



Bhumi's perception

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

LEISURE | P2



China warns US

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

INTERNATIONAL | P10



FII's 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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington/New Delhi/Moscow, Oct 16: US President Donald Trump has claimed that his 'friend' Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured him that India would stop purchasing oil from Russia, a move he

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 source

ing 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.

CM: Nuapada's devpt my personal responsibility

PNN & AGENCIES

Nuapada, Oct 16: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday declared that the development of Nuapada is his personal responsibility.

Addressing a gathering here at BJP's 'Bijay Sankalp Samabesh', part of the campaign for the Nuapada bypoll scheduled for November 11, Majhi criticised former CM Naveen Patnaik for not being able to keep his words. "In previous bypolls, the then CM used to announce that development 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 promises during the last 16 months. I assure you that development of Nuapada is my personal responsibility," the CM said. The CM also launched a scathing attack on the BJD and Congress, questioning 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 gangraped in West Bengal? Did they hit the streets or criticise Mamata Banerjee government? No, both

the parties preferred to remain silent. This speaks about their concern for women," Majhi said. The CM's remark came a day after BJD leaders accused the ruling BJP of doing politics over the heinous crime like gangrape of a female student.

Majhi also criticised the Congress for its MLAs' paralysing proceedings of the Assembly over women issues. "The party which creates a lot of noise in the Assembly over women issues, remained silent over the Durgapur incident," he said.

Majhi also criticised Patnaik over the alleged personal attack on BJP's Nuapada candidate Jay Dholakia. "Some BJD leaders have made personal comments, calling Jay Dholakia an 'adopted son' of late MLA Rajendra Dholakia. We expected Naveen Babu, being a sensitive 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 an outsider and will reject her."

BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra said, "Chhuria is not an outsider. She was born in nearby Padmapur and has close ties to Nuapada. She was an observer for the district for over four years and is well known to the people."

Majhi expressed confidence of a win for the BJP citing support from the organisational base built by former MP Basanta Panda and the goodwill of late MLA Rajendra Dholakia.



ANTI-CRIME STIR: A protester tries to attack police in riot gear in Peru's Lima, Thursday. Youth-led demonstrations brought thousands of Peruvians, frustrated by the authorities' failure to resolve a worsening crime crisis, onto the streets in Lima and several other cities

AFP

Now, worms in MP medicine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

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 immediately 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.

Real-life Rancho helps woman deliver baby on train platform

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 16: An alert Mumbai man helped a woman, who went into labour in a moving local train, deliver a baby on a railway platform with the help of a doctor who guided him over a video call, sources said Thursday.

Vikas Bedre, 27, a video cameraman, was travelling in a local train at around 1am Tuesday, when a woman in the adjacent compartment went into labour as the train neared Ram Mandir station in north Mumbai. Ambika Jha, 24, the woman, a resident of Suburban Virar, was accompanied by her nephew and niece.

What happened later was shared by an eyewitness on social 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, switched to video call to guide



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.

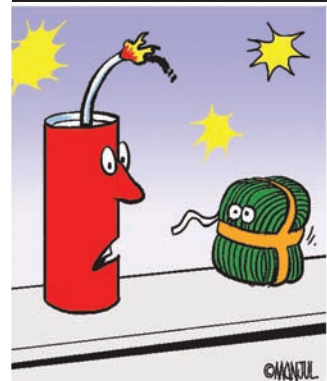
"I was very scared, but Devika's help gave me courage. It was because of her guidance that I was able to manage the delivery," said Bedre, who was supposed to catch a flight, but stayed on to help.

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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My family and I never make noise. We always fizzle out. You see, we are environment friendly

One of world's oldest dinosaurs found

Argentinian scientists have found fossilised bones of one of the world's oldest dinosaur species in the Andes Mountains, the CONICET research 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.

