the recovery of ₹1.85 lakh, compared to ₹78,350 in the first phase. Under preventive action, 524 persons were booked, up from 294 during Aaghat 1.0," DCP Tiwari said. He said the operation fo-

cused on crime-prone areas and jhuggi clusters, aiming to prevent any untoward incidents during the festive season and instil a greater sense of safety among residents.



Supporters with their bodies painted take part in the nomination rally of Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary from Tarapur Assembly constituency for the upcoming Bihar Assembly election, in Munger

#### Voter slips, ballot papers in Braille for visually-impaired voters in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 16: Visually-impaired voters in Bihar will be provided dummy ballot papers and voter slips in Braille, the Election Commission said.

The ballot paper pasted on the electronic voting machines (EVMs) will also be available at the polling stations in Braille.

The EC said visually-impaired voters will be provided with regular as well as Braille voter information slips which have details of polling station.

"Any visually impaired voter can use this sheet to cast his/ her vote by themselves using Braille facility on ballot units of EVMs without any help from companion," it said.

This is not the first time the poll authority is providing ballot papers in Braille.

As per Rule 49N of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, visually-impaired persons can take a companion along with them to cast their vote on their behalf at the polling station.

The EC said it has directed

that there should be proper transport facility for persons with disability at the polling station on the day of poll. The PwD (persons with disabilities) electors can also request transport and wheelchair facility by registering on Divyang (Saksham) Module of ECINET.

These facilities will be available at each of the 90,712 polling stations in Bihar.

Additionally, in another initiative, 292 polling stations will be exclusively managed by persons with disabilities

national capital. Over the next 80 days renowned artists from India and abroad are set to perform in Delhi. The lineup includes

#### American rapper Travis Scott, Krishna Das, Zakir Khan, Papon, AP Dhillon, Armaan Malik, Jonita Gandhi, Radhika Das, and many others, the chief

minister announced.

Argentinian football icon Lionel Messi is also likely to visit Delhi in December.

The initiative to make the city into a "creative capital" of the country is jointly undertaken by the Delhi government, the Event and Entertainment Management Association (EEMA) and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).

by ensuring that these events maintain high standards, run smoothly without any adminis trative or logistical difficulties. and provide complete enjoyment to the audience. Gupta further said that the "Concert Economy" is an important economic sector for

It aims to promote cultur-

al diversity under the motto

"Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi" (Her-

itage as well as Development),

states, which deserves serious There was a time when organisers hesitated to hold large

concerts and events in Delhi due to lack of facilities and in

stitutional support, she said. Understanding this challenge, the government has decided to reduce tariff rates of all major stadiums under the central and Delhi governments such as Jawaharlal Nehru Sta dium, Indira Gandhi Stadium National Stadium, Thyagaraj Stadium, and Chhatrasal Stadi

to international standards. India's live entertainment industry is currently worth around 150 billion, and Delhi's share in it is expected to reach ₹2,500 to ₹3,000 crore in the coming years, Gupta said.

um' and upgrade their facilities

She urged the people of Delhi to get ready for the upcoming cultural events and positive transformations, as the city is now fully prepared to welcome guests from across the country

and globally Minister for Tourism, Arts. and Culture Kapil Mishra said Chief Minister Gupta has prepared a solid and practical roadmap to implement this vision in Delhi, and a detailed and dedicated process is being followed behind this

transformation.

# IIIT-Delhi's 'Ratatouille' reimagines science of cooking

ask if AI will

replace chefs

My answer is:

AI will not

replace a chef,

Al will replace

GANESH BAGLER I

but a chef using

one who doesn't

PROFESSOR, IIIT-DELHI

While AI is making inroads into art and music, Bagler believes food remains one of the most emotionally human experiences -- and that's exactly why it's exciting to bring AI into the kitchen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: What happens when artificial intelligence meets the art of cooking?

At IIIT-Delhi, professor Ganesh Bagler has been exploring that intersection for more than a decade, giving birth to what he calls 'computational gastronomy' -- a pioneering field that uses data science and AI to decode and recreate the science

"It all started as a curiosi-

ty-driven classroom exercise when I was teaching at IIT Jodhpur," Bagler recalled in an interview with PTI.

**AI ENTERS** 

**KITCHEN** 

"We were studying patterns in global cuisines -- Indian, Italian, Mexican -- and I realised that no one really looked at food through the lens of data and computation. That's how the journey began, around 10 years ago."

Since then, Bagler's lab at IIIT-Delhi has been at the forefront of blending two seemingly contrasting worlds -- the artistic, cultural side of cooking and the quantitative precision of

data science. "No one had tried to merge these two domains before," he said.

Over the years, Bagler and his team have built structured databases covering thousands

of recipes, ingredients, nutritional values, and even the carbon footprint of food.

"We realised that good AI models depend on good data what we call the 'garbage in, garbage out' principle. So we created quality datasets to power meaningful analysis," he explained.

The team also developed algorithms that can predict how ingredients combine, identify healthier alternatives, and even generate new recipes that never existed before.

One of their most innovative creations is 'Ratatouille', an AI-powered recipe generation system inspired by the animated film of the same name.

"Given a few ingredients, our system can create new, culturally coherent recipes -- say, a Brazilian-style dish with Indian spices -- or even design meals rich in protein but low in calories," Bagler said. The system can also factor

in dietary constraints for conditions such as diabetes or obesity, where diet plays a crucial role in health management. But how does the system

ensure that what it suggests is safe or palatable? Bagler explained that the AI

system learns from real, culturally-validated recipes. "For instance, it knows from existing data that chilli in a

dish would typically be one or two teaspoons, not 10. So it avoids toxic or impractical combinations," he said. Currently available as a web-

based research platform, the project is still evolving.

A published paper on Rata touille is already out, with another in the pipeline. "You can try it out and generate recipes based on your chosen ingredients and preferences," he said.

# national



From September 10 to October 6, around 1.74 lakh applications were filed for new power connections, but due to the increased rates, 37,043 applications remain pending

#### **CLOSELY MONITORING SITUATION: INDIA ON AFGHAN-PAK CLASHES**

India Thursday said it is closely monitoring the situation arising out of the conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India remains fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Afghanistan





rival parties, who usually rent crowds for rallies, resorted to petty politics by alleging that government buses were arranged for the event MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

going to have the next assembly November 25. We bill for giving land rights to our tea garden workers



10 kilograms of ration per month, free electricity, and the one lakh jobs promised within six months? Not a single commit-

ment has been fulfilled ALTAF THAKUR | BJP SPOKESPERSON

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 24 transgenders consume 'phenyl'

Indore: The Indore police Thursday detained the leader of a transgender group, a day after 24 persons from a rival camp of the community allegedly consumed phenyl amid a factional dispute, officials said. After the incident Wednesday night in Indore's Nandlalpura area, those who allegedly consumed phenyl were admitted to the government-run Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital (MYH) here and they were reported out of danger, as per doctors.

#### Suvendu warns of **Prez rule in Bengal**

Jalpaiguri: Asserting that the 2026 Assembly elections will bring a change in government in West Bengal, BJP state president Suvendu Adhikari Thursday said President's rule will be imposed in the state if the poll process is not completed on time. Addressing in Jalpaiguri district, Adhikari said the polls would not be held if the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is not completed.

#### Diwali bonus: ₹31K for **BMC. BEST staffers**

Mumbai: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Thursday announced exgratia payment of ₹31,000 for its staff for Diwali. "Each eligible BMC officer and employee along with teachers and non-teaching staff of aided private primary and secondary schools, including teaching assistants and education service workers will receive ₹31,000 as exgratia. Ex-gratia will also be given to shikshan sevaks and employees of teacher training institutes (aided and unaided)," a BMC release said.

#### Int'l online trading scam racket busted

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested seven people allegedly linked with an international cybercrime syndicate involved in duping people on the pretext of online trading, an official said Thursday.

#### 2 held for fake post on principal's death

Indore: A case was filed against two students of an Indore college for allegedly circulating a fake letter about the principal's death on social media to stall exams, officials said Thursday. After the FIR was filed, the college's disciplinary committee suspended both students for 60 days, they added.

#### Assam govt to move **HC for fast-track court** in Zubeen death case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 16: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Thursday said that the state government will request the Gauhati High Court to set up a fasttrack court to decide on singer Zubeen Garg's death case.

The Assam cabinet also decided to appoint a special public prosecutor on the recommendation of the advocate general, who will be engaged exclusively for the hearing of the case from the filing of the charge sheet to the delivery of justice, he said.

'There is usually a complaint that courts take a long time to deliver justice. So the state cabinet has decided to approach the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court for a fast track hearing into the case for delivery of expeditious justice after the Special Investigating Team submits its charge sheet,' Sarma said at a press conference here. He said that the SIT has assured him that investigations will be completed by the end of November and the charge sheet will be submitted most likely in the first week of December.

'The SIT has already gone one step further to unravel the basic motive and the investigations have progressed in a very commendable way,' Sarma said. The CM said that the state government was thankful to the Singapore government for allowing the Assam police team to visit the South East Asian country October 21.

# **EC terms Bihar SIR 'accurate'**

New Delhi, Oct 16: The Election Commission Thursday termed the Bihar SIR "accurate" and told the Supreme Court that the petitioner political parties and NGOs are merely content with making "false allegations" to discredit

The poll body also told the apex court that not a single appeal has been filed by any voter against name deletion since the publication of the final electoral roll.

