HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

Manushi's insight

Actor Manushi Chhillar says she has learnt that wisdom lies in respecting every form of art and expression

LEISURE | P2

Nominations filed

BJP and Congress candidates file nomination papers for the by-election to the Nuapada Assembly seat

DOWNTOWN | P3

Trump snubs Zelenskyy

Donald Trump calls on Kyiv and Moscow to "stop where they are" and end their brutal war, following a meeting with Zelenskyy

INTERNATIONAL | P10

Historic medal

Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinches bronze and becomes the first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at WC Final

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 198 I www.orissapost.com | BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 19, 2025 | 12 PAGES+SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

2-DAY HOLIDAY FOR DIWALI ANNOUNCED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The state government has declared a two-day holiday for Diwali this year, according to a notification issued Saturday. The government had earlier declared October 21 as the Diwali holiday. In the fresh notification, it has also declared October 20 as a holiday for Diwali.

"This year, state government employees will get a two-day holiday for Diwali. However, they have to work October 25, which is a fourth Saturday," Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari said. He said employees in Nuapada will not get a holiday October 20, as that is the last date for filing of nomination papers for the November 11 bypoll.

No holiday Monday in Nuapada district

THE BURNING TRAIN: People try to douse a fire that broke out in a coach of the Amritsar-Saharsa Garib Rath Express, near Sirhind railway station, in Fatehgarh Sahib district, Punjab, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

20 new cybercrime police stations to be operational

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday announced that at least 20 new cybercrime police stations will soon become operational in the state. In addition, steps will be taken to modernise the existing 14 cyber police stations, he said.

The Chief Minister stated that 1,127 new police positions and 170 technical experts will be appointed shortly. A state-level Command Centre under the Crime Branch will also be established, serving as a Centre of Excellence for cybercrime prevention.

Majhi launched the Cyber Security Awareness Campaign 2025 at Kalinga Stadium to educate the public on cyber safety. As part of the month-long campaign, awareness vehicles and programmes will reach all districts, except Nuapada, where a by-election will be held November 11.

Highlighting the significance of the campaign, Majhi said that nearly 820 million people in India—around 55 per cent of the population, currently use the internet, making the country the second-largest in internet usage globally. He emphasised that increasing internet reliance has also made citizens vulnerable to cybercrime and online fraud.

MORE P3

3 Afghan cricketers die in Pak airstrike

AGENCIES

Kabul, Oct 18: At least three Afghan cricketers were killed in a Pakistani airstrike in Afghanistan's Paktika province, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed.

The players had travelled from Urgun to Sharana, near the Pakistan border, to participate in a friendly cricket match. The ACB identified the deceased players as Kabeer, Sibghatullah, and Haroon, adding that five other civilians also lost their lives in the strike.

ACB withdraws from upcoming tri-series

The ACB also announced its decision to withdraw from the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I Series involving Pakistan, scheduled for late November, as a mark of respect for the victims. P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Bear it—truth wins briefly during the festival season, before fake news takes over again

India, Pak in war of words

Every inch of Pak territory in BrahMos range: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 18: Every inch of Pakistan's territory lies within range of BrahMos and what happened during Operation Sindoor was just a trailer, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here Saturday, in a stern warning to Pakistan.

The operation proved that victory has become a habit for India, he said.

The Union Minister, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit in Sarojini Nagar here.

Singh described BrahMos as a symbol of India's rising strength.

"BrahMos is not just a missile, it is proof of India's strategic confidence. From the Army to the Navy and the Air Force, it has become a key pillar of our defence forces," he said. Singh asserted that India's defence capabilities now serve as a powerful deterrent.

"Every inch of Pakistan's territory lies within range of BrahMos. What happened during Operation Sindoor was just a trailer. It made Pakistan realise that if India could create Pakistan, then if the time comes... I need not say more, you all are wise enough," he said.

Rajnath, Yogi flag off first batch of Lucknow-made BrahMos missiles

Operation Sindoor proved that "victory is not just a small incident for us but it has become a habit", he added.

Hailing Operation Sindoor, Singh said it instilled a new confidence among Indians and proved BrahMos' effectiveness to the world.

"Maintaining this confidence is now our collective responsibility," he said.

"The entire world now recognises India's capability. BrahMos has strengthened our belief that India can turn its dreams into reality," he said.

On the manufacturing of BrahMos at the Lucknow unit, Singh said the project symbolises India's growing confidence and capability in defence manufacturing.

'Decisive response' to even minor provocation: Munir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 18: In a sharp escalation of rhetoric, Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Saturday warned India of a "decisive response" to even a minor provocation, saying there is "no space for war in a nuclearised environment".

Munir was addressing a graduation ceremony of passing out army cadets at the premier Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul at Abbottabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"I advise and firmly caution India's military leadership that there is no space for war in a nuclearised environment," he said.

"We will never be intimidated, not coerced by rhetoric and will respond decisively to even a minor provocation without any qualms," the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) said.

Referring to the recent military conflict between India and Pakistan, Munir claimed that his country's armed forces had demonstrated "remarkable professionalism" and far-reaching capabilities by neutralising all threats and emerged victorious against a numerically superior adversary.

India launched Operation Sindoor May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes, following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries.

Munir also accused India of using terrorism as a weapon to destabilise Pakistan, saying a handful of terrorists cannot harm Pakistan and warned that "all proxies using Afghan soil would be raised to dust", in an apparent reference to Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The Army chief also urged India to settle core issues as per international norms, an apparent reference to the Kashmir dispute, while reiterating Pakistan's commitment to provide "moral and diplomatic support" to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

City shocker: Jharkhand minor girl raped, rescued in critical condition

Major sex racket busted in Capital; 3 victims rescued, 4 arrested

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: A 16-year-old girl from Jharkhand was rescued in a critical and distraught condition from a roadside in Ashok Nagar area here late Thursday night, police said Saturday. A medical examination confirmed that the minor had been raped, they said.

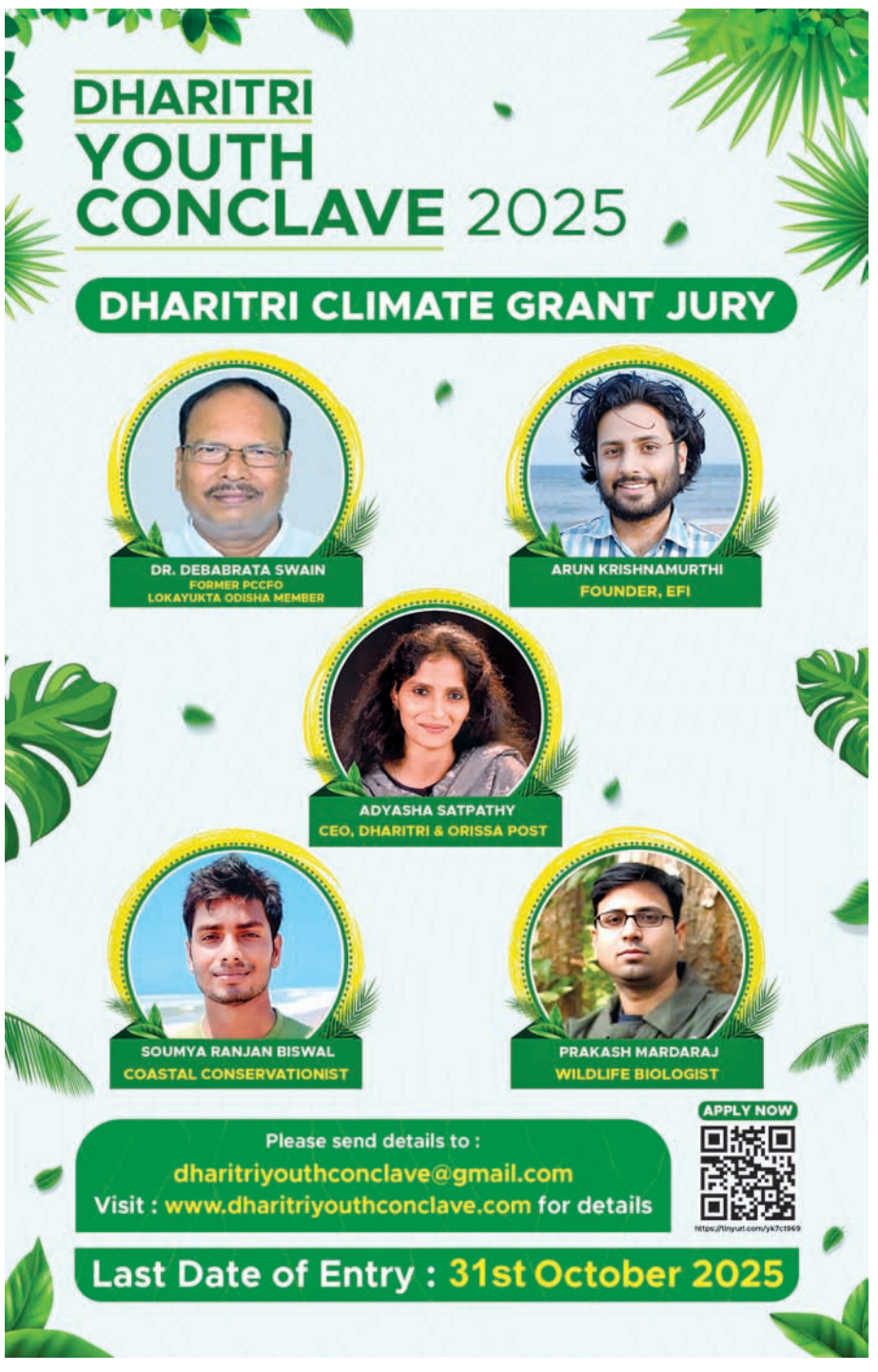
The girl, who had no identification documents or mobile phone, was admitted to Capital Hospital, where doctors filed a medico-legal case (MLC) citing "psychic disorder" and a history of sexual assault. Based on the MLC received October 16 around 8pm, the Capital police station took suo motu cognisance and registered a case under relevant sections of BNS and the POCSO Act.