■ A paleontological team found the almost complete skeleton of the small long-necked reptile, named Huayracursor Jaguensis, at an altitude of 3,000 metres in Argentina's northwest

■ Agustin Martinelli, one of the authors, said that Huayracursor is estimated to have roamed the earth between 230 and 225 million years ago, making it one of the oldest dinosaurs in the world

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

230 and 225 million years ago, making it one of the oldest dinosaurs in the world.

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

AFP

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST



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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES



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.

CANCER



You may feel like flaunting your 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.

LEO



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 anything 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.

LIBRA



Today promises to be a busy day that will keep you occupied. You may also engage in written correspondence to re-establish 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 says 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.



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.



BHUMI 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 self-love, though she admits that body image challenges never fully disappear. In a recent interview, Bhumi opened up about her 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 a process." She explained that her fitness journey is as much about mental health as physical appearance. "When I'm in a workout routine, I remind myself I'm doing this for my body, to live

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 kg or now — and there are always opinions. I listen, but I 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.



MUMBAI: Celebrated actress Pooja Hegde, who recently turned 35, has come a long way from her early modeling days to becoming one of South India's most sought-after stars. Born and raised in Mumbai, Pooja's fascination with fashion and beauty began early. She actively participated in beauty pageants and fashion shows, honing her confidence and stage presence long before she entered films. A major turning point in her journey came in 2010, when she participated in the Miss Universe India competition. Her elegance, charm, and discipline impressed both fans and judges. Reflecting on that time, Pooja said, "You have to balance it all with the training, exercise, and interviews — but this is what I love the most." The experience shaped her professionalism and work ethic, which later became her strengths in cinema. During her modeling years, she appeared in several high-profile ad campaigns, including a jewelry commercial that remains iconic. Her expressive screen presence soon caught filmmakers' attention, leading to her film debut in the Tamil movie *Mugamoodi* (2012) — her breakthrough moment. Since then, Pooja has delivered hits across industries. She was last seen

Pooja's breakthrough moment



OLLYWOOD ROUND-UP



Ladhe: Makers fume over delay in censor clearance

Bhubaneswar: The much-anticipated Odia film *Ladhe*, 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 *Ladhe* 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 incident 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 Banaswama 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 with elements 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 story, screenplay, and direction come from the Lubun Tubun duo, with dialogues penned by Sanjay Mahakul. Produced by Badrinath Pattnaik and co-produced 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 Antaika 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.



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 finally 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 sakti." 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.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

Across

1 Drop the ball

4 Trondheim, for one

9 Llama relatives

10 Apian 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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

AHPGIC opens Paediatric Library for young patients



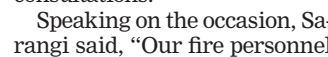
Anil Kumar Bansal
Prop. of M/S Ram
Pratap Rice & Chuda
Mill At - Dunguripali,
P.S. - Belpada, Dist.
- Bolangir reported
at Kantabanji P.S.
bearing GD No.014/
dtd. 16.10.2025 that
the Security Deposit
Receipt of an amount
Rs. 5,81,554.60 paisa for
Electric Connection
bearing Consumer
No.91200000000019 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.

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.



The Additional Chief Secretary 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 brigades to conduct campus visits.

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



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

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," he said.

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY

INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.94 ↓ 0.17
EURO	102.53 ↓ 0.07