It denied the allegation of the petitioners that there was a "disproportionate exclusion of Muslims" from the final electoral roll of the state prepared after the months-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. "This communal approach is to be deprecated," the poll panel said.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, which noted the absence of political parties from the hearing due to rallies in the pollbound state, said it expects the poll panel, as a responsible authority, to look into typographical errors and other mistakes in the final list of Bihar electoral roll prepared after the SIR exercise and come out with remedial measures.

Seeking dismissal of pleas challenging the June 24 decision of the poll panel to conduct the Bihar SIR, the EC said the petitioners have "ulterior motives' and are merely content with making "false allegations" to discredit the SIR exercise, final electoral roll and the ECI for



The poll panel, in its affidavit, further said barring appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLAs), the political parties and public-spirited individuals and organisations made no substantial

contribution in ensuring

that all eligible electors were included in the final electoral roll. "The approach of the political parties and the petitioners has been to accuse the ECI and attempt to point out errors in the SIR exercise. In contrast,

more than 90,000 BLOs, but also involved political parties and got BLAs appointed.'

the ECI not only appointed

"The exercise was conducted on an H2H basis involving more

electoral interest of political than one visit. All relevant data was uploaded on the

websites," it said. poll body also panel told the apex court ther this court that not a single appeal also has been filed by any voter abled the against name deletion assistance since the publication of State Lethe final electoral gal Services Authority, yet the number

of objections and correction applications was minimal. "This indicates that the SIR

poll

said

exercise was accurate. Even after the determination of the objections and deletion of approximately 3.66 lakh individuals from the final electoral roll. no appeal has been reported as of now," it said.

The EC pointed out that the petitioners -- Association of Democratic Reforms, an NGO,

The cabinet decision

came days after

*Information Technology* 

and Biotechnology

Minister Priyank Kharge

wrote to Chief Minister

Siddaramaiah seeking a

have sought to allege that there is disproportionate exclusion of Muslims (25 per cent amongst 65 lakh excluded voters from the draft electoral roll, and 34 per cent amongst 3.66 lakh electors finally deleted) which was based on some software for name recognition, whose authenticity, accuracy or appropriateness cannot be commented upon.

"This communal approach is to be deprecated. The electoral rolls database does not capture any information on religion of any elector...," it said, adding these 65 lakh deleted individuals were not included as they did not submit enumeration forms, being dead, having permanently shifted or having entries in more than one constituency.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing November 4 for adjudicating During the hearing, advocate

Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, said the EC should disclose how many voters were deleted and for what revision to ensure transparency in the exercise. The bench noted that the

electoral roll will be frozen on October 17 in some constituencies of Bihar, which are going into poll in the first phase and October 20, which will go into poll in the second phase.

The poll watchdog further said documents filed by the petitioners themselves indicate that up till 2022, the number of voters was more than the proiected total population.

K'taka moves to rein in RSS

events in public, govt spaces

#### Bihar polls: JD(U) announces candidates for all 101 seats

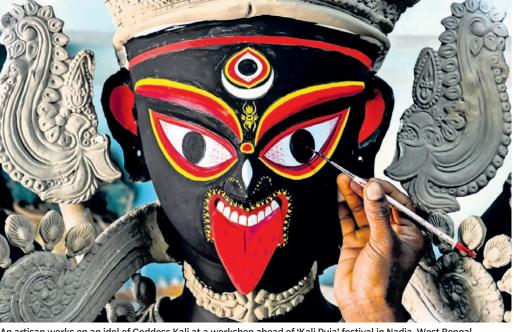
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 16: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) made public the names of can didates for all 101 seats it will be contesting in the Assembly polls, with more than half of them from the backward and extremely backward classes besides four Muslims.

The party released its second and final list of 44 candidates a day after the first one, even as many of the candidates have been filing their nomination papers, upon receiving the ticket, since Tuesday. The party also came out with a caste-wise break-up of the nominees, un derscoring the fact that OBCs (37) and EBCs (22), who have been its mainstay, form the bulk of the candidates.

The upper castes (22) also find a sizeable representation, taking their thin population into account, though the share offered to Muslims has triggered speculations whether the JD(U) has now given up on the minority vote, given its long alliance with the BJP and inability to take an independent stance on sensitive issues like the Waaf.

Prominent among them are Vijav Kumar Chaudharv Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Za ma Khan, Sheela Mandal and Leshi Singh, besides Sumit Kumar Singh, who had won from Chakai in 2020 as an In dependent candidate, but had later patched up with the CM an old friend of his late father Narendra Singh, earning



An artisan works on an idol of Goddess Kali at a workshop ahead of 'Kali Puja' festival in Nadia, West Bengal

### ASI 'suicide': Abetment to suicide case registered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 16: Haryana Police has registered an abetment to suicide case in connection with the death of Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar Lathar based on the note and video he left behind, a senior police official said Thursday.

Kumar, who was posted in the cyber cell in Rohtak, allegedly shot himself dead Tuesday. He left behind a 'final note' that levelled corruption allegations against the late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who also



served in the same district. In a six-minute video, the ASI also referred to Inspector General (IG) Puran Kumar's wife, senior Harvana bureaucrat Amneet Kumar. He has also alleged that during the then IG's tenure,

transfers of employees posted at the IGP office were made keeping caste in consideration.

IPS Puran Kumar's family could not be immediately contacted for their comments. The FIR, which lists abetment of suicide and criminal conspiracv. was registered Wednesday after a complaint by Sandeep Kumar's wife. After the post-mortem was conducted by a board of doctors in PGIMS Hospital, Rohtak, Sandeep's mortal remains were taken in a police vehicle to his native town in Jind district's Julana.

taka Cabinet Thursday decided to bring rules, apparently to check RSS activities, including marching on the roads and holding events in public places and government premises

> The cabinet decision came days after Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Privank Kharge wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a ban on RSS activities and its affiliated organisations.

on the matter, the government released a 2013 circular issued by the then BJP administration, restricting the use of school premises and attached playgrounds for educational purposes only.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 16: The Karna-

Seeking to counter the BJP

The circular issued in February 2013, by the then Commis-

sioner for Public Instruction S R Umashankar, now released by the Chief Minister's office, is seen as a move by the Congress government to counter BJP's criticism against plans to restrict RSS activities in public premises. The Jagadish Shettar-led BJP government was in power then and the circulae came in response to permission sought to organise a private event on the premises of the Fort High School at

On Thursday, Kharge said, "we cannot control any organisation, but from now on you cannot do whatever you want in public places or roads.

Chamarajpet in the city.

Whatever you have to do, it has to be done after seeking the government's permission, he told reporters after the cabinet meeting. It will be up to the government whether to give permission to carry out such activities.

Noting that there are pa rameters to grant permission, the minister said, "You cannot walk on the road waving sticks or take out Patha Sanchalana (march) just by giving intimation to the authorities. All these things will be part of the rules we are going to introduce."

"The rules we want to bring is regarding public places, gov ernment schools, colleges, gov ernment premises, government owned institutions and aided institutions," Kharge said after a Cabinet meeting.

"We will bring together the previous orders issued by the Home department, Law De partment, and the Education Department to frame a new rule. In the next two to three days, the new rule will come into force within the framework of law and the Constitution," he said.

# Kuchipudi dancer Arunima Kumar receives King's honour in UK

The Honorary BEM, a royal honour awarded for "hands-on" service to the local community, comes in recognition of Kumar's tireless efforts in taking Indian classical dance, particularly Kuchipudi, to global platforms and fostering cross-cultural understanding through the arts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 16: Celebrated UK-based artist Arunima Kumar Thursday became the first Kuchipudi dancer to be conferred King Charles III's Honorary British Empire Medal (BEM), for services to Indian classical dance and community.

The Honorary BEM, a royal honour awarded for "handson" service to the local community, comes in recognition of Kumar's tireless efforts in taking Indian classical dance, particularly Kuchipudi, to global platforms and fostering

cross-cultural understanding

through the arts. The renowned cultural leader, influencer and ambassador has many firsts to her credit, including performances at Buckingham Palace and Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee celebrations and Diwali festivities at 10 Downing Street in London. "It's an incredible honour to receive the King's honour and I'm grateful for this international recognition and to all those who believe in my work," said Kumar. "For me, this recognition is

not just personal but a celebration of Indian classical dance on the world stage. Kuchipudi has been my lifelong compan-



ion, a medium of storytelling, healing, and unity," she said.

Her institution, Arunima Kumar Dance Company (AKDC), is credited with making Kuchipudi accessible and relevant across the world with over 3,000 performances in more than 50 countries, training hundreds of students across the UK, India and Poland, aged four to 75.

"Through AKDC, I've built an organisation that can transform lives through Indian dance and transcend barriers, bring joy to communities, and create powerful spaces for dialogue and inclusion," said Kumar. "I'm grateful to my parents,

gurus, my husband and my young daughter Aishwarya for enabling me as an artist and to all those who have supported me in building this legacy brick by brick. Many more miles to go but today I'm eternally grateful," she added.

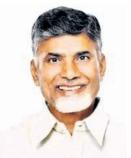
Having trained under eminent gurus Padma Bhushan Smt Swapnasundari and Padma Shri Guru Jayarama Rao, Kumar has made a mark as one of the most distinguished and passionate exponents of Kuchipudi, determined to represent the dance form with "authenticity, grace, and innovation" around the world.