"As per the MLC, the victim is a minor and a resident of Jharkhand. We are conducting further investigation to confirm her exact age and identity. Her statement has been recorded and she's currently undergoing treatment," Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said.

During the investigation, the police scanned CCTV footage and gathered evidence that led them to a sex racket operating out of Laxmisagar area in the Capital city. A raid was conducted Friday, resulting in the rescue of three survivors and the arrest of four individuals.

The arrested have been identified as Manju Sethi, 47, Mamata Sahu, 42, Sanjib Kumar Das (the house owner), and Abinash Muduli, 28. Police said that Muduli was involved in the sexual assault of the minor.

Two separate cases have been registered and all the accused will be forwarded to court, police said. The incident has sparked widespread outrage among locals.



Sir David Attenborough makes history at 99

FAMED NARRATOR BECOMES OLDEST DAYTIME EMMY WINNER FOR SECRET LIVES OF ORANGUTANS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pasadena, Oct 18: Sir David Attenborough broke Dick Van Dyke's record for oldest Daytime Emmy winner Friday, taking the trophy for daytime personality, non-daily as host of Netflix's *Secret Lives of Orangutans*.

Attenborough, who is 99, was not on hand. The Brit's career as a writer, host and narrator spans eight decades.

Van Dyke was 98 when he won as guest performer in a daytime drama series for *Days of Our Lives* in 2024. He is the oldest actor to win a Daytime Emmy. Jonathan Jackson of *General Hospital* and first-time nominee Susan Walters of *The Young and the Restless* won supporting acting honours.

Jackson accepted the trophy for playing Lucky Spencer, a role he originated in 1993 and has played on and off ever since.

The ABC show also claimed trophies for Alley Mills as guest performer in a daytime drama and its writing team.

It was Mills' second career win for playing Heather Webber. The 74-year-old, who first won in 2023, is best known as the mom on *The Wonder Years*.

"We are living in really dark times right now. Everything is crazy," Mills told the audience at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. "We just got to keep our spirits high."

Walters plays Diane Jenkins on CBS' *Y&R*, which she has appeared in during three different stints.

"I am so happy that I won so I can thank my husband of 40 years," she said, singling out Linden Ashby, who has appeared on the same show.

The Young and the Restless brought a leading 19 nominations into the 52nd annual show. It is just one of three shows nominated for best daytime drama, along with *General Hospital* and *Days of Our Lives*.

leisure

RACHEL ZEGLER TO PLAY GLORIA ESTEFAN IN BIOPIC

Cuban-American singer-songwriter and actress Gloria Estefan has made it official about her biopic. She also confirmed that Hollywood actress Rachel Zegler is set to essay her part in the film. The 68-year-old singer said she is confident that they have the perfect leading actress in the *Evita* star.

REESE WITHERSPOON ON PENNING THRILLER NOVEL

Hollywood star Reese Witherspoon says she was determined to have a female protagonist at the heart of her debut thriller novel *Gone Before Goodbye.* The 49-year-old actress has collaborated with best-selling author Harlan Coben for the novel, which follows Maggie, an accomplished surgeon who is trapped in a deadly conspiracy.

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Without apparent reason you may go into your shell today. No doubt you will acknowledge the contribution of others, but Ganesha says you have to do more than that; you will have to share your knowledge with your peers. Besides this, Ganesha says you need to cut down on your spending.

TAURUS

Your thinking is expected to be immensely clear and focused this day. So says Ganesha. This, therefore is a great day for holding important meetings with colleagues and partners, for resolving vital issues, for entering new tie business tie ups. Knowing what you want as well as how to get it will give you tremendous advantage.

GEMINI

Today will be a day of joy, happiness and festivities on the home-front. You will try and spend as much time as possible with the children and will enthusiastically participate in home improvement projects. You will be able to solve pending issues at home by taking an intelligent interest in them, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Ganesha says that you will feel tiredness and weakness but in the office or business you will be relaxed , with less tension. Ganesha suggests that you should be careful to fulfil new responsibilities entrusted to you. You will spend on travel.

LEO

You may not get the desired results inspite of working hard. You need to keep your weaknesses in mind, and your mistakes, before starting anew again. You will need to do more than necessary, if required, to make sure that your business relationships stay strong. Finances will improve, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Issues regarding religious beliefs and spirituality will surface today. Pursue your goals single-mindedly to attain success in the field of your choice, and exploit your abilities and talents to the hilt, advises Ganesha. You will be more logical and calculative, rather than emotional, in matters of your relationships.

LIBRA

Ganesha says the higher officials in your work place may be displeased with you and you will face issues with them. Due to this you will feel mentally depressed and down but towards the afternoon you will be able to please them with your impressive work ability.

SCORPIO

Life is the best teacher, they say. And today, you even experience this. You may learn to survive the neck-tight competition in the market. This may invite a lot of envy, but nothing shall bother you. Ganesha reminds you of the adage, 'To err is human, to forgive is divine,' so, it's fine even if you commit some errors.

SAGITTARIUS

Lengthy business meetings keep you occupied almost throughout the day. You may also do some value addition to your work by taking co-workers' suggestions and inputs, says Ganesha. Implementation of these inputs will prove highly beneficial in the long run.

CAPRICORN

Now is the perfect time to showcase your talents and skills. You are all geared up to hit your target and do everything that is needed to be done. Your efforts will not go in vain as they will bear fruits for sure, says Ganesha. You will spend quality time with your family member and catch with old friends.

AQUARIUS

You will spend the day introspecting, but the mental peace will still seem distant. Some unavoidable circumstances will force you to handle the situations with diligence, feels Ganesha. Due to your devotion to the Almighty and spiritualism, you will be able to deal with problems pretty well.

PISCES

It is difficult for you to be part of one team and to work as a member on two teams, but today you can do anything you want. You will be able to show your expertise to your team today and will be praised by all. Women will make a profit today and will feel encouraged.

Vaani on Delhi vibes

New Delhi: Actress Vaani Kapoor loves the festive season. The actress enjoys dressing up and soaking in the festivities. Having lived in Mumbai since the beginning of her showbiz journey, Vaani says that Mumbai certainly feels like home. However, when it comes to festivals, she prefers the capital over aamchi Mumbai.

The actress who arrived for the unveiling of Armani-Phoenix Palladium The Diwali Edit in Lower Parel, says, "Well, I am a Delhi girl, and I must say that any festival in Delhi hits different. People are very welcoming and warm and most importantly, they love being hosts. They look forward to making it a community celebration and that is what makes it lovelier. I love the feeling of being a warm and lovely host."

Talking about what excites her most about the festive season, the *Mandala Murders* actor said, "It's that time of the year when everybody is happier and joyous. It's the time when families come together and bond. It's about accompanying your friends and loved ones and visiting each other's homes. I just love the festive season as you feel happy from within. It feels warm and just nicer." AGENCIES

MANUSHI'S WISDOM

Mumbai: In an age where social media interactions often descend into heated arguments, Manushi Chhillar set a shining example of grace and composure. When a user posted a rude and unnecessary comment on one of her posts, the Miss World responded not with a defensive clapback, but with a thoughtful and dignified message one that spoke volumes about her character.

Her reply wasn't about proving anyone wrong. It was about educating with empathy. "I've always admired people who value education. But I've also learnt that wisdom lies in respecting every form of art and expression. The world needs both thinkers and creators, neither is "reduced" when they uplift others," Manushi wrote, adding, "Every step, story, and song has its own purpose, none lesser than the other."

Manushi Chhillar wins hearts with her response to online criticism: "I've learnt that wisdom lies in respecting every form of art and expression"

Instead of confronting the troll, Manushi Chhillar chose to disarm him with grace. Her measured response not only defended her choices but also opened the door for dialogue and mutual respect.

Manushi's calm and thoughtful response received widespread appreciation, with many praising her poise. AGENCIES

SRK, Salman, Aamir hint at possible collaboration

New Delhi: Bollywood's iconic trio — Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan — made a rare joint appearance at an event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where the Khans hinted that they may work together for a project.

Shah Rukh teased the possibility of a long-awaited collaboration among the three.

"It's been too long I've been humble... I've been too nice, too kind. I have to say, if three of us are in a project, it is a dream itself. Hopefully not a nightmare... Inshallah, whenever we get an opportunity, a story, we're always sitting, whenever Aamir, Salman, and myself, we get together... I feel thankful to be on the same stage with them," he said.

Salman teased him and said, "So, Shah Rukh has this one thing. He keeps saying over and over again… I want him to say that here. Try and say that here that nobody can afford us three in a film together. Say it."

Shah Rukh replied, "I don't want to say it in Saudi because everyone will get up and say, 'Habibi, done, done, done!' Affordability isn't just about money — it's about time, eccentricities, and the way we work. We joke so much that any director will have to tell us to start working!"

Aamir said the three of them feel emotionally ready to come together for a film.

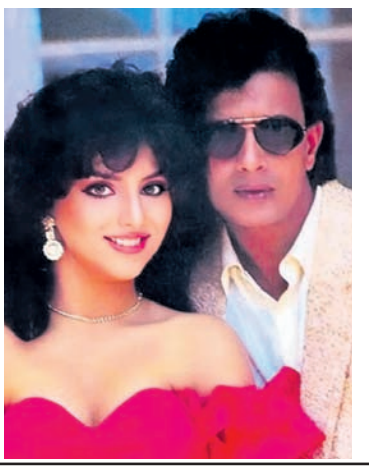
"It's just a matter of coming across the right script. So hopefully... it's going to be the script that's going to be the most important for the three of us," he said. AGENCIES

Sonam's 'secret crush' on Mithun

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Khan took a nostalgic trip down memory lane as she opened up about her childhood 'secret crush' on legendary actor Mithun Chakraborty.

Sharing the amusing and sweet memory, she gave a glimpse into her early admiration for the iconic star. On Saturday, Sonam took to her Instagram handle and shared a throwback image featuring her and Mithun.