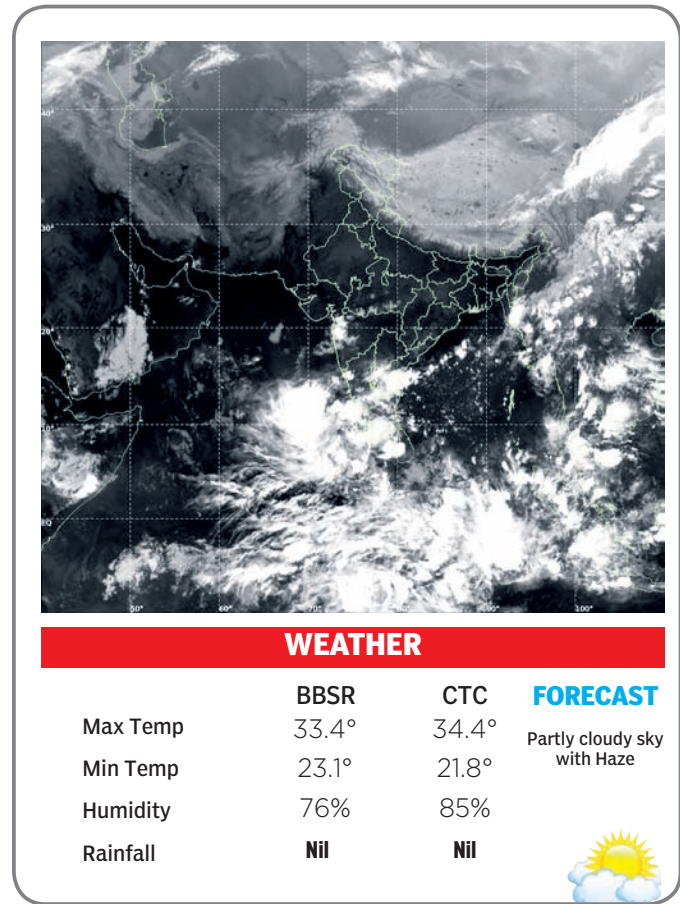
BOURSES

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	83467.66 ↑ 862.23
NIFTY	25585.30 ↑ 261.75

COMMODITIES

INDEX	VARIATION
GOLD	₹129,074 ↑ ₹1864
SILVER	₹166,571 ↑ ₹4365





Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, **A.P. Tours and Travel**, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, **Aurobindo Market**-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, **Airport Road**-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, **Anish Infotech**- Tankapani Road-9861341488, **Bapuji Nagar**- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, **Baramunda Rental Colony**-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, **Baramunda Housing Board Colony**-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, **Cuttack Road**-Alishan Snacks-8948236754, **District Center (Chandrasekharpur)** Sai Google Mat-9776056507, **Forest Park**-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, **IRC Village**-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut/(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, **Janpath**-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, **Jaydev Vihar**-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, **Jagannath Mobile Point**- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, **Kanan Vihar**-Auro Electronics-8260697560, **Khandagiri**- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, **KIIT Road**-Jugad Jn-9338545031, **Laxmi Sagar**-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, **Lewis Road**-Spider Web-7809186415, **Metro Satellite City**-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, **Madhusudan Nagar**-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, **Maa Santoshi travels**- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, **Nayapalli**- The Cake Room- 7873660137, **Near Railway Lagoon**-Cookieman-9439491273, **Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels**-9668284823, **Net Cosmopolis Main Gate**- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, **Net Square**- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, **Priyadarshini Market**-Astro Point-9938134346, **R.N. General Store**-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, **Sahid Nagar**-Maa Communication- 94373353424, **Sahini General Store**- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, **Satya Nagar**-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, **Samantapur**- Download Point-7504557343, **Sailashree Vihar**-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, **Saheed Nagar**-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, **Siripur**-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, **Sushree fashion**- Jagmaara-9938714347, **Shree Vision**- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, **Unit-3**-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, **Unit-7**- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, **VSS Nagar**-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, **XIMB Square**-LD Books-9658601373.

Yogajanma Purusha — 'Gadjat Gandhi' Sarangadhar Das



Nabin Nanda

Among 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-

venshaw, inspired by Gopabandhu 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

same year. He soon took up a position in a sugar industry in Cochin, where the couple spent about two years. 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 Kamakhyanagar 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

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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

industrialisation dream.

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 trusts—founded 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 occasion.

The writer is a former MLA of Dhenkanal.

BJP LEADER’S MURDER

Mastermind, 5 others detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

political leaders, police personnel 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 the high-profile crime.