The Honorary BEM, announced as part of the 2025 royal honours for foreign na-

tionals by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Develop ment Office (FCDO) this week, adds to a string awards for the well-known dancer - including the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskaar, Global Icon Award, and the NRI Institute Award for Arts at the Houses of Parliament in the UK. Beyond the stage, AKDC has

pioneered several pathbreaking initiatives that use dance as a tool for empowerment, healing, and inclusion reaching schools universities, care homes, hospi tals, prisons including Delhi's Tihar Jail, and most recently for Parkinson's UK.

# national



With double engine NDA sarkar both at the Centre and in the state, Andhra Pradesh is reaping incremental benefits. With the cooperation of PM Modi, the state is receiving the highest investments

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

#### SHILPA SHETTY WITHDRAWS PLEA IN HC FOR TRAVEL NOD

Actor Shilpa Shetty, embroiled in a ₹60-crore cheating case with her businessman husband Raj Kundra, Thursday told the Bombay High Court she was withdrawing her application seeking permission to travel abroad as the plans did not materialise



ical dominance. The nation that

will lead the future. Technology is no longer limited to labs, it has become the foundation of our strategic decisions, defence system and future policies

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Why is the Election Commission not deleting dual voters (voters whose names fig ure in two or more lists) and those who figure in the list despite being deceased



SANJAY GAIKWAD | SHIV SENA MLA









on the investment. How did you come to the conclusion that the Google Al data centre would create 1.88 akh jobs in Vishakhapatnam, when

Alphabet Inc. (the parent company of Google) had a total workforce worldwide of 183,323 (1.83 lakh) as of 31 December 2024?

Students protest over death

of Class IX boy in school

Palakkad (Kerala): Students'

Secondary School here, held

protest at Kannadi Higher

on Thursday morning over

the suicide of a Class 9 boy,

was called off following the

suspension of a teacher and the

headmistress. Arjun (14), son of

Jayakrishnan of Pallanchathanur

near here, was found hanging

police sources. Kuzhalmannam

police have registered a case

of unnatural death based on

parents. According to the FIR,

Arjun took the extreme step

after he felt depressed when

his mother questioned him

over certain messages sent

mentioned the possibility of

Nagma to be India's

New Delhi: Senior diplomat Nagma Mohamed Mallick was Thursday appointed as India's

ambassador to Japan. The 1991-batch Indian Foreign Service officer is currently serving as India's ambassador to Poland. She is expected to take up the

assignment shortly, the Ministry

new envoy in Tokyo

by him through Instagram and

shifting him to another school.

a complaint lodged by the

in his bedroom around 4.30

pm Tuesday, according to

SHORT **TAKES** 

@VarierAravind

# 'Sexual offences against kids up by 94% in 5 years'

The Childlight Global Child Safety Institute, hosted by the University of Edinburgh and the University of New South Wales, this week launched the findings from its latest Into the Light Index 2025, describing the situation as a "human tragedy of global proportions"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: India has shown a 94 per cent rise in reported sexual offences against children under POCSO between 2017 and 2022, from 33,210 to 64,469 cases, but despite the rising numbers, the prosecution rate remains above 90 per cent, signalling stronger enforcement and reporting mechanisms, according to a

The Childlight Global Child Safety Institute, hosted by the University of Edinburgh and the University of New South Wales, this week launched the findings from its latest Into the Light Index 2025, describing the situation as a "human tragedy of global proportions"

According to the Into the Light Index 2025, India has shown a 94 per cent rise in reported sexual offences against children under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) between 2017 and 2022, from 33,210 to 64,469 cases. "Despite rising numbers, the country's prosecution rate remains above 90 per cent, signalling stronger

**CBI ARRESTS PUNJAB** 

**DIG ON GRAFT CHARGES** 

**ED CHARGESHEET AGAINST** 

ELVISH YADAV, FAZILPURIA



enforcement and reporting mechanisms. India stands out in South Asia for the depth of its available data on child sexual exploitation and abuse. Transparency in crime statistics allows for more effective monitoring and faster action,' the report noted. Representative survey data from India. Nepal and Sri Lanka show that around one in eight children (12.5 per cent) report sexual assault or rape before turning 18 -- nearly 54 million children across these three countries.

"In 2024, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan accounted for the vast majority of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) reports in South Asia, with India alone logging 2.25 million cases to global monitors. However, India also has the lowest CSAM availability rate in the region (15.5 reports per 10,000 people), indicating strong detection and reporting systems," the report said. It warned of a surge in the misuse of artificial intelligence to create and spread sexual abuse content involving children -- noting a 1,325 pert cent in-

crease in AI-generated CSAM

**SNIPPETS** 

Chandigarh: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday

Singh Bhullar in an alleged bribery case of ₹8 lakh, officials said. A

2009-batch IPS officers, Bhullar was arrested from his Mohali office

in a case registered on charges that he demanded a bribe of ₹8 lakh

in addition to monthly illegal gratification through his middleman

Krishanu for "settling" a 2023 FIR registered against a scrap dealer

from Mandi Gobindgarh named Akash Batta. In return, it was to be

ensured that no further coercive or adverse police action was taken

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against

YouTuber Siddharth Yadav alias Elvish Yadav, his friend singer Rahul

Yadav alias Fazilpuria and two others, and charged them with money

laundering in an alleged wildlife crime involving protected snakes and

13 before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court

in Gurugram, Haryana. Yadav (28), Fazilpuria (35), a company named

been named as the accused in the chargesheet, the sources told PTI.

by Sky Digital India, according to the ED. Yadav has been accused of

from the monetisation of an "offending" video uploaded in 2023 that

Sky Digital India Pvt. Ltd. and its director Gurkaran Singh Dhaliwal have

The content of Fazilpuria's online platform was managed and monetised

generating, acquiring, and possessing "proceeds of crime" worth ₹84,000

depicted live snakes and an iguana (a protected species of lizard).

lizards, official sources said. The prosecution complaint was filed October

arrested Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police Harcharan

The report also flagged that "commercially-driven decisions by major technology companies, including end-toend encryption without safeguards, are making it harder to detect and prevent such

crimes". "Technology-facilitated abuse remains widespread. Behind every statistic is a child whose safety, dignity and future have been stolen -but this crisis is preventable if we act now," Paul Stanfield, CEO of Childlight and former Interpol director, said.

The report called on all nations to treat child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) as a public health emergency. urging the same urgency seen during global responses to HIV/AIDS and Covid-19.

"Abuse is closer than people think. When we prevent it, we enable healthier lives and stronger communities. Child sexual abuse exists because it is allowed to exist with sufficient will, it can be stopped. The time to act is now. Children can't wait,' Stanfield said.

#### Four assault Dalit, urinate on him for opposing illegal mining

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Katni, Oct 16: A Dalit youth opposing illegal mining was allegedly beaten up and urinated upon by four persons in Katni district in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said Thursday.

The incident occurred October 14 in Matwara village, some 45 kilometres from the district headquarters, under Bahoriband police station limits, he said.

"Ramanuj Pandey, Ram Bihari Pandey, Pawan Pandey and Satish Pandey allegedly assaulted and insulted Rajkumar Chaudhary. All five are residents of Matwara village. A case was registered under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act today," said Additional Superintendent of Police Santosh Deharia. Chaudhary alleged Pawan Pandey, who is also the village sarpanch's son, urinated on him, subjected him to casteist slurs and threatened to kill him if he approached police.

#### arms in the state and 61 others in Maharashtra. A total of 258 the wrath of our forces". He battle-hardened left-wing ex-Restore statehood

to solve all issues in

J&K: Abdullah to PM

Addressing reporters at the NC headquarters,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thursday.

New Delhi, Oct 16: As many

as 258 battle-hardened Maoists

have surrendered in Chhattis

garh and Maharashtra in the

last two days, Union Home

Minister Amit Shah announced

He also gave a clear message

to the Naxals that if they sur-

render, they will be welcomed

but those who continue to wield

the gun will face the wrath of

security forces. Shah also de-

clared that two worst-hit re-

gions of Chhattisgarh are now

Terming it as a landmark

day, he announced that 170

Naxalites surrendered in Ch-

hattisgarh Thursday, a day

after 27 had laid down their

free from Naxal terror.

Abdullah expressed disappointment that the Central government had not honoured its

commitment on statehood during his administration's first year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 16: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday used the occasion of the National Conference (NC) government's oneyear anniversary to renew a passionate appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the restoration of statehood. calling it the single-most important solution to all the issues facing the Union territory.

Addressing reporters at the NC headquarters here, Abdullah expressed disappointment that the Central government had not honoured its commitment on statehood during his administration's first year.

"We were hopeful that the Centre would fulfil its promise to restore statehood (to J-K) in the first year of our government, but it has not happened," Abdullah said, adding, "We still believe that the solution to all the problems facing Jammu and Kashmir lies in the restoration of statehood.

The chief minister directly urged the prime minister and the Union government to fulfil the "solemn promise' made to the people from the floor of Parliament and the Supreme Court.

Abdullah took a sharp dig at the BJP for its failure to deliver on a key election promise, particularly in the Jammu region where the party secured a large



Maoist menace nearly over, 258 surrender in 2 days: Shah

in the last two days, he said.

"I applaud their decision to renounce violence, reposing their trust in the Constitution of India. It attests to the fact that Naxalism is breathing its last due to the relentless efforts of the PM @NarendraModi led government to end the menace," he said.