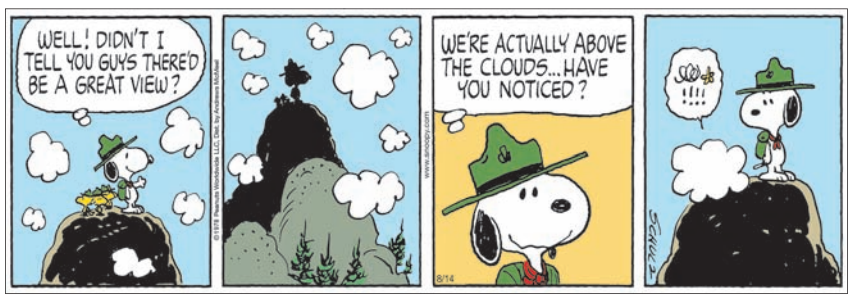
In the caption, she wrote, "Once a superstar, always a superstar with a heart of gold. @mithunchakrabortyofficial. I signed a movie with Sir before my first film was even released, which was a huge deal for me as a complete newcomer. Thanks to his kindness, no audition was required."



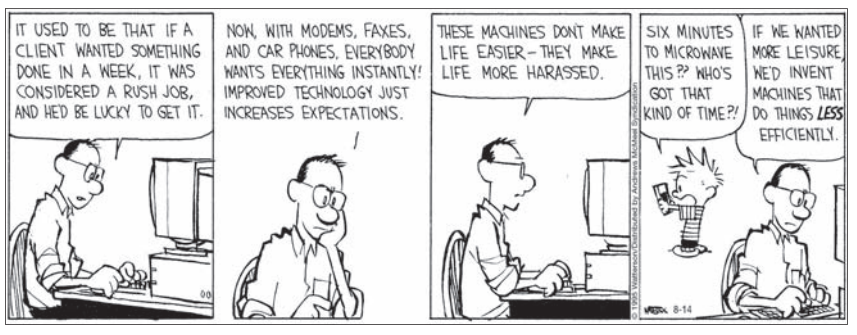
"He was the only co-actor I was nervous to work with because I was completely in awe of him, having grown up watching his movies. (Sir didn't ever know, that secretly I had a crush on him which made me more nervous) Sir's kindness and grace were, and always will be, a class apart. Years later, I met him at the Coimbatore airport when we were both heading to Ooty. Sir invited me for a seven-course lunch at his beautiful hotel, The Monarch. He was the same gracious gentleman I had met at the start of my career. Truly a superstar with a heart of gold. #mithunchakraborty #sonamkhan #aakhrighulam-movie #throwbackmemories," added Sonam Khan.

Work-wise, Sonam has appeared with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award winner in movies like *Akhri Ghulam* and *Pyar Ka Karz*. Her notable movies include *Tridev, Vishwatma, Mitti Aur Sona,* and *Ajooba*. IANS

PEANUTS



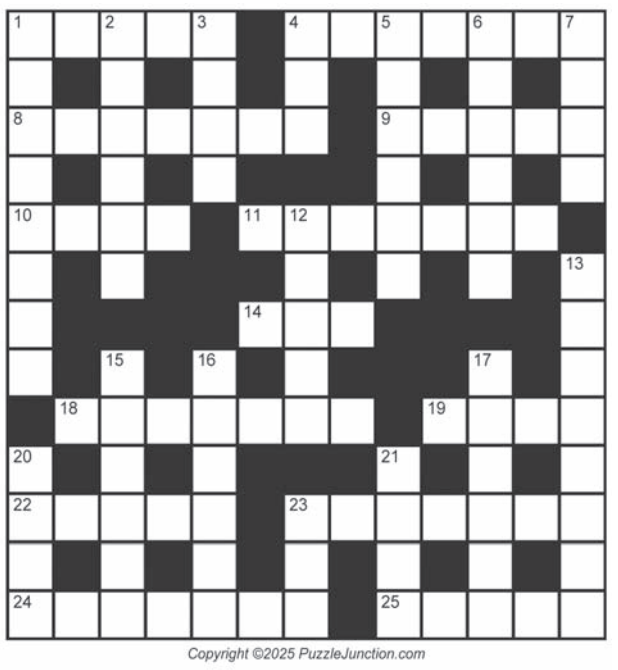
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY

FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

Across
1 Redhead's dye
4 Bay of Ob locale
8 It may be under a photo
9 Fritter away
10 Fencing sword
11 Gun barrel size
14 Jimmy
18 Hide
19 Junket
22 Egypt's capital
23 Kind of cat
24 Rose bush, maybe
25 Gnatlike insect

Down
1 Big house in Mexico
2 Small fry
3 Etcher's need
4 Overhead light?
5 Kind of pasta (3,3)
6 Vacation spot
7 Pinnacle
12 Major artery
13 All done
15 Dieter's concern
16 Fish group
17 Ally
20 Mark left by Zorro?
21 Injure
23 Round Table title

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.

			5					
			2		9			
5	9	7			8			
9			4				2	3
		1				6		
		2	9					
	6	5			2	8		
4				8			1	
			3		4			9

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

9	7	8	3	6	1	5	4	2
4	1	2	9	7	5	3	8	6
6	3	5	4	8	2	9	1	7
7	6	3	1	4	8	2	5	9
8	5	9	6	2	3	1	7	4
2	4	1	5	9	7	6	3	8
1	9	4	7	5	6	8	2	3
3	8	6	2	1	4	7	9	5
5	2	7	8	3	9	4	6	1

downtown

PULLING DOWN

An excavator demolishes an illegal construction at Salia Sahi in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

CM: Awareness most powerful weapon to prevent cybercrime

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Awareness is the most powerful weapon to prevent cybercrime, a major challenge for the society today, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said while launching the 'Cyber Security Awareness Campaign 2025' at Kalinga Stadium here Saturday.

Majhi said about 82 crore people of the country – 55 per cent of the population – are using internet today. India is second in the world in terms of internet usage.

"In our daily lives, we have become completely dependent on the digital system. Internet and technology have become indispensable for us. Today, internet users are becoming victims of crimes like cybercrime," he said.

"Our government always gives importance to preventing these crimes. And for this, our government has taken steps like strengthening the cyber police, increasing awareness and creating a safe digital environment," the CM said.

Praising the Odisha Police for its efforts in curbing cybercrime, the CM said that timely assistance has been provided to thousands of complainants through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal and Cyber Helpline (1930).

"The main reason for most cyber frauds is lack of awareness. For this, internet users have to be very careful, they have to be aware. Awareness is the most powerful weapon to prevent cybercrime," Majhi said.

"To make the public aware, the Odisha Police has started this awareness campaign today. People will be made aware of various aspects of cyber frauds," the CM said and urged all to join the campaign.

Expressing anger over incidents of blackmailing and mental harassment of girls through internet, the CM directed the Odisha Police to take strict action against those with such mentality. "Action will be taken against the police officers who fail to act on such complaints," Majhi said.

The CM flagged off 16 awareness chariots on the occasion. These chariots will be rolled out in all the districts of the state, except Nuapada, to create awareness for a month.

On the occasion, the CM administered a pledge on cyber security to the guests, government officials and students present.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja thanked Odisha Police for the awareness programme and said that it is very important for everyone to be aware of cyber security. "This awareness programme should not be limited to a programme of just one department but should be adopted by everyone," Ahuja said.

Director General of Police Yogesh Bahadur Khurania welcomed everyone to the programme and mentioned the steps taken by Odisha Police to curb cybercrimes.

The Mother's love transcends all time: Satpathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 18: The Mother's love transcends all time, said ***Dharitri*** and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy at the golden jubilee celebration of Sri Aurobindo Dham Purnanga Shiksha Kendra here Saturday.

Attending the event's second session as chief guest, Satpathy observed that all philosophers — whether Swami Vivekananda or Sri Aurobindo — were great, but each belonged to a particular time period.

"The Mother's love, however, transcends all time. Her boundless affection, tenderness, and compassion could melt even the hardest or most disbelieving of hearts," Satpathy said. "Her love was limitless. She loved everyone so deeply that there was no space for anything else in her heart — I have witnessed it myself," he added.

Among those present were Information and Public Relations Officer Santosh Kumar Sethi, Srimandir Chhatisha Nijog Nayak Janardhan Patjoshi Mahapatra, and the educational institution's governing body chairperson Akshay Kumar Mishra.

The event concluded with expressions of gratitude to all who contributed to the institution's 50-year journey in advancing integral education inspired by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother.

ECoR gears up to handle festive rush

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has taken proactive steps to ensure the safety, security, and smooth movement of passengers amid the increased footfall during the ongoing festive season.

To manage the surge at railway stations, strict queue systems have been put in place in both reserved and unreserved areas. Security personnel, including Railway Protection Force (RPF), have been deployed to maintain discipline and ensure orderly movement of passengers.

Passengers are being guided systematically to prevent overcrowding and confusion, particularly during peak hours. ECoR has also implemented a coordinated process for boarding passengers onto special trains.

Security personnel, including Railway Protection Force, have been deployed to maintain discipline and ensure orderly movement of passengers

Security staff and station personnel are strategically stationed at key points both inside the stations and in surrounding areas to maintain order.

Senior ECoR officials are closely monitoring the situation, employing measures such as real-time crowd monitoring, platform management, and increased patrolling to minimise inconvenience to travelers.

ECoR advices passengers to arrive at stations well in advance and cooperate with railway staff and security personnel for a safe and comfortable journey.

EOW NABS PONZI FIRM STATE HEAD

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch claimed to have arrested the Odisha head of 'Hedgex Fund' – a firm accused of duping around three lakh depositors in 10 states to a tune of over ₹1,000 crore on the promise of hefty returns – from Cuttack Saturday.

Pratap Kumar Rout has been booked under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120-B of the IPC, 4, 5, and 6 of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 66(D) of the Information Technology Act, and 21(1)(3) and 23 of the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, the investigating agency said in a media statement. The case was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Bijay Kumar Panigrahy, who alleged that he invested ₹92.6 lakh in 'Hedgex Fund', whose designated partners include Dinesh Kumar Jain.

₹1,000CR FRAUD

Rout persuaded Panigrahy to invest his retirement savings in 'Hedgex Fund' by promising monthly returns ranging from 11 per cent to 18 per cent. After a few months, the company stopped operations, blocking investors' funds, it said.