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 Ganjam’s Hinjili 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 action 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 stayed at her uncle’s house in Bahadla 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

1. No. of the work : **47 no. Flood Control & Road works.**

2. Tender Cost : Varies from ₹ 39,67,360.00 to ₹ 83,92,152.00

3. Bid Document Cost : Rs.6000.00 to 10000.00

4. Bid Security : Varies from Rs.39,700.00 to 84,000.00

5. Class of Contractor : C & B Class

6. Period of Completion : Six calendar months

7. Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid
Superintending Engineer, Aul Embankment Division, Aul	AUL 01 of 2025-26 To AUL 47 of 2025-26 (47 nos. work)	18.10.2025 10.00 A.M.	27.10.2025 5.00 P.M.

8. e-mail Id : 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
Aul

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 Pattnayak 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 large-scale 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 Bhera, 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 5:30pm.

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.

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 official duty.

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
Registered Office: Plot No 59 & 60- 23,22nd Cross, 29th Main
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 following borrowers 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 Pvt 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 enforcement 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 one 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 same. 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
02075B, ML02123	1. Mr./Mrs. GAYADHAR NAYAK, 2. Mr./Mrs. PADMABATI BISWAL	Rs. 27,13,157/-	20-09-2025

Description of the Secured Asset: All the piece and parcel of the Immoveable property bearing Khata No 1092/551, Plot No: 4493, Mouza-Bati, Tahasil-Simulia, PS-Simulia, Thana No-164, Dist Balasore. Bounded by: East: Judhistr Panda, West: Self, North: Bhagabat Nayak, South: Nayhan Jori. Area -A0.230 Dec, KISSAM/Type: Hoestead.

Date: 17-10-2025
Place: Balasore

Authorized Officer
Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd.,

Bank of Baroda
बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा

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

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Immovable Property)

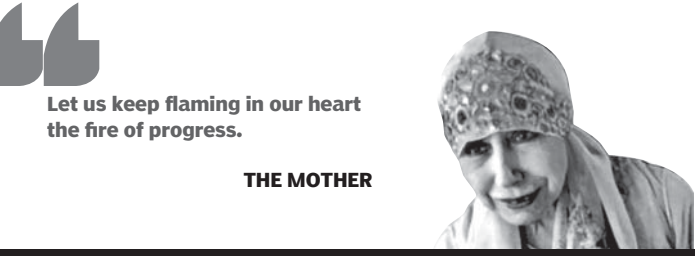
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets 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.**

BOLANGIR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Borrower: M/s. Amidhi Agro Farm, Partners: 1) Mrs. Amita Thanapati & 2) Mr. Janmejaya Thanapati , Plot No.: 852 & 1319, At: Kutturapali, Via: Loisingha, P.O.: Badimunda, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha, PIN-767020, Guarantors: 1) Mr. Janmejaya Thanapati , At: Kutturapali, Pradhiaipali, Loisingha, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha, PIN-767020, 2) Mrs. Amita Thanapati , D/o.: Mr. Padmalochan Thanapati, Ward No.: 6, Amapara, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha, PIN-767001	1) Equitable Mortgage of Land including shed, situated at Mouza: Kutturapali, Tahasil: Loisingha, P.S.: Bolangir, P.S. No.: 8, Dist.: Bolangir, having Khata No.: 191/145, Plot No.: 877/1301, Area: Ac.0.32 Dec, Plot No.: 874/1300/1326, Area: Ac.0.30 Dec, Plot No.: 872/1299, Area: Ac.1.10 Dec, and Plot No.: 874/1300, Area: Ac.0.37 Dec, Total Area: Ac.2.09 Dec , KISSAM: Gharabari, having in the name of Mr. Janmejaya Thanapati , S/o.: Loknath Thanapati, 2) Equitable Mortgage of Land including shed, situated at Mouza: Kutturapali, Tahasil: Loisingha, P.S.: Bolangir, P.S. No.: 8, Dist.: Bolangir, having Khata No.: 191/162, Plot No.: 852/1319, Area: Ac.0.18 Dec, Plot No.: 853/1320, Area: 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	11.06.2025 / 14.10.2025	₹20,99,768.06 as on 11.10.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Date: 16.10.2025
Place: Sambalpur

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



Selfish Economics

These 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 and their wealthy cronies.