Shah said the Modi government's policy is clear: "those who want to surrender are welcome, and those who continue to wield the gun will face appealed to those who are still

"The BJP had promised state-

hood to the people of J-K, why

it has not been fulfilled," he

asked, recalling that BJP lead-

ers previously taunted the NC,

saying statehood would come

"from Delhi and not from J-K

The chief minister also ad-

dressed speculation that the

delay in restoring statehood

was a tactic to pressure his

government into a back-door

the people of J-K are deprived

of statehood only because the

BJP could not form the gov-

ernment, Abdullah said. "If

people wanted a BJP govern-

ment, they would have made a

BJP government in 2024... We

have no intention of allowing

the BJP from the back door,'

"BJP never said in the Su-

preme Court or in Parliament

that they will give statehood

only when the chief minister

is from BJP. They only talk-

ed about a three-step process

– delimitation, election, and

statehood. No ifs, no buts," he

asserted. Responding to a ques-

tion on NC's strategy if the Cen-

tre doesn't restore statehood,

Abdullah said he is hopeful of

early restoration of the same.

resort to threats to gain any-

thing. I am still hoping that

without threatening, without

spoiling the situation in J-K,

the promises that have been

made to the people of J-K will

be fulfilled," he said.

"I am not the one who will

It will be a very sad thing if

alliance with the BJP.

or Srinagar"

he clarified.

on the path of Naxalism to lay down their weapons and join the mainstream. "We are committed to up-

rooting Naxalism before 31st March 2026," he said. The home minister also said: "It is a matter of immense pleasure that Abujhmarh and North Bastar in Chhattisgarh that were once terror bases, have today been declared as free from Naxal terror. Now a trace of Naxalism exists in South Bastar, which will be wiped out soon by our security forces." Shah said since January 2024, after the BJP government was formed in Chhattisgarh, 2100 Naxalites have surrendered, 1785 have been arrested, and 477 have been eliminated.

"These numbers mirror our fierce resolve to decimate Naxalism before the 31st of March

### All 16 ministers in Gujarat submit resignations to CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar, Oct 16: A day ahead of the planned cabinet expansion in Guiarat, all 16 ministers except Chief Minis ter Bhupendra Patel resigned Thursday, sources in the ruling BJP said.

Patel will expand his cabinet on Friday, the state government had announced earlier in the morning.

"Resignations of all the 16 ministers have been taken by the party. Except for chief minister Patel, all the ministers have resigned," said a BJF

An official release said the cabinet expansion will take place at 11.30 am Friday.

The present council of min isters has 17 members, includ ing CM Patel. Eight of them are cabinet-rank ministers while the others are Ministers of State (MoS).

The party sources said around 22 ministers will be sworn in with around six ministers in the present council of ministers being retained.

BJP president and Union minister J P Nadda reached Gandhinagar on Thursday evening and held meetings with CM Patel and other senior leaders of the party.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also likely to attend the oath-taking ceremony of new ministers of the BJP government on Friday, the party sources said.

Gujarat, which has a 182-member assembly, can have

a maximum of 27 ministers (15 per cent of the strength of the Earlier this month, MoS Jagdish Vishwakarma became

the new president of the state Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) unit, replacing Union minister C R Paatil. Vishwakarma will not be included in the council of ministers this time due to the BJP's 'one person, one post policy, the party sources said.

### Southwest monsoon withdraws from entire country: IMD At the same time, the northeast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: The southwest monsoon withdrew from the entire country Thursday, a day after the usual date of October 15, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. At the same time, the north-

east monsoon has set in over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, south interior Karnataka and Kerala-Mahe, the IMD said.

This year, the monsoon reached Kerala May 24, its earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it arrived May 23.

It covered the entire country nine days before the usual date of July 8. This was the earliest the monsoon has covered the entire country since

2020 when it did so by June 26. The primary rain-bearing system usually makes its

onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.

India recorded 937.2 mm of rainfall against the normal of 868.6 mm, a surplus of 8 per cent, in the entire fourmonth monsoon season that ended September 30. Earlier this month, the IMD said that most regions in India, barring some areas in the northwest, are expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the post-monsoon season from October to December. IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said 15 per cent more rainfall than normal is expected in October following bountiful rains in the June-September monsoon season.

East and northeast India recorded 1.089.9 mm of rainfall. 20 per cent below the normal of 1,367.3 mm. "Rainfall over

said.

Northwest India received



east and northeast India this 747.9 mm, 27.3 per cent more than the normal of 587.6 mm. monsoon season was the second lowest since 1901. The This was the highest since lowest rainfall (1,065.7 mm) 2001 and the sixth highest in the monsoon season in the since 1901 region was recorded in 2013,' All districts in northwest the IMD Director General

India recorded above-normal rainfall in June, August and September, Mohapatra said.

Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, south interior Karnataka and Kerala-Mahe, the IMD said. This year, the monsoon reached

monsoon has set in over Tamil

Kerala May 24, its earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it arrived May 23

Punjab suffered its worst

flooding in decades, with swollen rivers and breached canals inundating thousands of hectares of farmland and displacing lakhs of people. In the Himalayan states,

cloudbursts and flash floods triggered landslides and caused widespread damage. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand reported washedout bridges and roads, while Jammu and Kashmir witnessed repeated cloudbursts and landslides

The IMD attributed the sur-

plus rain to active monsoon conditions supported by frequent western disturbances that enhanced rainfall over the region. Central India recorded 1,125.3 mm of rainfall 15.1 per cent higher than the normal of 978 mm, while the southern peninsula gauged 9.9 per cent more rainfall than the normal of 716.2 mm. India gauged 8.9 per cent more rainfall than normal in June, 4.8 per cent surplus in July, 5.2 per cent excess in August and 15.3 per cent above normal in September. The 2025 monsoon season

saw 18 low-pressure systems and 69 low-pressure system days against an average of 13 and low-pressure systems and 55 such days. The monsoon is crucial for India's agriculture sector, which supports the livelihood of around 42 per cent of the population and contributes 18.2 per cent to the GDP.

of External Affairs (MEA) said. Mallick succeeds Sibi George as India's envoy to Japan. George recently took charge as secretary (west) in the MEA's headquarters in New Delhi. Sambhal violence: Prime accused traced abroad Sambhal (UP): The prime accused in the 2024 Sambhal violence case has been traced

abroad and efforts are underway to extradite him to India with the help of intelligence agencies and Interpol, police said Thursday. Sharik Sata, along with his associates, had planned the violence in Sambhal the same day the second survey of Shahi Jama Masjid was conducted on November 24 last year, resulting in the death of four persons and injuries to 29 policemen, Superintendent of Police (SP)

Krishna Kumar Bishnoi told

reporters.

# international



delude ourselves by thinking that the consequences of our failures impact only those who are hidden out of sight. The hungry faces of so many who still suffer challenge us and invite us to reexamine our lifestyles, our priorities and our overall way of living in today's world

We can no longer

POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

#### 4.9-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS WESTERN NEPAL

A 4.9-magnitude earthquake jolted western Nepal's Sudurpashchim province Thursday. There were no immediate reports of any damage caused by the earthquake. The earthquake was recorded at 1:08 am, with its epicentre located at the Dantola area of Bajhang district



erate with our friendly energy resource is in demand. It is

economically viable and feasible ALEXANDER NOVAK I

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, RUSSIA



effectively, contributing to the maintenance of peace, public order, and social security HUN MANET | PRIME MINISTER, CAMBODIA





terrorism risk is 'huge' with al Oaeda and Islamic State seeking to incite would-be attackers

KEN MCCALLUM | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MI5, UK

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Bomb hits Syrian **Defence Ministry bus**

Damascus (Syria): A bomb exploded Thursday on a Syrian Defence Ministry bus in the country's east, killing four soldiers and wounding others, the country's oil minister said. Oil Minister Mohammed al-Bashir said on the social platform X that the soldiers were killed and wounded while on their way to work as guards at an oil facility. State-run Al-Ikhbariah TV said the explosion occurred on the road linking the eastern cities of Deir el-Zour and Mayadeen. The report said the soldier worked at a facility in the oilrich region that borders Iraq.

#### B'desh seeks Hasina death penalty

Dhaka: Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal's chief prosecutor Thursday sought the death penalty for deposed premier Sheikh Hasina, alleging that she was the "mastermind and principal architect" behind the crimes against humanity committed during the mass protests last year. Hasina, 78, faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted in August last year following the mass student-led agitation in the country. According to a UN rights office report, up to 1.400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year as Hasina's government ordered a security crackdown on protesters. "Sheikh Hasina is the mastermind of all the crimes. She is an unrepentant, heartless criminal. She deserves the maximum punishment. No mercy should be shown to her regarding the death penalty," Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Taiul Islam was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

#### UK delays Chinese embassy ruling

London: Britain delayed a decision on whether to approve China's plans to build the largest embassy in Europe in London for a second time Thursday, as ministers faced pressure over the collapse of a trial of men accused of spying for Beijing. China's plans to build a new embassy on the site of a two-centuryold building near the Tower of London have stalled for the past three years because of opposition from local residents, lawmakers and Hong Kong pro-democracy campaigners in Britain. Concerns that the new embassy could be used as a base for spying have prompted some politicians in Britain and the United States to urge the government to block Beijing's plans.

# China's ultimatum to US

China warns 'firm countermeasures' if US imposes sanctions over Russian oil imports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 16: China Thursday defended its oil imports from Russia as legitimate and lawful, warning the US that it would take "firm countermeasures" if it imposed unilateral sanctions affecting Beijing's

The US' approach amounted to unilateral bullying and economic coercion, which severely undermines international trade rules and threatens the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing here.

China's normal trade and energy cooperation with countries arouand the world. including Russia, is legitimate and lawful, Lin said, responding to a question on US President Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured him of not buying oil from Russia, and it was now time for China to do the same.