"Rout, as the Odisha coordinator, operated multiple bank accounts. He collected funds in cash and through 'hawala' channels, and organised promotional meetings in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to attract more investors," the EOW said.

According to the EOW, the fraud followed a Ponzi scheme model, initially offering small periodic returns to gain investor trust before abruptly shutting down operations and disappearing with public money.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that 'Hedgex Fund' was registered with the Registrar of Companies, Goa, in 2023. But its network spread across 10 states — including Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Odisha, affecting over three lakh depositors," the EOW said. The total amount defrauded is estimated to exceed ₹1,000 crore.

The company also floated several sister concerns, including Kaushalaya Foundation, Lavya World, Frix Market, and Lavya International, between 2023 and 2024 to deceive investors, it added. Rout and other top members allegedly used multiple mule and third-party accounts to conceal transactions and mislead enforcement agencies. The EOW has recovered several incriminating documents from Rout's possession.

ORMAS Diwali stall in City showcases rural craft, tradition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) has set up a special Diwali stall near SIRD campus in Unit-8 area here, featuring a vibrant collection of traditional and eco-friendly handmade products crafted by rural artisans from across the state.

Inaugurating the stall, ORMAS Chief Executive Officer Monica Priyadarshini said the initiative aims to connect urban consumers directly with rural producers. "It is not just a market, but a bridge between rural skills and urban appreciation," she remarked. Priyadarshini interacted with producer groups from various districts, encouraging them to continue creating high-quality and innovative products that reflect Odisha's rich cultural heritage.

The stall will remain open to the public from 10:00am to 10:00pm daily till October 21, offering a festive shopping experience steeped in tradition.

Visitors can explore a wide range of products including earthen lamps, terracotta idols, ragi laddus, coconut oil, handmade brooms, traditional delicacies, handicrafts, and handloom items—all made by skilled rural artisans. Adding to the festive spirit, unique gift hampers prepared by producer groups from Ganjam district—such as the chocolate gift hamper and pickle gift hamper—have already become crowd favourites.

Producer groups from Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Boudh, and Subarnapur districts are participating in the event, showcasing Odisha's diverse craftsmanship.

NUAPADA BYPOLL

Jay, Ghasiram file nominations

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Candidates of the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress Saturday filed their nomination papers for the byelection to the Nuapada Assembly seat.

BJP candidate Jay Dholakia and Congress nominee Ghasiram Majhi submitted two sets of papers each, an official said.

Accompanied by BJP state president Manmohan Samal, ministers Rabinarayan Naik and Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia and a number of party MLAs, Dholakia reached the District Collector's office to submit his papers, leading a procession.

The procession, which saw the participation of hundreds of people, started from Khariar Road and touched various parts of the town before culminating near the Collector's office.

Majhi, a prominent tribal leader, also reached the Collector's office, leading a massive procession. He filed the nomination papers in the presence of state Congress president Bhakta Charan Das, former minister Suresh Routray, and several senior party leaders.

So far, five people, including Shukadev Dandsena (Odisha Janata Dal) and Purushottam Behera (Independent), have submitted nomination papers for the bypoll

Majhi, who contested as an Independent candidate for the seat in last year's Assembly polls after being denied a Congress ticket, had bagged the second position by securing around 51,000 votes.

The then state Congress president Sarat Pattanayak was the party candidate for the seat and had finished fourth in the race.

The BJD had bagged the seat, while the BJP came third. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia, whose son Jay is this time the BJP's candidate.

So far, five people, including Shukadev Dandsena (Odisha Janata Dal) and Purushottam Behera (Independent), have submitted nomination papers for the bypoll, scheduled to be held November 11, officials said.

Sources said BJD candidate Snehangiri Chhuria will file her nomination paper on the last date, Monday.

The scrutiny of papers will be conducted October 22, and the last date for withdrawal of nomination is October 24. The votes will be counted November 14.

Govt seeks experts' help over open-heart surgeries

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department has sought the assistance of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-New Delhi and Government Medical College in Kottayam to reduce high mortality rate among open-heart surgery patients at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack.

The step in this regard has been taken by the state government after the Orissa High Court expressed concern over the high mortality among patients undergoing open-heart surgery at Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) wing of SCBMCH.

"The matter has been taken up with All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Government Medical College, Kottayam which are in the government sector and have excellent track record. They have assured that they would depute team(s) which would guide the surgeons at SCBMCH, Cuttack so that concerted efforts can be made to reduce the mortality rates which, at this stage, is alarming," H&FW department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathy S informed the HC in an affidavit.

Around 17 per cent patients, who underwent such medical procedures between January 2023 and August 2025, died after surgery at the CTVS wing of the premier hospital.

In the affidavit, the state government further stated that as

far as open-heart surgery in the CTVS wing of SCBMCH is concerned, the availability of faculties in such super specialty disciplines in the state is very less. "Steps will be taken to engage more faculties and senior residents on contractual or regular mode with appropriate remuneration, so that there is no dislocation and let up in the patient care so far as open-heart surgery is concerned," the affidavit said, adding that formation of a second team for cardiac surgery is not feasible until additional three CTVS surgeons are available.

The affidavit also stated that steps would be taken to send the existing faculties in CTVS and critical care for exposure visit as well as advanced training. The already trained faculties posted in other medical colleges of the state shall be deployed during the major surgeries.

Further, steps were being taken to invite expert team from AIIMS-New Delhi for guidance, hands on training, developing the skill and confidence of the faculties, nursing and other paramedics for conducting the heart surgeries and suggesting in equipping the operation theatre and intensive care unit with appropriate modern equipment and instrument for the best outcome in patients who are undergoing cardiac surgeries.

There is no dispute that open-heart surgery is a major surgery. It can be a life-saving operation for some. Open-heart surgery improves their health, making it easier for them to do everyday tasks. This can give them a better quality of life. There are several risks and complications of open-heart surgery but if it is properly planned and a team of experts carry out the surgery, there are good chances of success, the HC observed in an order in this regard while posting the matter for further hearing November 27.

Revenue services must be citizen-centric: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Revenue officers should focus on making revenue services simpler, more citizen-centric, and accessible within a specified timeframe. It has become essential to introduce necessary amendments and reforms to the Revenue laws, said Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari while addressing officers at the two-day Central Region Revenue Conference at the Revenue Officers' Training Institute (ROTI) here Saturday.

Minister Pujari stated that revenue laws must be simplified keeping in view the interests of the general public. The use of modern technological knowledge can make the delivery of revenue services more efficient.

He urged revenue officers to take proactive steps to resolve people's land-related issues, ensuring citizens receive proper and timely services. Protecting government property and removing encroachments are among the key responsibilities of revenue officers. He also emphasised the need to facilitate the acquisition of land for government projects. "Tahasildars should prepare a database on the land status within their jurisdictions," he directed.

Although the scope of responsibilities for revenue officers has expanded over time, they must still ensure timely service delivery to the public. Achieving this will contribute to the goal of a prosperous Odisha by 2036 and a developed India by 2047, the Minister added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Additional Chief Secretary and Member of the Odisha Revenue Board Deoranjan Kumar Singh said that while the government has enacted several laws for the welfare of citizens, their successful implementation lies in the hands of revenue officers. They must be diligent and sincere in this regard so that the public can truly benefit from the revenue services.

The event, presided over by Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Central Division, Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, saw participation from Collectors of 10 districts of the central region through virtual mode, along with 9 Additional District Magistrates (Revenue), 16 Sub-Collectors, 112 Tahasildars, 10 District Registrars, 62 Assistant Registrars, and 4 District Welfare Officers.

In her welcome address, Commissioner Kumar said that the main aim of the conference is to make revenue administration more citizen-oriented, review existing laws and government guidelines, and create awareness among officers through expert discussions on various aspects of revenue administration and law.

'Mrs Happily Single' launched in City

BOOK LAUNCH: 'Mrs Happily Single', the book authored by Shubha Sarma (in pic), was launched at Gita Govinda Sadan, Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Chief Executive of **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** Adyasha Satpathy, eminent author Tarun Kanti Mishra, writer Satya Mishra, and Odisha Sahitya Akademi secretary Chandra Sekhar Hota were present on the occasion

OP PHOTO

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The book Mrs Happily Single, authored by Shubha Sarma and published by Niyogi Books, was released at Gita Govinda Sadan Saturday. The book, focusing on self-discovery, challenging societal norms, and finding happiness, has resonated with readers for its realistic portrayal of a woman's inner journey.

The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including Chief Executive of **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** Adyasha Satpathy, eminent author Tarun Kanti Mishra, writer Satya Mishra, and Odisha Sahitya Akademi secretary Chandra Sekhar Hota. The ceremony also saw the presence of numerous readers, civil servants, academicians, and writers.

Dignitaries at the event

Expressing her gratitude, author Sarma said, "Writing this book took four to five years. It's a journey of reflection and resilience, encouraging women to embrace themselves rather than over-prioritise family or societal expectations." Reading a passage from her novel, she added, "Novels take time to build characters and moments. Sometimes you even forget where you left off but every word becomes part of the story's emotional fabric."

Speaking about the book, Satpathy remarked, "Mrs Happily Single begins with a simplicity that immediately engages the reader. The story of Malini, the protagonist, beautifully captures the complexity of a woman torn between her career and family. Her decision to leave her marriage with dignity makes her a symbol of strength."

She further added, "What makes this book remarkable is its honesty — it doesn't glorify pain, nor does it preach. It simply mirrors the inner strength every woman possesses but often forgets in the noise of expectations."

The evening concluded with an engaging discussion on book's protagonist Malini and different characters of the book and women's empowerment and the courage to redefine happiness on one's own terms.

Cuttack District Chess Competition launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 18: The Cuttack District Chess Association Saturday inaugurated the Cuttack District Senior and State School Chess Competition at Harshagate, Barabati Stadium. The event began with the ceremonial first move by senior mentor Chaudhary Pradyumna Kumar Mishra.