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.

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.



Kaushik Basu

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



Malay Mishra

PEACE IMPOSED BY FORCE CAN NEVER WITHSTAND THE INCREASING CHALLENGE OF JUST DEMANDS FOR A HOMELAND

SPECTRUM 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

With two years of 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 all-out 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 instrument 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 Oct 7, 2023.

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

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.

THICH NHAT HANH

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.

ECKHART TOLLE

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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..

RS Narula, PATIALA

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.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Unemployment, distrust cloud Bihar polls

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

REUTERS

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 and its third most populous, 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 Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress party as of October 8. "This election could swing ei-



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 subsidy 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 promised more money if they come

to power, and my understanding is that they trust the opposition more".

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 investigated thoroughly.

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 Suraaaj — 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 Gurus 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," they warn.

Firecrackers release toxic gases and ultra-fine particles that penetrate deep into the lungs, triggering asthma attacks, bronchitis, pneumonia and other serious respiratory issues even in healthy individuals, said Dr Vikas Maurya, Senior Director and Head of Department of Respiratory Medicine and Critical Care Unit at Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh. He advised people -- especially children, older adults and those with existing respiratory or cardiac conditions -- to avoid outdoor exposure during high-pollution days.



"Wear an N95 mask if you 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.

Doctor Ankita Gupta, Associate Professor at Depart-

ment 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 atmospheric conditions.

She emphasised that the fine particles, known as PM2.5, can penetrate deep into the lungs, inflaming airways and reducing 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 the worst impact.

OPERATION AAGHAT 2.0

Delhi Police reports 20% dip in street crime calls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: The Delhi Police Thursday claimed a 20 per cent reduction in PCR calls related to street crimes over the last month in the Southeast Delhi 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 focused 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.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: The Delhi 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 Minister Rekha Gupta said Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, she said the government will develop world-class venues equipped with modern facilities to host large-scale concerts and cultural programmes.

To make Delhi an "event-friendly city", the rentals of major stadiums and auditoriums have been reduced, and several venues are being upgraded to international standards, Gupta informed.

A single-window system has also been introduced to streamline event permissions, logistics and security clearances, she said, adding that the initiative aims to promote the live entertainment industry in the 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).

It aims to promote cultural diversity under the motto "Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi" (Heritage as well as Development), by ensuring that these events maintain high standards, run smoothly without any administrative or logistical difficulties, and provide complete enjoyment to the audience.

Gupta further said that the "Concert Economy" is an important economic sector for states, which deserves serious attention.

There was a time when organisers hesitated to hold large concerts and events in Delhi due to lack of facilities and institutional 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 Stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium, National Stadium, Thyagaraj Stadium, and Chhatrasal Stadium' and upgrade their facilities 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.

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

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 of taste.

"It all started as a curiosi-



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

"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 calo-

ries," 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 Ratatouille 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.

'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.

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

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.

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 exercise was conducted on an H2H basis involving more

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

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

"I'm grateful to my parents, gurus, my husband and my young daughter Aishwarya for

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

Prominent among them are Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Zama Khan, Sheela Mandal and Leshi Singh, besides Sumit Kumar Singh, who had won from Chakai in 2020 as an Independent candidate, but had later patched up with the CM, an old friend of his late father Narendra Singh, earning a cabinet berth.

"We will bring together the previous orders issued by the Home department, Law Department, 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.

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

suicide and criminal conspiracy, 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.

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

"For me, this recognition is not just personal but a celebration of Indian classical dance on the world stage. Kuchipudi has been my lifelong companion," said Ramani.