Trump told reporters in Washington Wednesday that the US was "not happy" about India's purchase of Russian crude, arguing such imports helped finance President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.



■ China rebuts US calls to ease

rare earth export controls

■ US intentionally stoked global

US accuses China of supply.

chain power grab amid tariff

Beijing says export controls

buys 60 per cent of Russian en-

ergy. Besides oil, Russia also

source most of its gas supplies

from Russia through cross-bor-

der pipelines. Reacting to

Bessent's comments that Bei-

jing's rare earth export curbs

amounted to "China versus

the world" and that the US will

speak with its allies to prepare

a "fulsome group response"

Lin said the measures are in

line with international com-

They are aimed at better

safeguarding world peace and

align with international

practices

mon practice.

panic, says commerce ministry

"Modi assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia. That's a big step. Now we've got to get China to do the same thing," he said.

Lin said China has always maintained an objective and fair stance on the Ukraine crisis, and its policy is open and above board for all to see.

"We firmly oppose the US" action of directing the issue at China, and we strongly oppose imposing illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction on China," he said.

"If China's legitimate rights and interests are harmed, we will take firm countermeasures to safeguard our sovereignty, development, and security interests." Lin said. India is the second-largest

buver of Russian fossil fuels behind China, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). **US Treasury Secretary Scott** 

Bessent recently said China

China, which virtually holds a monopoly over the rare earth materials, recently announced further export controls for mining and processing the minerals, alleging that unnamed foreign firms are using its supplies for military purposes.

non-proliferation and other in-

ternational obligations, he said.

Beijing's move angered Trump, who threatened 100 per cent tariffs against Chinese goods. "We're going to be speaking with our European allies, with Australia, with Canada, with India and the Asian democracies," Bessent told CNBC Wednesday.

"And we're going to have a fulsome group response to this because bureaucrats in China cannot manage the supply chain or the manufacturing process for the rest of the world." he added.

China accounts for about 70 per cent of the world's rare earth mining and nearly 90 per cent of processing, making it the main supplier of the precious metals used in automobile, electronics, renewable energy, and defence industries China's rare earth metals are much in demand as the US, the European Union, and India are its top importers.

Separately, Commerce Ministry spokesperson He Yongqian said Beijing remained open to resolving trade issues with Washington through dialogue

# Afghanistan blames Pak for twin drone strikes on Kabul



UN urged Pakistan and Afghanistan to bring 'a lasting end to hostilities to protect civilians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, Oct 16: Afghanistan's Taliban government said Thursday that Pakistan carried out two drone strikes on Kabul the day before, even as the United Nations welcomed a critical ceasefire between the two neighbours after days of fighting killed dozens in both countries and injured hundreds more.

The attacks Wednesday came just before the two countries declared a truce following the deadliest violence between them in years.

Khalid Zadran, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief, told The Associated Press that the strikes hit the city Wednesday afternoon. The first target was a civilian house, while the second was a market. Zadran did not give casualty figures, but doctors at a hospital said earlier that five people were killed and dozens were injured.

The surgical centre run by Emergency, a nongovernmental organisation, said the wounded had shrappel wounds. blunt force trauma, and burns.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government's chief spokesman, initially said there had been an oil tanker explosion.

Meanwhile, the UN urged Pa-

kistan and Afghanistan to bring "a lasting end to hostilities" to protect civilians. The truce followed appeals

from major regional powers, as the violence threatened to destabilise a region where groups, including the Islamic State group and al-Qaida, are trying to resurface. There were no reports of overnight fighting. Key border crossings remained closed Thursday. The UN Assistance Mis-

sion in Afghanistan wel comed the ceasefire and said it was still assessing the number of casualties. It said the heaviest toll was in the south Wednesday. "Current information indi-

cates that at least 17 civilians were killed and 346 were injured in Spin Boldak on the Afghan side of the border," the UN mission said.

It said it had also documented at least 16 civilian casualties in several Afghan provinces during earlier clashes between the two countries.

"UNAMA calls on all parties to bring a lasting end to hostilities to protect civilians and prevent further loss of life, the mission added.

Pakistan has not provided figures for civilian casualties suffered on its side of the bor der. It has repeatedly accused Afghanistan of harbouring militants, a charge rejected by the Taliban. Pakistan is grappling with attacks that have increased since 2021.

### French PM faces tough budget talks after confidence vote

Paris: French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu survived two no-confidence votes in parliament Thursday, winning a temporary reprieve for his days-old government and the chance to deliver a budget for 2026. Lecornu's survival came at a hefty price. Earlier this week he pledged to suspend President Emmanuel Macron's contested pension reform to secure crucial support from the Socialist Party in France's deeply fragmented National Assembly. And despite Thursday's lifeline, the motions have underscored the fragility of Macron's administration midway through his second and final term. The no-confidence motion presented by Coquerel's hard-left France Unbowed party secured 271 votes, just 18 short of the 289 votes needed to fell the four-day-old government. By putting the pension reform on the chopping block, Lecornu threatens to kill off one of Macron's main economic legacies at a time when France's public finances are in a perilous state, leaving the president with little in the way of domestic achievements after eight years in office.

#### Kanchha Sherpa, last surviving member of Mt Everest expedition, dies at 92 Kathmandu: Kanchha Sherpa, the last surviving member of the

mountaineering expedition team that first conquered Mount Everest died early Thursday, according to the Nepal Mountaineering Association. Kanchha died at age 92 at his home in Kapan in the Kathmandu district of Nepal, confirmed Phur Gelje Sherpa, the association president. "He passed away peacefully at his residence," Phur Gelje Sherpa told The Associated Press, adding that he had been unwell for some time. "A chapter of the mountaineering history has vanished with him." Last rites will be held Monday, he said. Kanchha Sherpa was among the 35 members of the team that put New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay atop the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) peak May 29, 1953. A mountain guide for most of his life, he was one of three Sherpas to reach the final camp before the summit with Hillary and Tenzing. But he never climbed to the summit of Everest himself, as his wife considered it too risky, he said in a March 2024 interview. He forbade his children from becoming mountaineers. Well-liked and widely respected in the climbing community, Kanchha was full of energy, and even after retiring and in his old age, he was trekking to monasteries all over the Everest region for religious ceremonies.

### Shots fired at comedian Kapil Sharma's cafe for third time

Surrey (Canada), Oct 16: Shots were fired at comedian Kapil Sharma's restaurant Thursday for the third time since its opening in July in Canada's Surrev.

The Surrey Police Service (SPS) said it is investigating an early morning shooting at a business in the Newton area of Surrey. In a statement, the SPS said that officers were called to the 8400 block of 120 Street in the city's Newton neighbourhood around 3:45 am Thursday to find the business had been damaged by "numerous bullets."

The staff were inside the

Kap's Cafe at the time of the shooting, but fortunately, no one was injured, it added.

The SPS Frontline Investigative Support Team and the Integrated Forensic Identification Service will attend the scene and assist with the investigation, it said, "The incident is still under investigation," it added. The restaurant reopened early this month after it was targeted July 10 and August 7.

The SPS has not confirmed whether the incident is connected to extortion, but said it appears to be.

'This has the earmarks of extortion," SPS spokesperson Ian MacDonald was quoted as

MacDonald said that their department and the Provincial Extortion Task Force are already investigating the pre-

vious shootings at Kap's Cafe. There have been 65 reported extortion-related cases and 35 connected shootings in the city so far this year, the officer said.

Earlier this week, police said a woman had been injured in an extortion-related shooting, the first injury in the city related to the crime this year.

Shots were fired at the Kap's Cafe early in the morning August 7, but no one was injured. The firing caused damage to the windows and the building.



The body of former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga who had been receiving treatment in India when he died. arrives at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya, Thursday

### Israel, Hamas trade blame over truce violations

A row over the return of bodies of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza retains the potential to upend the truce along with other major planks of the plan yet to be resolved, including disarmament of militants and Gaza's future governance

Cairo/Tel Aviv, Oct 16: Israel said Thursday it was preparing for the reopening of Gaza's Rafah crossing with Egypt to let Palestinians in and out, but with Hamas over violations of a US-mediated ceasefire

A row over the return of bod-

set no date as it traded blame

ies of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza retains the potential to upend the truce along with other major planks of the plan yet to be resolved, including disarmament of militants and Gaza's future governance.

Government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian told reporters Thursday that Israel remained committed to the agreement and continued to uphold its obligations, demanding Hamas return the bodies of the 19 deceased hostages it had not handed over. The Islamist faction has hand-

ed over 10 bodies but Israel said one of them was not that of a hostage. The militant group has said that it has handed over all bodies it could recover.

The armed wing of Hamas said the handover of more bodies in Gaza, which was reduced to vast tracts of rubble by the war, would require the admis-



sion of heavy machinery and excavating equipment into the Israel-blockaded Palestinian enclave. A senior Hamas official accused Israel of flouting the ceasefire by having killed at least 24 people in shootings since Friday, and said a list of such violations was handed over to

mediators. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to the Hamas accusations. It has previously said that some Palestinians have ignored warnings not to approach Israeli ceasefire positions and troops "opened fire to remove the threat"

Israel has said the next phase

Hamas demands excavation

Israel returns 30 more Palestinian

of the 20-point plan to end the war engineered by US President Donald Trump's administration calls for Hamas to relinquish its weapons and cede power, which it has so far refused to do.

Hamas has instead launched a security crackdown in urban areas vacated by Israeli forces, parading its power through public executions and clashes with local armed clans.