The two-day tournament has attracted a record 246 participants, including 46 international FIDE-rated players from 14 districts of Odisha. The junior category features 50 girls, while 40 senior players represent Cuttack district. Participants range in age from 4 to 72 years, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the competition.

After four rounds of play on Day 1, Topsin Shraddha Sharmika Nanda, Om Surap Pachi, Ishani Das, Subhasish Barik, Sai Pratrisha Behera, and Aditya Das jointly top the junior category with 4 points each. In the senior category, Ravindra Kumar Ojha leads with 4 points, followed by Harshit Ranjan Sahu with 3.5 points and Nilshu Patnaik in third place with 3 points.

Housing units to 44 families in Salia Sahi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Under its Affordable Housing Project (AHP), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) allotted housing units to 44 families through a transparent lottery system, selected from a total of 274 families currently residing along the left parallel road of Salia Sahi in Ward No. 21.

BMC has taken the necessary steps to relocate the 44 families to the Buddha Vihar Housing Project at Chandrasekharpur. Based on a preliminary survey, 274 beneficiaries were provisionally selected for allotment of AHP houses at Chandrasekharpur. The corporation clarified that the houses will be handed over only after verification of all relevant documents.

As per the eviction and resettlement policy, arrangements have been made to provide basic assistance to the affected families during relocation — including transport facilities, food for three days, temporary electricity connections, and water supply in coordination with agencies such as TPCODL and WATCO.

Each allotted house is priced at ₹6 lakh, while the beneficiary will have to contribute only ₹1.5 lakh. Those unable to pay this amount can contribute ₹15,000 upfront and avail the remaining amount through bank loans. For this purpose, BMC has facilitated coordination with selected banks to assist the beneficiaries.

To simplify the loan process, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between HDFC Bank and BMC recently.

At the special function, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra attended as chief guest. Other dignitaries including BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, deputy mayor Manjulata Kanhar, BMC commissioner Chanchal Rana, Slum Settlement Standing Committee chairperson Mahamaya Swain, corporator Pritinanda Rautray, and senior HDFC Bank officials Arjunananda Bag (zonal head) and Sushanta Kumar Panigrahi (cluster head), among others joined the event.

Expressing his views, Mahapatra reiterated that every eligible person will be provided housing and no one will be left out. "The state government has launched several schemes to ensure housing for all. Besides the economically weaker sections, many middle-class and upper-middle-class families in Bhubaneswar also lack their own homes. Initiatives are already underway to provide affordable houses to them, ranging from ₹14 lakh to ₹50 lakh. The work is in progress, and houses will soon be allotted through the lottery system," he added.

Loyola School celebrates 25 years with marathon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Marking 25 glorious years of excellence, Loyola School hosted a marathon here Saturday. The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by popular actress and chief guest Varsha Priyadarshini, along with Rector Father Augustine Ezhakunnel SJ, Principal Father A Amaladoss SJ, Vice Principal (Senior Section) Nandita Pattanayak, and Vice Principal (Junior Section) Sister Esther Toppo.

This was followed by an address by Principal Father A Amaladoss who expressed gratitude to the 600 participants—including students from Classes V to XII, alumni, parents, teachers, and sponsors. The marathon was then flagged off from the school premises by Rector Father Augustine Ezhakunnel SJ. The participants covered distances of 1 km (for students of Classes V and VI), 2 km (for Classes VII and VIII), and 4 km (for Classes IX to XII, parents, alumni, and teachers).

On the occasion, a free eye check-up camp, a health screening camp, and a blood donation camp were organised in collaboration with Titan Eye Plus, GenX Diagnostics, and the Red Cross, respectively.

Exploring EU-India opportunities in collaboration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: This year's European Research Day was held in Bhubaneswar at the Mayfair Convention, in collaboration with the delegation of the European Union to India and EURAXESS India, and supported by KIIT University and the Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster.

The event highlighted the strategic research and innovation partnership between the EU and India, showcasing opportunities for Indian students to apply for prestigious fellowships and for researchers to collaborate with the EU and its member states.

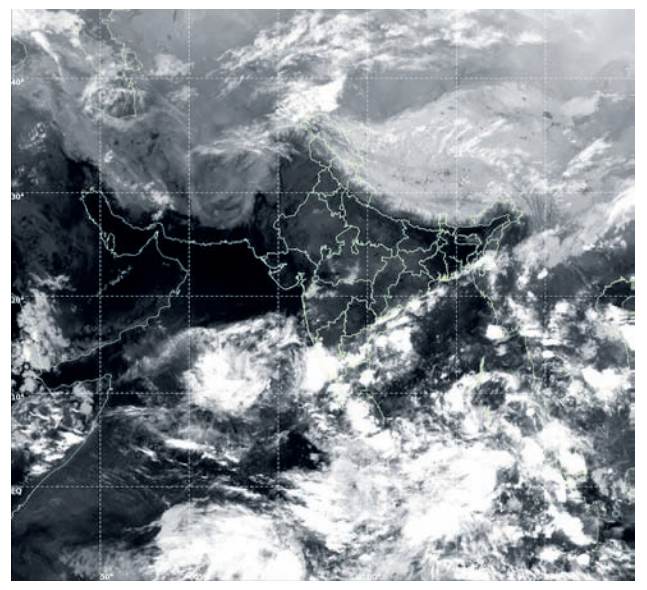
Tailored for the academic community in and around Bhubaneswar, the event spotlighted funding opportunities and collaborative projects under Horizon Europe, including EU-India co-funding calls, European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grants, as well as research, innovation, and fellowship programmes offered by EU member states. During the event, participants had the opportunity to interact directly with distinguished officials from Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, and the Netherlands. These experts highlighted opportunities for bilateral cooperation and career development aimed at fostering collaborative research initiatives. Attendees also gained valuable insights into the support services offered by the EURAXESS India network, which facilitates EU-India research collaborations and career opportunities in Europe.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH DAY

The event began with a welcome address by Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, First Counsellor at the delegation of the EU to India, followed by a keynote speech from Prof Mrutyunjay Suar, Director General (R&D and Innovation), KIIT University Bhubaneswar. Participants heard testimonies on EU fellowships and ongoing EU-India collaborations, while representatives from various EU countries showcased research, innovation, and study opportunities in Europe.

The event concluded with remarks from Namrata Misra, CEO of Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster, and Samrat S Kumar of EURAXESS India. A networking session provided participants with further opportunities for engagement and dialogue.

The European Union (EU), comprising 27 countries, is home to the world's second-largest economy and the third-largest population, after China and India. Despite its diversity, all EU member states share core values of peace, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. EU-India Cooperation on Mobility and Career Development: Europe remains a key destination for higher studies and research for Indian students, with nearly 100,000 currently pursuing education across the EU.



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.8°	31.6°
Min Temp	22.6°	21.4°
Humidity	73%	81%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST

Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Devaraj Tripathi, S/o - Late Ananda Chandra Tripathi, resident of plot no. 1203/A, Nilakanthanagar, Nayapalli, P.S - Nayapalli, PIN - 751012, Bhubanesware, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 848, dtd - 17.10.2025 that for all purposes I shall be known and signed as Devaraj Tripathi according to my Matric Certificate and Aadhaar Card, instead of Devraj Tripathi which reflects in some of my documents.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Animal Aid Centre shortage hits livestock farmers hard

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 18: Odisha's livestock sector, a key source of livelihood for many rural and landless families, is reeling under a severe shortage of animal aid centres and livestock inspectors. With more than 40% of posts lying vacant, many centres are either non-functional or overstretched, leaving farmers without timely veterinary care.

The state has 3,239 animal aid centres across 6,798 panchayats, in addition to 91 centres in government farms and other facilities. In total, 3,330 centres are operating, but only 1,928 livestock inspectors are currently in service. Another 91 inspectors are posted in farms and related facilities. This leaves 1,402 positions vacant, meaning around 42% of centres do not have inspectors, according to Lalitendu Dalei, state secretary of the All-India Livestock Inspectors' Professional Employees' Association.

In Bhadrak district, 114 centres are functioning with only 66 inspectors. Besides treatment, inspectors are engaged in implementing various government schemes such as the Chief Minister's Kamadhenu Yojana, the Chief Minister's Agriculture Enterprise Scheme, the National Livelihood Mission, livestock census, fodder cultivation, goat rearing, vaccination, artificial insemination, and insurance coverage. As frontline workers, they provide immediate medical services at farmers' doorsteps.

In 2006, the state Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services had announced plans to open one animal aid centre in every panchayat. However, the plan remains on paper. With a change in government, expectations have risen that this long-delayed notification may finally be implemented.

Meanwhile, out of 667 posts in the veterinary technician (VT) cadre, 135 remain vacant, adding to the workload of inspectors. Many inspectors said they are under pressure, handling multiple responsibilities without adequate support. Despite raising long-pending demands, they claim their concerns are often ignored as they are considered lower-level employees. The Odisha Non-Gazetted Veterinary Professionals' Association has written several letters to the department, but inspectors said they rarely get a chance to discuss their issues directly with the director.

"At the grassroots, inspectors not only provide veterinary services but also implement government schemes. We are expected to meet departmental targets, handle fieldwork, and manage online reporting. Unfortunately, the first six years of service are not counted in career progression. Our demands have been pending for years without resolution. We hope the new government will take steps to fulfill them." said Dalei.

"After the recent interviews for inspector posts, some candidates are undergoing training. Once they complete it, they will be appointed, which will help fill a portion of the vacancies." Said Dr. Hrushikesh Behera, chief district veterinary officer, Bhadrak.

Similipal Tiger Reserve reopens

PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Oct 18: The Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha's Mayurbhanj reopened for tourists Saturday, after remaining shut during the monsoon months, an official notification said.

The STR, spread over 2,759 sq km, was closed from June 30 to October 17.

According to the revised guidelines, a total of 60 vehicles will be permitted to enter the reserve each day, with 35 from the Jashipur gate and 25 through the Pithabata check gate near Baripada.

According to a notification issued by STR Field Director Prakash Chand Gogineni, tourists can enter the park between 5:00 am and 9:00 am from the Jashipur side, and between 8:00 am and 9:00 am from the Pithabata gate. All visitors must exit the reserve by 6:00 am on the same day.