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

international

of the day quote

We continue to cooperate with our friendly partners. Our energy resource is in demand. It is economically viable and feasible

ALEXANDER NOVAK | DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, RUSSIA

Cambodia and the Republic of Korea will continue to strengthen our collaboration to prevent, suppress, and combat online scams more effectively, contributing to the maintenance of peace, public order, and social security

HUN MANET | PRIME MINISTER, CAMBODIA

Britain is facing an escalating threat from hostile states such as Russia, Iran, and China while the terrorism risk is 'huge' with al Qaeda and Islamic State seeking to incite would-be attackers

KEN MCCALLUM | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MIs, 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 oil-rich 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 Tajul 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-century-old 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 interests.

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 around 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.



"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 buyer 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

We can no longer 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

POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

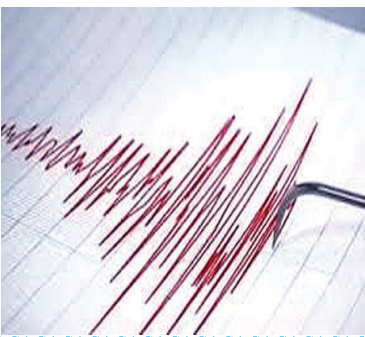
- China rebuts US calls to ease rare earth export controls
- US intentionally stoked global panic, says commerce ministry
- US accuses China of supply-chain power grab amid tariff threats
- Beijing says export controls align with international practices

buys 60 per cent of Russian energy. Besides oil, Russia also source most of its gas supplies from Russia through cross-border pipelines. Reacting to Bessent's comments that Beijing'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 common practice.

They are aimed at better safeguarding world peace and

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



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 Zadrان, 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. Zadrان 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 shrapnel 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 Mission in Afghanistan welcomed the ceasefire and said it was still assessing the number of casualties. It said the heaviest toll was in the south Wednesday.

"Current information indicates 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 border. It has repeatedly accused Afghanistan of harbouring militants, a charge rejected by the Taliban. Pakistan is grappling with attacks that have increased since 2021.

SNIPPETS

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Surrey.

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

saying by CBC News.

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

REUTERS

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

REUTERS

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 set no date as it traded blame with Hamas over violations of a US-mediated ceasefire.

A row over the return of bod-

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 handed 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

- Israel says Rafah crossing to open for movement of people but not aid, no date set yet
- Dispute over handover of hostage bodies poses risk to ceasefire deal
- Hamas demands excavation equipment to locate remains
- UN says massive uptick in aid needed for Gaza with famine conditions in parts of territory
- Israel returns 30 more Palestinian bodies

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 Palestinians 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 nowhere near enough, with medical care also scarce and most of the 2.2 million population homeless.

of the day

quote

HERE NOW

Ecosys-tem-based solutions and futuristic technologies must converge to create a sustainable future. Knowledge sharing, capacity building, technology co-development and transfer will play a significant role in achieving sustainability

BHUPENDER YADAV | ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Company's optimism is fuelled by India's strong position today, not only as one of the world's most important markets but also as a rapidly growing hub for manufacturing and services.

AKSH ROHATGI | MD (APAC), ISS FACILITY SERVICES INDIA

The absence of fresh cues and persistent concerns over the US fiscal situation have strengthened safe-haven demand, driving gold prices higher

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 ₹11,125 crore in the year-ago period.

Infosys profit up

New Delhi: Infosys Thursday posted 13.2 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹7,364 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The company had logged a net profit of ₹6,506 crore in the same period a year ago. Revenue from operations grew 8.6 per cent 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 quarter.

Eternal posts profit

New Delhi: Food delivery and quick commerce firm Eternal, which owns the Zomato and Blinkit brands, Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹65 crore for the second quarter ended September, with the quick commerce business contributing significantly to its revenue growth.

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 year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing.

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 September 2025 quarter. The company had posted a net profit of ₹899.5 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Nestle India.



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 (DPPs)

SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

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



FII's 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

crossing ₹7,600 crore, as per the data. Provisional data from the NSE also indicates that FIIs continued their buying streak October 15, adding another ₹162 crore. This renewed buying interest 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

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, FIIs sold more than ₹2 lakh crore worth of shares in the secondary market. This happened even as the

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 of FY26.