Twenty remaining living hostages were freed Monday in exchange for thousands of Palestinians jailed in Israel. Later Thursday, the Gaza

health ministry said Israel had released 30 bodies of Palestin ians killed during the conflict taking the total of bodies it has received since Monday to 120. In a statement Thursday

Israel's military aid agency COGAT said coordination was under way with Egypt to decide a date for reopening the Rafah crossing for movement of people after completing the necessary preparations. Aid trucks rolled into Gaza Wednesday and Israel said 600 had been approved to go in under the truce pact. Fletcher called that a "good base" but no where near enough, with med ical care also scarce and most of the 2.2 million population homeless

# business



About 85 per cent of the digital payment transactions take place through UPI in India, and the country can be a case study in inclusive, secure, and scalable **Digital Public Platforms** 

#### **GROWW LAUNCHES COMMODITIES** TRADING SERVICES

Stock broker Groww Thursday rolled out commodities trading on its platform, as it continues diversifying its wealth and capital markets offerings. Groww customers with active trading accounts can trade in commodities such as crude oil, gold, silver and natural gas through the MCX from 9 am to 11:30 pm, according to information available on the stock broking platform's website. Traders in India have been increasingly showing interest in investing in commodities to diversify their portfolios and hedge against market volatility





ogies must converge to create a sustainable future. role in attaining sustainability

BHUPENDER YADAV | ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Company's optimism is fuelled







JATEEN TRIVEDI VP RESEARCH ANALYST, LKP SECURITIES

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Indian Bank net rises

New Delhi: Public sector Indian Bank Thursday reported an 11.53 per cent rise in net profit to ₹ 3,018 crore for the second quarter ended September 30 of the current fiscal. The bank posted a standalone net profit of ₹2,706 crore during the September quarter of 2024-25 fiscal. Interest income rose to ₹11,964 crore during the September quarter of FY26, from

New Delhi: Infosys Thursday in consolidated net profit at ₹7,364 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The company had crore in the same period a year ago. Revenue from to ₹44,490 crore during the quarter from ₹40,986 crore a year ago. The company increased the lower base of the growth outlook for fiscal year 2026 to 2-3 per cent in constant currency terms from 1-3 per cent it had projected in the June 2025

#### Eternal posts profit

New Delhi: Food delivery and quick commerce firm Fternal, which owns the Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of 65 crore for the second with the quick commerce business contributing significantly to its revenue

#### Wipro net up

New Delhi: IT services firm Wipro Thursday reported a marginal increase in consolidated net profit to ₹3,246.2 crore in the July-September quarter. The Bengaluru-headquartered firm had reported a profit (attributable to equity holders of the company) of ₹3,208.8 crore in the yearago period, according to a

#### Nestle India profit slips

New Delhi: FMCG major Nestle India Ltd Thursday reported a 17.37 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹743.17 crore for the company had posted a net profit of ₹899.5 crore in the

# FIIs return to Indian markets

The sudden shift in foreign fund flows has surprised many market watchers. Some analysts see this as a short-term rebound, while others believe it reflects

improving corporate earnings prospects and stabilising economic conditions in India.

Indo-asian news service

Mumbai. Oct 16: After months of selling, foreign investors seem to be regaining confidence in Indian stock markets as the data from NSDL shows that between October 7 and October 14. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in five of the last seven trading sessions, purchasing shares worth over ₹3,000 crore in the secondary market. Their buying in the prima-

ry market was even stronger,

### DoT to boost Al-driven digital twin technology

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

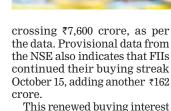
New Delhi, Oct 16: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is set to launch an Innovation and Regulatory Sandbox as part of its Sangam Initiative to promote telecom-powered Digital Twins and AI-driven insights for smarter infrastructure planning, Ministry of Communications said Thursday. The initiative aims to bring

together industry, academia, and policymakers to co-develop advanced digital solutions that will transform how India plans, manages, and monitors large-scale projects.

The announcement was made during the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, where the DoT showcased its pioneering Digital Twin with AI-Driven Insights initiative.

The exhibit demonstrated how the integration of telecom networks, computing, and sensing technologies can revolutionise planning and decision-making in sectors like mobility, tourism, and green infrastructure.

The DoT's Digital Twin demonstrations drew strong engagement from policymakers, planners, and technology experts. Developed in collaboration with leading telecom operators and equipment makers, the live showcase highlighted real-world use cases such as urban mobility insights, tourism flow analysis, and intelligent traffic coordination through connected systems.



has come alongside a steady rise in key market indices.

Since the beginning of October, both the Sensex and Nifty have gained around 3 per cent, while the BSE MidCap index has climbed 3.4 per cent and the SmallCap index has advanced 1.7 per cent. The sudden shift

Mumbai, Oct 16: British air-

craft engine maker Rolls-Royce

Thursday announced signing a

pact with Bharat Forge for the

manufacturing and supply of

fan blades for its Pearl 700 and

The pact signed at Rolls-

Royce's Dahlewitz facility near

Berlin, marks a significant

milestone in the company's

commitment towards building

in-country capabilities and

strategic local partnerships, a

The pact, an expansion of

existing collaboration between

the two partners, also builds on

the company's commitment to

double its supply chain sourc-

ing from India by 2030, the en-

Rolls-Royce started to collab-

The newly signed agreement

expands this scope to include

orate with Bharat Forge in 2020,

sourcing parts for the Pearl 700

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pearl 10X engines.

statement said.

gine maker said.

programme in 2020.

in foreign fund flows has surprised many market watchers. Some analysts see this as a short-term rebound, while others believe it reflects improving corporate earnings prospects and stabilising economic conditions in India.

This turnaround is a sharp contrast to the heavy outflows seen earlier this year. From January to September 2025, FI-Is sold more than ₹2 lakh crore worth of shares in the secondary market.

This happened even as the

Rolls-Royce expands pact with Bharat Forge

the Pearl 10X engine, mark-

ing a significant expansion of

Bharat Forge's role in support-

ing next-generation propulsion

Over the years, the Pune-

based diversified group has

worked closely with Rolls-

Royce on the Pearl 700 pro-

gramme, delivering its first

"This new contract reflects

our commitment to develop-

ing world-class manufactur-

ing capabilities in India, with

zero-defect fan blade in 2020.

systems, it said.

Reserve Bank of India and the government took several steps to support growth, including GST rate cuts, a steep repo rate reduction in June, and an upgrade in India's sovereign credit rating by S&P.

During that time, Indian markets lagged behind global peers. The Sensex and Nifty rose only about 3 per cent, while the MidCap and Small-Cap indices fell 3 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

Now, sentiment is improving on hopes of a possible India-US trade deal amid growing US-China tensions.

Expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate cut later this month are also fueling optimism, as it could bring more liquidity into emerging markets and commodities.

Experts believe India remains an attractive investment destination for global investors, supported by a weaker rupee. relatively modest valuations, and expectations of double-digit earnings growth for Nifty companies in the second half

a shared vision of delivering

state-of-the-art aerospace com-

ponents to the global supply

chain ecosystem," said Sashi

Mukundan, Executive Vice

President for transformation

The Pearl 10X engine fea-

tures the Advance2 engine core.

the most efficient core avail-

able across the business avi

ation sector, combined with a

high-performance low-pressure

system, resulting in a superior

thrust of more than 18,000lb.

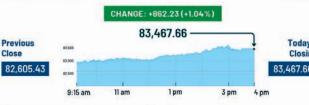
at Rolls-Royce India.

# Makets surge for 2nd day; Sensex jumps 862 points

**BSE SENSEX** 

**OCTOBER 16, 2025** 





TITAN	+2.63 %	TOP
AXIS BANK	+2.33 %	GAINERS
ADANI PORTS	+1.97 %	O'MINE MO
M&M	+1.82 %	T

Mumbai, Oct 16: Benchmark BSE Sensex jumped by 862.23 points while Nifty closed near the 25,600 mark Thursday, following across-the-board buying by investors triggered by a global stocks rally and US Fed rate cut hopes. The 30-share BSE Sensex

jumped 862.23 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 83,467.66 with 28 of its constituents ending higher and two with losses. During the day, it zoomed 1,010.05 points or 1.22 per cent to 83,615.48. The 50-share NSE Nifty

surged 261.75 points or 1.03 per cent to 25,585.30. Among Sensex firms, Kotak

Mahindra Bank rose the most by 2.67 per cent. Titan. Axis Bank, Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors and HDFC Bank were among the major gainers. However, Eternal and Infosys

were the laggards.

"Indian equity markets extended gains Thursday, with the Sensex rising nearly 900 points and the Nifty hitting a four-month high, supported by strong banking stocks and firm global cues. Optimism over a potential US Fed rate cut and the IMF's upgraded India growth forecast (6.6% for FY26) boosted sentiment." Gauray Garg, Research Analyst Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge

climbed 0.47 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.29 per All sectoral indices ended

higher. Realty surged the most by 1.87 per cent, followed by FMCG (1.74 per cent), consumer durables (1.51 per cent), bankex (1.27 per cent), auto (1.15 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.05 per cent) and commodities (0.76 per cent). As many as 2,377 stocks ad-

vanced while 1,810 declined and 147 remained unchanged on the BSE In Asian markets, South

Korea's Kospi jumped 2.49 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 in dex climbed 1.27 per cent, and Shanghai's SSE Composite index went up by 0.10 per cent Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower.

Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended mostly higher Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.57 per cent to \$62.26 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹68.64 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought equities worth ₹4,650.08 crore.