Notably, rare melanistic tigers, the Royal Bengal Tiger, leopards, Asian elephants, barking deer, four-horned antelopes and giant squirrels are among the prime attractions at the Similipal Tiger Reserve. It also has a variety of plant species, 96 types of orchids, 242 categories of birds and 30 reptiles, an official said.

Engg student drowns at Tunki waterfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, Oct 18: An engineering diploma student identified as Soumit Kumar Patra of the Murugabadi area in Baripada reportedly drowned at Tunki Waterfall under Khunta police limits in Mayurbhanj, authorities said.

According to police, Soumit had visited the waterfall with a friend.

He went into the water to bathe while his friend remained outside to record video. Soumit reportedly slipped and was swept into deep waters.

Locals rushed to the spot and alerted the fire department who recovered him and took him to hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

4-yr old dies after falling into burning chullah

Mahakalapara: A 4-year-old boy reportedly died Saturday after accidentally falling into a burning chullah during preparations of food for a death anniversary feast at Pareshwarpur village under Mahakalapara block in Kendrapada district. The deceased, Omkar Pradhan, reportedly slipped and fell into the burning chullah during preparation of food for the 'shraddha' ceremony of his deceased grandfather. He was rushed to the nearby hospital, but as his condition worsened, he was referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, where he died during treatment.

Admin cracks down on illegal sand mining following local protest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Oct 18: Residents of Karagola in Ambho panchayat ended their two-day protest outside the Anandapur sub-collector's office in Keonjhar Saturday after authorities launched crackdown against illegal sand mining from the Baitarani riverbed.

A team comprising district mining officer, tehsildar, SDPO, police IIC, enforcement unit and other officials arrived at the riverbed to begin enforcement. Trenches were dug on the access road to block the movement of sand-laden vehicles.

Officials also found a newly constructed road to the sandbed, felled trees, and an embankment purportedly built on the riverbed by the sand mafia to divert the natural flow of water.

Notably, an earlier attempt by the tehsildar and mining officials to dig a similar trench was failed after receiving alleged death threats from the sand mafia. However, no suspects have yet been identified in that incident, nor any action have been taken against those believed to have built the road, felled trees or altered the river's course.

Sub-Collector Nila Madhab Suna said, "The sit-in by the residents was withdrawn around 2 pm." He said the diverted stream would be restored to its natural course and raids would continue regularly.

"Illegal sand transport will not be tolerated under any circumstances," Suna said.

Two get life term for 2002 murder

Anandapur: A court here in Anandpur Saturday sentenced two men to life imprisonment for the brutal murder of four brothers in Panchugochhia village under Anandapur police limits in Keonjhar district in 2002. According to case records, in July 2002, villagers Dhaneswar Ojha and Damodar Ojha attacked and killed four brothers — Jaldhar Dalai, Budhia Dalai, Sadhu Dalai and Uddhab Dalai — over past enmity. The victims were allegedly chased down and assaulted with lethal weapons on the village road, leading to their deaths. Initially, seven persons were named in the case, but four were later acquitted for lack of evidence, while one of the accused has since died. After examining 25 witnesses and 80 documents, the Anandapur Additional District and Sessions Judge found Dhaneswar and Damodar guilty under sections 302 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code. Both convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment and fined ₹1 lakh each. Failure to pay the fine will result in an additional two years of rigorous imprisonment, the court ordered.

Survey finds alternative for Kalinga Ghat road

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Oct 18: A high-level committee led by Bhanjanagar MLA Pradyumna Kumar Nayak conducted a survey to identify an alternative route for Kalinga Ghat, which has remained blocked for over a month following landslides. The move comes as the existing road is yet to be restored and National Highway authorities have been criticised for the slow pace of work, affecting local commuters.

The National Highway Division informed during a review meeting in Bhanjanagar that work is underway, aiming to allow four-wheeler and two-wheeler vehicles on the road on a trial basis by October 25. However, local residents demanded that another existing temporary route be upgraded and opened for daily use to ensure long-term connectivity.

During the survey, the committee found no major landslides along the approximately five-kilometre stretch. Officials discussed how the route could function as a permanent alternative in the future. Government approval for the alternative road is expected in the coming days.

Officials present during the survey included Bhanjanagar Sub-Collector Uma Shankar Behera, DFO Himanshu Shekhar Mohanty, Jagannathprasad Block Vice Chairman Neelachal Khilar, senior officers from the Public Works, Rural Development, Minor Irrigation, and other departments.

Three killed, one critically injured in head-on bike collision in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 18: Three persons were killed and another sustained critical injuries after two motorcycles collided head-on near Tekaguda village under Korukonda police limits in Malkangiri district Saturday morning.

According to reports, around 8:30am, Mohan Majhi (26), and his relative Madhu Jani of Suliya Colony in Korukonda block were travelling towards Malkangiri on a motorcycle when another two-wheeler coming from the opposite direction, en route Balimela, rammed into their bike near Tekaguda Square. The second bike was reportedly carrying Jamuna Sardar and his relative Ram Kumar, both residents of MV-36 village.

The impact of the collision was so severe that Majhi died on the spot. Locals immediately called for an ambulance and rushed the other three victims — Sardar, Ram Kumar, and Jani — to the Malkangiri district headquarters hospital (DHH). However, Sardar and Ram Kumar succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment. Jani remains in critical condition, hospital sources said.

Upon being informed, Korukonda police reached the accident site, recovered the body, and sent them for post-mortem examination. The body of Majhi was handed over to his family members after the autopsy. Meanwhile, the identities of Sardar's and Ram Kumar's family members were not immediately established. The two bodies have been kept at the hospital morgue until their families are identified, said Korukonda police station officer-in-charge Himanshu Sekhar Barik.

PUBLIC NOTICE : LOSS OF ID CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mr Shibani Shankar Pradhan issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. 2525144 has been found missing and/or lost on 15.10.2025. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager, Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Bhubaneswar.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. 2525144

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

Date : 15.10.2025
Place : BHUBANESWAR
Sd./- For ICICI Bank Limited

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

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

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8 (1) & (2)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the 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(s)/Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Sailashree Vihar Branch,** for the amount stated below with interest thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.**

SAILASHREE VIHAR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession (Symbolic) Notice	Description of Immovable Property/ies
Borrowers: 1) M/s Sai Creations, Prop.: Mr. Shakti Prasad Panda, S/o- Mr. Trilochan Panda, Plot No.: H2/78, HIG-II/117, Satyasai Enclave, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751030, **2) Mr. Shakti Prasad Panda,** S/o- Mr. Trilochan Panda, Prop. of M/s Sai Creations, Flat No.: 101, Kripalu Residency, Patia Station Road, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751024 **/ Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Jhunulata Panda,** W/o- Mr. Trilochan Panda, IB Road, Fakirpur, Jagatpur, Cuttack, PIN-754021.	₹31,05,887.84 + interest & other charges thereon	31.07.2025 / 18.10.2025	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 2267/5269, Khata No.: 772/413, Mouza: Nimpur, PS: Tangi, Tahasil: Tangi Choudwar, SRO/DSRO: Cuttack, admesuring Area: Ac.0.080dec., Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of **Mrs. Jhunulata Panda,** W/o- Mr. Trilochan Panda. Bounded by- North: Gobinda Chandra Sahoo (Plot No. 2267(P), South: Renubala Mishra (Plot No. 2267(P), East: Road, West: Railway Land.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 18.10.2025 — **Authorized Officer, Bank of India**

Regional Office (Sambalpur Region)
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to our **Possession Notice** published in the **"The Orissa Post"** dated **17.10.2025,** the Branch Name should be read as **Madhiapalli Branch,** instead of Bolangir Branch. All other facts remain unchanged.

Place: Sambalpur Date: 18.10.2025 — Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETELCONBBST-377E, Dated : 11.10.2025

NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF PRECISION AC OF 2TR CAPACITY AND 2TR SPLIT AC AT SERVICE BUILDING, SIGNAL & TELECOM GOOMTIES IN CONNECTION WITH SASON-SARALA (3RD & 4TH LINE), JARPADA-BUDHAPANK (3RD & 4TH LINE), LEFTOVER STATIONS / LOCATIONS OF SALEGAON - BUDHAPANK (3RD & 4TH LINE) AND AT BHUBANESWAR, SAMBALPUR & ANGUL UNIT OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 119.23 Lakhs, **EMD :** ₹ 2,09,600/-, **Completion Period of the Work :** 12 Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of 11.11.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderer should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B,G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Con-I)/ Bhubaneswar
PR-137/CI/25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIIBBS 2025045, Dated : 10.10.2025

NAME OF WORK : CONSTRUCTION OF 1ST AND 2ND FLOOR OF TOURIST COMPLEX AND PROVISION OF SEPARATE BUILDING FOR GRP, RPF AND PARCEL OFFICES AT PURI STATION UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 2335.96 Lakh, **EMD :** ₹ 13,18,000/-, **Completion Period of the Work :** 06 (Six) Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 hrs. of 11.11.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B/G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ Bhubaneswar
PR-138/CI/25-26

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Santosh Pradhan, S/o. Nar Singh Pradhan, R/o.: Village Dhepasahi, Post-Chandaragiri, P.S-Mohana, District-Gajapati, Odisha** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.113/2025 Dated 09.05.2025 & FIR No.223/2024 Dated 12.11.2024 Both U/S 20/25/29 NDPS Act** registered at **P.S Crime Branch, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said accused **Santosh Pradhan** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Santosh Pradhan** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Santosh Pradhan**, accused of **FIR No.113/2025 Dated 09.05.2025 & FIR No.223/2024 Dated 12.11.2024 Both U/S 20/25/29 NDPS Act, P.S Crime Branch, Prashant Vihar, Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.01.2026.**

DP/14057/Crime/2025 (Court Matter)

By Order, Sh. Shivaji Anand
Additional Sessions Judge-02,
Special Judge (NDPS), Room No. 409,
Distt. North-West, Rohini Courts, Delhi