Makets surge for 2nd day; Sensex jumps 862 points



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst Lem-onn Markets Desk, said. The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.47 per cent and mid-cap index went up by 0.29 per cent. 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 advanced 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 index 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 Sensex 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.

DoT to boost AI-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 from 1-3 per cent it had projected in the June 2025 quarter.

Rolls-Royce expands pact with Bharat Forge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 16: British aircraft 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 Pearl 10X engines. 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 statement said. The pact, an expansion of existing collaboration between the two partners, also builds on the company's commitment to double its supply chain sourcing from India by 2030, the engine maker said. Rolls-Royce started to collaborate with Bharat Forge in 2020, sourcing parts for the Pearl 700 programme in 2020. The newly signed agreement expands this scope to include



the Pearl 10X engine, marking a significant expansion of Bharat Forge's role in supporting next-generation propulsion systems, it said. Over the years, the Pune-based diversified group has worked closely with Rolls-Royce on the Pearl 700 programme, delivering its first zero-defect fan blade in 2020. "This new contract reflects our commitment to developing world-class manufacturing capabilities in India, with

a shared vision of delivering state-of-the-art aerospace components to the global supply chain ecosystem," said Sashi Mukundan, Executive Vice President for transformation at Rolls-Royce India. The Pearl 10X engine features the Advance2 engine core, the most efficient core available across the business aviation sector, combined with a high-performance low-pressure system, resulting in a superior thrust of more than 18,000lb.

₹ rises 12 paise against \$

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.

India, Brazil to bolster trade and investment

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 Alck-

min 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 with-

in 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 coordinated manner with its Mercosur partners towards a substantial, swift, and mutually beneficial deepening of the agreement.

LIC launches new insurance plans



Bhubaneswar: Life Insurance 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

years with a sum assured ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh and a term of 12 to 20 years. Whereas, LIC's Bima Lakshmi 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 Rayagada 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 years," said Nalinikanth Gollagunta, Chief Executive Officer – Automotive Division, Mahindra

& 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 Bolero B8 and Bolero Neo N 11 deliver a powerful SUV experience that shines equally in urban environments and challenging terrains," he added. The launch event was attended by Mahindra executives, including Area Sales Manager Tanmoay Dey, General Manager Sanjay Biswal, and BDMs Romila Mazumdar and Rajesh Rath.

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

AGENCIES

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 world-class 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



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 toward Viksit Bharat by 2047. We see the 2030 Games as a powerful opportunity to inspire our younger generation, strengthen international partnerships, and contribute to a shared future across the Commonwealth

PT USHA | PRESIDENT OF THE IOA

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.

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

For 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

However, when infrastructure is factored in - including stadium upgrades, training venues, transportation networks, and urban beautification - the total spend is expected to rise to around Rs 5,000 crore

These 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, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led squad focused on tightening 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

India need to win their remaining league games against England, New Zealand and Bangladesh to keep themselves in race for entering semis

posted on the BCCI social media 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 hit, you will get two points. If it goes inside the net, you will get three points. So, total 20 points you have to score."

"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 England 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

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 Asian Cup on merit.

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 Kyrgyz Sport TV YouTube Channel.

"This game is what we have been working for all these months," said captain Julian 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," Julian added.

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

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 Thursday.

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 Thi-bault 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 Pichitpreechasak of Thailand.

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 possible medal.

9 DAYS, 42 KM, ONE BRUTAL EXERCISE

Burpee Marathon: Mann's record breaks internet

AGENCIES

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 release.

Expressing his emotions after achieving the historic feat, Mann Sharma said, "This has been the most challenging and



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

MANN SHARMA

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

'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 matter.

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 Blasters, 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 commer-

cial 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 disappointing, 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 country and to maintain competitive continuity.

SHORT TAKES

Gangjee's stunning finish

New Delhi: Veteran golfer Rahil Gangjee turned back the clock with a spectacular eagle on the final hole, carding a brilliant five-under 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). Gangjee, 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.