Wednesday, the jumped 575.45 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 82,605,43. The Nifty climbed 178.05 points or 0.71 per cent to 25,323.55.

## ₹ rises 12 paise against \$ India, Brazil to bolster trade and investment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 16: Rising for the second straight session, the rupee appreciated 12 paise to close at ₹87.96 against the US dollar Thursday, buoyed by a softer American currency against major currencies and renewed risk-on sentiment among investors

Forex traders said that likely intervention by the Reserve Bank of India and a firm trend in domestic equities further

enthused investors.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened below the 88-mark at ₹87.76 against the greenback, and touched an intraday high of ₹87.68. The domestic unit finally settled at ₹87.96, registering a rise of 12 paise over its previous close.

Wednesday, the rupee bounced back sharply by 73 paise to close at ₹88.08 against the US dollar, posting its biggest intraday gain in nearly four months.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: India and Brazil Thursday agreed to expand the scope of existing preferential trade pact between New Delhi and four South American nation bloc Mercosur to boost economic ties.

Mercosur is a trading bloc in Latin America, comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. The issue was discussed during a meeting between the visiting Brazilian Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here.

According to the commerce ministry statement, they agreed to set up a technical dialogue between India and Mercosur. including holding of a meeting of the Joint Administration Committee created under a provision of the preferential trade agreement (PTA) at the earliest mutually convenient date, with a view to defining the scope of the expansion. They agreed that "parties should endeavour to conclude the negotiations within one year from the launch of

negotiations", it said The India-Mercosur preferential trade agreement (PTA) came into effect on June 1, 2009. This PTA has limited coverage and contains only 450 tariff lines or products. Both sides are looking at expanding the scope of this pact to a full-fledged agreement. The Brazilian side indicated that it will work in a coordinat ed manner with its Mercosur partners towards a substantial, swift, and mutually beneficial deepening of the agreement.

### LIC launches new insurance plans



Corporation of India (LIC) has launched two new plans; LIC's Jan Suraksha (Plan 880) and LIC's Bima Lakshmi (Plan 881) under the new Next Gen GST Regime. The plans were unveiled by R.Doraiswamy, CEO & MD LIC. LIC's Jan Suraksha is a life

micro-insurance plan aimed at lower-income groups, offering guaranteed additions at four per cent of the annualised premium every year and auto cover after three years of premium payment. It provides financial support to the family in case of the policyholder's death and a lump sum on maturity. The

plan is available for ages 18 to 55

ing from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh and a term of 12 to 20 years. Whereas, LIC's Bima Laksh-

mi is designed exclusively for women, offering life cover, periodic money-back options, and guaranteed additions at seven per cent of the annual premium for in-force policies. The plan includes a female critical illness rider and an auto cover facility after three years. It is open to women aged 18 to 50 years with a minimum sum assured of ₹2 lakh and no upper limit.

Both are non-linked, non-participating insurance plans providing guaranteed benefits and long-term financial security.

### 'AmritSamvaad' continues across Waltair Division

Bhubaneswar: In line with the vision of Amrit Kaal and the Panch Pran, the Waltair Division of Indian Railways is continuing its citizen-centric outreach initiative, AmritSamvaad, as part of the ongoing special campaign 5.0. As part of the initiative, AmritSamvaad was organised at Ravagada Railway Station, where Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations) K Rama Rao, along with other senior officials, interacted with passengers and rail users. The interactive session served as a two-way communication bridge between railway

authorities and passengers, focusing on identifying solutions, improving amenities, and exploring innovative ideas to enhance passenger convenience. Several passengers actively participated in the discussion, offering valuable suggestions for upgrading amenities at Rayagada Railway Station. The AmritSamvaad series

will continue across various stations under Waltair Division till October 31, 2025, engaging citizens as active partners in shaping a more modern, inclusive, and passenger-friendly railway experience.



### Mahindra unveils Bolero B8, Bolero Neo N 11



Bhubaneswar: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, unveiled the new Bolero range at its Utkal Mahindra showroom in Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar, showcasing a refreshed design, upgraded interiors, and modern features. The new Bolero is priced from ₹7.99 lakh (ex-showroom), while the top-end B8 variant comes at ₹9.69 lakh. The Bolero Neo starts at ₹8.49 lakh, with the top variant N11 priced at ₹9.99 lakh (ex-showroom). "The Bolero has stood the test of time, earning its place as one of India's most versatile and tough SUVs for over 25 vears," said Nalinikanth Gollagunta, Chief Executive Officer -

& Mahindra Ltd. "Building on this enduring

legacy, the new Bolero range has been thoughtfully designed to meet the aspirations of a dynamic and rapidly evolving New India. With a perfect blend of toughness, contemporary styling, enhanced comfort, and modern features, the new Bole ro B8 and Bolero Neo N 11 deliv er a powerful SUV experience that shines equally in urban environments and challenging terrains," he added. The launch event was attended by Ma hindra executives, including Area Sales Manager Tanmoy Dev, General Manager Sanjay Biswal, and BDMs Romila Ma zumdar and Rajesh Rath.











₹11,125 crore in the year-ago

#### Infosys profit up

posted 13.2 per cent increase logged a net profit of ₹6,506 operations grew 8.6 per cent

Zomato and Blinkit brands. quarter ended September.

regulatory filing.

September 2025 quarter. The July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Nestle India.

**2030 COMMONWEALTH GAMES RIGHTS** 

# Olympics dream takes shape

India has long harboured aspirations to host the 2036 Olympics, and the successful organisation of the Commonwealth Games is being viewed as a key stepping stone toward that larger goal

New Delhi, Oct 16: In the coming two months, preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad are set to accelerate significantly. While Ahmedabad officially entered the race to host the Games around eight months ago, groundwork and planning appear to have been underway for at least four to five years.

Major international sporting events like the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and the IPL 2023 have played a pivotal role in laying the foundation for this bid. Ahmedabad has demonstrated its capability on the global stage through its worldclass sports infrastructure and efficient event management. These strengths helped the city edge out Nigeria's capital, Abuja, to secure the hosting rights.

#### **Ahmedabad - New Sporting City**

Ahmedabad has been presenting itself as a city ready for multi-sporting events for at least four to five years. The National Games were held in 2022, with Gandhinagar and Rajkot included as co-host cities.

In the last two to three years, many international games have been organised. Just last



to a shared future across the Commonwealth month, the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships were held at the Naranpura Sports Complex in Ahmedabad,

where more than 350 players

from 29 countries participated.

#### **Multiple Sporting Events Ahead**

The commitment to host large tournaments such as the Asian Aquatics Championship 2025, the AFC Under-17 Asian Cup Qualifier, the Asian Weightlifting Championship, the Archery Asia Para Cup-World Ranking Tournament

2026, the Women's Volleyball World Championship 2027, and the World Police and Fire Games 2029, alongside the Ayuthan Marathon 2026 and the TCPL 2026 (Tourism Cricket Premier League), has firmly established Ahmedabad's image as a premier sporting city.

These Games will not only showcase India's world-class sporting and organising capabilities but will also play a meaningful role in our national journey that is moving

inspire our younger generation, strengthen international partnerships, and contribute

toward Viksit Bharat by 2047. We see the 2030 Games as a powerful opportunity to

#### Beyond 2030 - A Vision for 2036

While the Commonwealth Games will serve as a landmark achievement, Gujarat's larger game plan is already evident. The infrastructure being built - from revamped stadium clusters at Sardar Patel Sports Complex to athlete villages and metro extensions - is being viewed as a test run for an eventual Olympic bid.

The state government's strategy is clear: use CWG 2030 as a showcase of capability, efficiency, and international standards paving the way for a credible bid for the 2036 Olympics.

India has successfully organised many multi-sporting events in the past. The 1951 and 1982 Asian Games and the

#### **NUMBERS BEHIND THE BID**

or the Commonwealth Games alone, Rs 1,200-1,500 crore has been earmarked for operations and event management - covering everything from athlete accommodation and logistics to ceremony expenses

owever, when infrastructure is factored in - including stadium upgrades, training networks, and urban beautification - the total spend is expected to rise to around Rs

hese allocations form a crucial slice of the state's Olympic readiness outlay of Rs 37,000 crore, a multi-year programme that aims to position Ahmedabad as India's premier global sports hub

2010 Commonwealth Games were highly appreciated by experts globally. While the 2010 Commonwealth Games faced controversies, the event's organisation was excellent, and Indian players made history by winning more than 100 medals, including 38 gold.

Hosting the Olympics in Ahmedabad will be a big challenge for India, but the 2030 Commonwealth Games will prove to be a crucial step in this direction.

The final decision from the Commonwealth Games Federation is expected in November 2025. If approved, Ahmedabad will become only the second Indian city - after Delhi in 2010 - to host the event.

#### **WOMEN'S WORLD CUP**

### Eves hone fielding for England showdown

After back-to-back losses to South Africa and Australia, India focus on fielding to bounce back



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Indore, Oct 16: The Indian women's cricket team ramped up its preparations for the crucial 2025 Women's ODI World Cup clash against England, set

to happen Sunday, with a high-intensity fielding session at the Holkar Stadium.

With back-to-back defeats to South Africa and reigning champions Australia in Visakhapatnam, Bangladesh to keep score. the Harmanpreet Kaur-led squad fo-

cused on tightening for entering semis their fielding ahead of the high-stakes encounter in Indore, where they look to

bounce back in winning ways. "The objective of today's fielding session was to get used to the conditions first and fielding under pressure. We have covered four areas in this - high catching, ground fielding, direct hits and fielding

under pressure," said fielding

coach Munish Bali in a video

posted on the BCCI social me dia accounts on Thursday.