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

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

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

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

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) / 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the **Bank of India**, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of India,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis** on Auction Date mentioned hereunder, for recovery of balance due to the **Bank of India** from the Borrower as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/Co-Borrower, amount due, short description of the immovable properties and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	**HARIPUR BRANCH, PH.: 7008788077 / Borrower: Mrs. Pravati Kodmasingh / Co-Borrower: Mr. Prabhakar Kodmasingh,** Both are At/P.O.: Haripursasan, Haripur, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752034 **/ Total Dues: ₹27,38,000/-** + interest,costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Ground Floor Residential Building on Khata No.: 743/ 162, Plot No.: 1761, Plot Area: Ac.0.142 Dec. i.e. 6185.52 Sqft, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Haripur, P.S.: Tangi, Tahasil: Chilika, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, Standing in the name of **Mrs. Pravati Kodmasingh,** W/o: Mr. Prabhakar Kodmasingh, Bounded by East: Road, West: Prafulla Sahu, North: Sanatan Samantra, South: Lochan Samantra.	₹21,51,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,15,100/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	**HARIPUR BRANCH, PH.: 7008788077 / Borrower: Mrs. Pratima Swain,** W/o: Mr. Manmohan Swain **/ Co-Borrower: Mr. Manmohan Swain,** S/o: Gurunath Swain, Both are At: Nimei Malla, P.O.: Dibyasinghpur, PS.: Banpur, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752031**/ Total Dues: ₹19,74,000/-** + interest,costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Ground Floor Residential Building on Khata No.: 261/ 50, Plot No.: 1310, Plot Area: Ac.0.132 Dec. i.e. 5749.92 Sqft, Mouza: Nimei Malla, P.S.: Banpur, Thana No.: 198, Tahasil: Chilika, Tahasil No.: 198, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, Standing in the name of **Mrs. Pratima Swain,** W/o: Mr. Manmohan Swain, Bounded by East: Mr. Golakha Bihari Behera, West: Mrs. Pratima Swain, North: Road, South: Mr. Dhruba Charan Behera.	₹22,37,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,23,700/- / ₹ 50,000/-
3.	**PURI BRANCH, PH.: 9437199488 / Borrower: Mr. Krushna Chandra Mishra,** At: Mahaveer Enclave, Maruti Nagar, Siddha Mahaveer, Puri, PIN - 752002 **/ Total Dues: ₹38,21,000/-**+ interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Flat No.: 108, 1st Floor, Type-1BHK, S+4 Storied RCC Framed structure Residential Apartment Complex having SBA-545 Sqft, Carpet Area: 436 Sqft. with undivided proportionate share for the Flat Ac. 0.207 Dec. i.e. 9017 sqft., along with parking space in the apartment name & Style as **"MAHAVEER ENCLAVE"** Apartment bearing **1)** Khata No.: 264/40, Plot No.: 237/831, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. **(Owner: Mrs. Madhusmita Mishra & Mr. Shreenibas Pathi), 2)** Khata No.: 264/39, Plot No.: 237/830, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. **(Owner: Mrs. Debadutta Devi), 3)** Khata No.: 264/38, Plot No.: 237/829, Area: Ac. 0.069 Dec. i.e. 3006 sqft. **(Owner: Mrs. Uttara Das),** Mouza: Puri Town Unit - 33 Siddha Mahaveer, PS: Puri Town (33), Tahasil: Puri (673), Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Standing in the name of **Mr. Krushna Chandra Mishra,** S/o: Ashok Kumar Mishra, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: Flat No.: 107, North: Corridor, South: Open Space	₹25,50,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,55,000/- / ₹ 50,000/-
4.	**PURI BRANCH, PH.: 9437199488 / Borrower: Mr. Trinath Sahoo,** S/o: Sudam Sahoo **/ Co-Borrower: Mr. Ramakanta Sahoo,** S/o: Trinath Sahoo, Both are At: Shyamakali Lane, Balisahi, Puri, Odisha - 752001 **/ Total Dues: ₹19,50,000/-** + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Residential vacant Land pertaining to Plot No.: 168/ 1001, under Revenue Khata No.: 131/1138, having Area: Ac.0.025.2 Dec. i.e. 1097 Sqft., Mouza: Puri Sahar Unit No.: 4 Lokanathghat, P.S./SRO: Puri Town No.: 04, Tahasil: Puri No.: 644, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, in the name of **Mr. Trinath Sahoo,** Bounded by East: Balaram Pradhan, West: Basti Road, North: Jagneswar Pradhan, South: Road	₹21,00,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹2,10,000/- / ₹ 50,000/-

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

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

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

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

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15/30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 19.10.2025 — **Authorised Officer, Bank of India**

> There is no greater courage than that of recognizing one's own mistakes.
>
> THE MOTHER

Empty Ambition

When was the last time you read or saw something about India and the G20? And what do you recall from that memory? Like me, for many readers, the answers are most likely to be: When India was in the presidency a couple of years ago, and the posters and hoardings about India's presidency.

If asked what outcomes were achieved in that presidency or what plans exist to follow up with what we initiated, I do not have an answer because, like you, I do not know. The G20 thing was an opportunity for an event, and that event is over.

A few days ago, again, India went to the United Nations and asked that the institution reform itself. Formed in 1945 just after World War 2 ended and two years before Indian independence, the UN Security Council retains the same five permanent members. When India uses the words UN reform, what we mean is that we also want a permanent seat in the Security Council, with a veto.

In the words of our foreign minister, 'The historical injustice done to Africa should be redressed. Both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Council must be expanded. A reformed Council must be truly representative. And India stands ready to assume greater responsibilities.'

These greater responsibilities that we are ready to assume is the subject of this piece. It is fine to have ambition; the question is what we want to do with it.

Aakar Patel

The BJP's 2024 manifesto, like the one in 2019, has a line about this. It reads: 'We are committed to seeking permanent membership in the UN Security Council to elevate Bharat's position in global decision making.'

How would this be secured? This was not elaborated on. What would India say to convince all five permanent members and two-thirds of the general assembly that it should be given more power? What was the pathway to becoming more popular with the world? No mention of that.

Other than the idea that India was entitled to more than it had and should be given it by the world, there appears to be no direct and specific aim of this aspect of foreign policy.

Let us suppose we got this seat. What would we do with it that we cannot do today? No clarity on that either. On Gaza and Ukraine, the two most pressing global issues of our time, India's contribution has been to abstain from crucial votes in the UN. Having or not having the veto would have made no difference when there is nothing one has to say to the world.

On Gaza and Ukraine, the two most pressing global issues of our time, India's contribution has been to abstain from crucial votes in the UN. Having or not having the veto would have made no difference when there is nothing one has to say to the world

China's rise since 1990 to superpower has come on the back of industrial policy and economic growth, not on the basis of its UNSC seat.

In the 2014 manifesto, the BJP said that in the foreign policy of its predecessor the UPA, 'instead of clarity, we have seen confusion' and because of 'absence of statecraft', India 'is seen to be floundering, whereas it should have been engaging with the world with confidence'.

Under Manmohan Singh India had 'failed to establish enduring friendly and cooperative relations with India's neighbours' and 'India and its neighbours have drifted apart'. The party would correct this and 'strengthen SAARC'. The fact is that SAARC has not met since November 2014, because we do not have any interest in it. The leaders of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have all changed since that summit meeting. India has the same person at the helm.

We cannot even bring our neighbourhood together but believe that if given more power at the UN we can reform the world. The BJP's manifestos tell us the party will do more to link with ASEAN, but we chose in 2019 not to join the free trade agreement spearheaded by ASEAN, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

The words 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' appear in the manifestos but try telling Rohingya fleeing genocide that India sees humanity as a joint family. Try telling the Bangladeshi refugee that, or those excluded from the Citizenship Amendment Act. There is no value residing in those two words and they offer nothing other than platitudes.

The question we must then come to is this: If we do not have a pathway of getting there and if we do not know what we will do with our veto, why are we clamouring for a bigger role? The answer takes us back to where we started in this column. It gives us a forum to strut about and pretend we are the leader of the world and the leading light of the global community.

It is another place where we can pretend we are relevant, and can display our personalised and very physical diplomacy.

The world knows this. It has observed us and has heard our words and our silences and abstentions. It does not for a moment buy the idea that any one nation 'deserves' a thing more than the rest of them.

It is for this reason that it is a good thing that the government has not laid out a pathway to getting to a UNSC permanent seat. If it did, there would be questions for which it has no answers.

WISDOM CORNER

> I get inspiration from a lot of things around me - nature, hills, people, and even insects.
>
> RUSKIN BOND

> It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.
>
> MARK TWAIN

> I am married and happy. My only wish is that nothing will change.
>
> ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1781:** On this day 1781, Britain's Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, handing a huge victory to American General George Washington and effectively ending the American Revolution and assuring America's independence.
- **1812:** Napoleon began his disastrous retreat from Russia.
- **1914:** During World War I, the First Battle of Ypres began in western Flanders; the Allies and Germans settled into the trench warfare that would characterize the remainder of the war on the Western Front.

FOCUS HEALTH

PATIENTS VS PATENT

While the Supreme Court's refusal to grant relief to Swiss Company Roche is hailed publicly as another landmark decision but this is not the end. This is just the provision of providing interim relief to Natco to launch the generic version of Risdiplam in Indian market

Guru Prasad Mohanta

THE TOP COURT'S DECISION ONCE AGAIN PROVED INDIA'S PHILOSOPHY OF PEOPLES' INTEREST IS ABOVE PROFITS

On 17th October 2025, the Supreme Court of India has rejected the petition filed by the International Pharmaceutical Giant, Roche, against the Delhi High Court's order allowing the domestic pharma company, Natco, to market the generic version of Risdiplam, the only available remedy in India. The Delhi High Court has refused on 9th October to provide injunction against the selling of generic version of only drug available for treating spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)bringing huge relief to the SMA patients and care giver. At present very expensive unaffordable treatment is available in our country as the medicine is under patent protection. The SC's decision once again proved India's philosophy of peoples' interest is above profits.