There was also an interesting fielding drill kept for the players, which Bali explained was a part of getting the execution right under immense pressure

'If it is a direct **India need to win** hit, you will get two points. If it their remaining goes inside the league games net, you will get against England, three points. So total 20 points **New Zealand and** 

> "But, where is the pressure in this? If you have scored 18

points, but if you made a mistake on the 19th point, you will go back to zero. The amount of pressure we put here in our sessions will automatically reflect during matches."

As of now, hosts' India occupies the fourth spot in the points table with four points, while Nat Sciver-Brunt led En gland comfortably sits on top of the tally with seven points.

### Young Blue Tigresses on brink of historic AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup berth

*It would be a huge step for the future of women's* football in India to see not just the senior team, but also the U20 and U17 squads competing at this level



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Asian Cup on merit.

Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Oct 16: The Indian U17 women's team is a step away, or to be precise, a point away, from scripting history by becoming the first-ever batch to earn a place in the AFC U17 Women's

India women will face Uzbekistan in the last qualifying encounter in Group G at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek Friday, knowing that avoiding defeat will book their place at the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026. The match will be streamed live on Kygyrz Sport TV YouTube Channel.

"This game is what we have been working for all these months," said captain Julan Nongmaithem, who scored a stunning 90th-minute volley to guide India to a 2-1 win over Kyrgyz Republic in the first game Monday.

"It was a tough start to the qualifiers against Kyrgyz Republic, but we were happy to get the win in the end finally. That gave us a good advantage heading into the last game," Julan added.

As usual, the 14-vear-old dedicated the goal to her late father, who passed away last year. "I know he's watching from heaven," an emotional

Julan said after the game. Kyrgyzstan bounced back and defeated Uzbekistan 2-1 in the second match Wednesday. That means India still lead the three-team group due to a superior head-to-head record, and a point against Uzbekistan will see them top the standings and book their ticket to China next year.

Head coach Joakim Alexandersson was somewhat disappointed with the overall performance in the first game, despite the win, but assured that the team's confidence remains intact.

"We weren't able to play exactly the way we wanted. We struggled in our build-up phases through most of the match. But in the second half, we used the flanks more effectively, creating some good attacking moments. Although the display didn't fully reflect our potential, we were happy to get the three points, which I thought we deserved," said the Swede.

Just over two months ago, Alexandersson led the U20s to AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup qualification, ending a 20-year wait. Now, the Swede finds himself on the cusp of more glory and snapping a bigger drought.

The last time India played the AFC U17 Women's Championship was in 2005, when 11 teams participated directly. However, since the qualification system was introduced, India have never made it among Asia's elite, and never been as close as they

## Shuttlers make mark at BWF World Junior

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 16: Gnana Dattu TT and mixed doubles combination of Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo upset their much higher-ranked opponents while girls' singles duo of Tanvi Sharma and Unnati Hooda sailed through their respective matches to reach the quarterfinals of the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence here

Gnana Dattu, playing in his first world juniors, defeated 8th seed Garret Tan of USA 15-12. 15-13 in boys' singles, while Bhavya and Vishakha fought back after losing the opening game to beat third seeded French combination of Thibault Gardon and Agathe Cuevas 12-15, 15-11, 15-12 to reach the quarterfinals.

Girls' singles top seed Tanvi dominated China's Sun Li Yuan



for a 15-8, 15-5 win while eighth seed Unnati recovered from a bad start to beat Carine Tee of Malaysia 15-10, 15-7. In the quarterfinals, Tanvi will face Japan's Saki Matsumoto while Unnati will take on second seed Anyapat Phichitpreechasak of

While Tanvi and Unnati lived up to the expectations. Gnana Dattu and the pairing of Bhavya and Vishakha punched above their weight to getting within striking distance of a

### **'BREACH OF TRUST'**

### ISL clubs slam AIFF for delay in tender process

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: Ten Indian Super League (ISL) clubs Thursday termed the delay in the tender process pertaining to the selection of a new commercial partner of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) as a "breach of trust" and demanded immediate clarity on the

On August 28, during a hearing relating to AIFF's constitution which was then pending, the AIFF and ISL organisers FSDL had submitted a "consensual resolution" to the Supreme Court, with the national federation agreeing "to conduct an open, competitive and transparent tender (process) for the selection of a commercial partner" to organise the top-tier league.

In that resolution, the AIFF had also agreed to complete the process by October 15, so that new league season can thereafter commence in December.

With the deadline missed,



the 10 clubs -- Chennaiyin FC, Punjab FC, Hyderabad FC, Bengaluru FC, FC Goa, NorthEast United, Kerala Balsters, Odisha FC, Jamshedpur FC and Mumbai City FC -- slammed the AIFF for its lack of accountability and transparency. Three Kolkata clubs of Mohun Bagan Super Giant, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting were not involved in the letter.

"Following the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and the subsequent joint submission made by the AIFF and FSDL, it was clearly stated that an open and transparent tender process would be initiated and completed by 15th October 2025 to appoint a new commercial partner for the league," the clubs said in a letter to the AIFF president and the executive committee. "It is very evident that we

are yet to even begin the process, let alone complete it. The lack of communication from the AIFF has been deeply dis appointing, and the silence surrounding this matter has caused further erosion of confidence among clubs and other stakeholders. Moreover, the current situation represents a breach of trust -- one that risks undoing the collective progress made in professionalising Indian football over the past decade.

The AIFF also decided to hold the Super Cup tournament -- a domestic tournament open to clubs across multiple tiers from October 25 to November 22 in a phased manner to ensure timely commencement of the football calendar in the coun try and to maintain competitive

#### 9 DAYS, 42 KM, ONE BRUTAL EXERCISE

### Burpee Marathon: Mann's record breaks internet

New Delhi, Oct 16: Indian athlete and adventurer with a cause. Mann Sharma, has created history by completing the world's first-ever Burpees Marathon, covering an astonishing 42.195 kilometres, entirely through broad burpees. over a course of nine days here at the Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium.

This extraordinary feat has been officially recognised by the World Book of Records. London, as a new world record, surpassing the previous mark of 5.1 kilometres by over eight times, a record that Mann himself had surpassed on the first day of his marathon.

Representatives from the World Book of Records, London, were present to officially ratify and present the world record certificate and medal to Mann Sharma, marking a proud moment for India on the global stage, as per a press re-

Mann Sharma said. "This has

been the most challenging and

Expressing his emotions after achieving the historic feat,



fulfilling experience of my life. When I began this journey, my only goal was to push the limits of human endurance and prove that consistency can conquer the impossible. Every burpee, every kilometre, was a reminder that strength lies not just in the body but in the mind and heart. My record attempt wasn't just about endurance, it was about impact -- raising funds and awareness for The

This has been the most challenging and fulfilling experience of my life

One Friend NGO to help educate and uplift underprivileged children across India. I am deeply grateful to the Sports Ministry, Fit India, my team, my sponsors, and every supporter who stood by me. This record belongs to all of us, it is proof that with purpose, anything is achievable.

Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, felicitated Mann for his historic accomplishment at the closing ceremony, which was also attended by Apoorva Menon, National President, World Book of Records; Priya Sharma, National President, World Book of Records; Abhishek Kaushik, National Secretary, World Book of Records; Mohit Sharma, National Joint Secretary, World Book of Records and Divyata Shergill, Founder and Editor, The Junior Age.

Organised by Question Associates in collaboration with Fit India and officially recognised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Mann vs Burpees challenge has redefined the boundaries of endurance and resilience. Over nine days, Mann lived and trained within the stadium, performing thousands of burpees each day to complete the full marathon distance, inspiring millions across the nation to adopt fitness and a sense of purpose.

Mann Sharma's story remains one of unwavering grit and compassion. From training with elite football academies in Italy and Spain, including the Paolo Rossi Academy and Real Madrid Foundation Camp, to overcoming injuries and personal challenges. Mann has continually turned adversity into action.

His past initiatives--running 100 km in 24 hours for the homeless, completing 29 hours of burpees for children's education, walking 205 km from Delhi to Agra for awareness, and scaling Bali's highest peaks to raise funds for suicide prevention --reflect his enduring mission to create social impact through endurance.

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Gangjee's stunning finish** New Delhi: Veteran golfer Rahil

Gangiee turned back the clock with a spectacular eagle on the final hole, carding a brilliant fiveunder 67 on the opening day to emerge as the best placed Indian at the inaugural DP World India Championship, here. The buzz was all about five-time Major champion Rory McIlroy's India debut but it was 2019 Open winner Shane Lowry who steadily compiled eight birdies, including five consecutive from holes 11 to 15, to fire a flawless 64 and grab a one-shot lead over Japan's Keita Nakajima (66). Gangiee, the 47-year-old who is ranked 946th in the Official World Golf Rankings (OWGR), fired four birdies and a bogey before producing a stunning finish with a monstrous putt for eagle, raising his arms in celebration to lie tied fourth at the tricky Delhi Golf Course.

#### Zoravar rises to second

Athens: Indian trap shooter Zoravar Singh Sandhu fired two perfect rounds of 25 each to rise to second on the men's trap shooting qualification leaderboard at the ISSF World Championship Shotgun 2025, here Thursday. Zoravar's four-round (24,25,25,25) tally of 99. has placed him between the two Glasnovic brothers from Croatia, Anton and Josip.

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