The Swiss company, F Hoffmann-La Roche Limited, holds Indian patent for this drug in 2015 and is valid till 2035. The company claims that it is a new chemical entity and does not cover the company's earlier patents. The Natco argued that Roche is trying to get the patent protection without much advancement of science, something called evergreening. Roche had earlier filed petition against the Indian Pharma Natco's plan to market the generic version of Risdiplam at Delhi High Court. Delhi High Court bench in its verdict says there is no reason to intervene the single judge verdict allowing Natco Pharma to market generic version. The generic version of the medicine is expected to bring the treatment cost down from Rs 600,000 to Rs 15,900 per bottle. SMA is a rare genetic disorder for which no affordable treatment is available.

Spinal muscular atrophy is a very severe genetic disorder mostly affecting newborns, toddlers, and young adults. It affects the muscles in the limbs, face, chest, throat and tongue. Thus, the disease causes movement loss (adversely affecting walking) and, in some cases, death from respiratory failure. There would be progressive weakness and muscle wasting. The weakness tends to be more severe in the muscles that are close to the centre of the body (proximal) compared to muscles away from the body's centre (distal). The muscle weakness usually worsens with age. There are many types of spinal muscular atrophy that are caused by changes in the same genes. The new treatments are the hope for the parents and children. There are three drugs available globally: Zolgensma, Risdiplamand Nusinersane. Risdiplam (brand name Evrysdi) is marketed by Roche is only available in our country. The novel therapies provide a much needed relieve: the children with SMA type 1 who could not even hold the head are now walking if the treatment is started early. The novel treatment is available but access to the treatmentis a big question mark. The treatment is essential for successful outcomes and well-being of these unfortunate individuals.

The question-and-answer session in the parliament (11 February 2022) confirms that National registry has 295 Spinal Muscular Atrophy cases. Of them, 188 (63.70%) are male and 107 (37.30 %) are female. Preliminary analysis of age distribution of the cases (N=295) are as follows: <1 year-140 (47.5%); 1 to <5 years- 91 (30.8%); 5 to <10 years-9(3.1%) and Not Known-46(15.6%). The government cannot do much as the treatment (drugs) are protected under the Patent Act. Government's initiative is restricted to support individuals. Crowd funding approach is also made available through government portal. The government has established a rare disease fund to support treatment cost but is not sustainable. During 2022-23, the fund has supported 203 patients to the tune of Rs 35 crore. The government has also provided full waiver of Basic Customs Duty (BCD) and IGST to drugs imported (personal use only) for treatment of SMA, thereby making the medicines for SMA more affordable. The current price of available drug, Risdiplam in India is reported to be Rs 6,00,000. The Natco Pharma proposed to sell the generic version at Rs 15,900 for a 60 mg/80 ml bottle. The annual cost of Roche's patented product is Rs 72 lakh and the cost of generic version for the same period is Rs 5 lakh. Just think of what a huge relief to the patients mostly children and their care givers. India has one-sixth of global burden of SMA cases.

While the SC's refusal to grant relief to Roche is hailed publicly as another landmark decision but this is not the end. This is just the provision of providing interim relief to Natco to launch the generic version of Risdiplam in Indian market. The patent infringement case would continue in Delhi High Court till final disposal. Public interest logic should prevail over patent exclusivity.

The writer is former Professor and Head (Department of Pharmacy),Annamalai University, Chennai

SPECTRUM EURASIA

De-risking and repositioning

Maciej Artur Gaca

OVER THE PAST YEAR, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND INDIA HAVE ACCELERATED — AND NOT BY COINCIDENCE

In the past three years, both the European Union and India have been forced to redefine what "strategic autonomy" actually means. For Europe, the shock came from the pandemic, Russia's war against Ukraine, and the deep realization that its prosperity had been quietly built on external dependencies — on Russian gas, American technology, and Chinese supply chains.

For India, the shock was geopolitical as well as civilizational: the limits of China's power had become visible, but so had the limits of disengagement.

Today, both Delhi and Brussels are experimenting with new grammars of dependence — not decoupling, but de-risking; not confrontation, but repositioning.

In October 2025, Beijing introduced a fresh round of export controls on technologies linked to the processing of rare earth metals and the production of high-performance magnets. It was a political gesture with measurable economic weight. Once again, China reminded the world that it can govern the time of global supply chains. It doesn't need to raise tariffs or ban exports; a simple delay in licensing or a pause in shipment is enough to make the entire system tremble.

This subtle mastery of timing — of making the world wait — has become the new dimension of resource geopolitics. Both India and Europe have learned this lesson. The question is: how to respond without turning protectionism into dogma?

Europe's answer has been to regulate. The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), now in force, sets measurable targets for mining, processing, and recycling by 2030. The European Union has also launched anti-subsidy measures against Chinese electric vehicles — with temporary tariffs reaching up to 37 percent — and introduced new instruments for screening foreign investments and state aid transparency.

A Polish example, the electric car project Izera (based on Chinese Geely's platform), shows how fragile this balancing act can be: a European ambition wrapped in an Asian supply chain.

For Brussels, the goal is not to exclude China entirely, but to turn interdependence into a calculated risk, not an existential one.

India, by contrast, builds networks rather than regulations. Its Atmanirbhar Bharat and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have created an ecosystem for domestic manufacturing, while partnerships with Africa and the Quad members help secure access to critical minerals. Delhi's diversification drive has already reshaped global expectations: autonomy is no longer defined by separation, but by multiplicity.

Over the past year, relations between the European Union and India have accelerated — and not by coincidence. The joint Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is already operational, focusing on supply-chain security, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence. In parallel, the 14th round of negotiations on the EU–India Free Trade Agreement is underway, with a political goal of conclusion before the end of 2025. These developments mark a shift in perception: Brussels increasingly sees Delhi not merely as a market, but as a strategic partner in re-balancing Chinese influence across Eurasia.

In this sense, India and Europe meet not in rhetoric but in practice — in their shared understanding that diversification is no longer a slogan, but a language of survival.

India's own policy toward Chinese investment has never been doctrinaire. While the 2020 Press Note 3 restrictions still limit direct investment from China, New Delhi is now considering selective relaxation in low-risk, non-strategic sectors — particularly consumer goods and low-tech manufacturing. This signals a form of conscious balancing: neither isolation nor full openness, but managed interdependence. It is perhaps the emerging model of the post-global era — not cutting ties, but calibrating connection.

The EU protects the logic of the market; India redraws the geometry of the chain. Europe builds defensive walls of rules; India lays adaptive bridges of cooperation. Yet both face the same paradox: how to remain open in a world that increasingly rewards closure.

For Europe, the universality of its solutions — the CRMA's quantifiable targets, the principle of conditional market access, the rhetoric of "de-risking" — may serve as templates, not as transferable laws. India, on the other hand, turns these templates into practice, guided less by regulation than by intuition.

If there is a common denominator, it lies here: Both sides know that China no longer controls the space of globalization — it controls its tempo. And that, for the first time in decades, makes time itself a strategic resource.

The writer is expert, Centre for International Relations, Poland

INFA

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Clear the blocks, unfold miracle

Sir, The universe is a vast, generous force, ready to grant your deepest desires—if only you clear the blocks in your path. Imagine a common man driving to the airport, navigating a maze of traffic, speed breakers, diversions, and roadworks. The journey, riddled with lefts, rights, U-turns, and red signals, may take hours. Yet, the Prime Minister's convoy glides through the same city in just 10-15 minutes. Why? The path is cleared—no obstacles, no delays, just a smooth, efficient route to the destination. Your dreams work the same way. The universe wants to deliver, but internal and external blocks—doubts, fears, limiting beliefs, or distractions—act like traffic jams, slowing your progress. Clear these, and miracles unfold. Start by identifying your mental roadblocks: self-doubt, procrastination, or negative self-talk. Replace them with clarity, focus, and belief in your worth. Externally, remove toxic influences or habits that derail your journey. Like a PM's convoy, align your thoughts, actions, and energy with your goals. Trust the process, take inspired steps, and watch the universe conspire to make your dreams reality.

TS Karthik, CHENNAI

Venezuela in trouble

Sir, Venezuela has accused the US of aggression after President Donald Trump admitted authorising covert CIA operations to undermine President Nicolás Maduro's government. The US has also launched its sixth strike on alleged drug boats in the Caribbean, killing 27 people. Trump's move revives Cold War–style interventions once seen in Guatemala, Cuba, and Chile. Washington claims Maduro runs a drug network, though US intelligence agencies disagree. Observers believe the real aim is to control Venezuela's vast oil and gas reserves and curb its ties with Russia, China, and Cuba. Maduro's disputed 2024 re-election and economic mismanagement have worsened the crisis, forcing millions to flee. Venezuela has taken the matter to the UN as global pressure mounts for a peaceful, diplomatic resolution. It remains to be seen how much UN is able to deliver as its major constituent is US itself.

RS Narula, PATIALA

KARGIL BUCKWHEAT HONEY

New pathways for rural livelihood

According to an official, buckwheat honey extraction at School of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh, was part of efforts to promote apiculture in the region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kargil, Oct 18: A Kargil-based agricultural institute has devised a new method to extract honey from buckwheat crops, opening new pathways towards sustainable agriculture and rural livelihood development

According to an official, buckwheat honey extraction at School of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh, was part of efforts to promote apiculture in the region.

In 2019, honey was extracted from alfalfa crop at the institute which was earlier named as Mountain Agriculture Research and Extension Station, Kargil.

"This year, the School of Agriculture Science and Technology, Kargil formulated a floral calendar and accordingly introduced bee colonies in synchronisation with floral period of alfalfa and buckwheat and thus able to extract honey from both the crops resulting in a significance development in apiculture as honey was extracted for the first time from buckwheat crop," an official of the institute said.

He said the buckwheat crop was sown July 22 and later in synchronisation with the flowering of buckwheat crop, bee colonies were introduced from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir August 24.

After a gap of one-and-a-half month, honey was extracted from these colonies marking a historic step, the official said, adding that the extraction of buckwheat honey has opened new pathways towards sustainable agriculture, rural livelihood development, and biodiversity conservation.

He said the unique altitude and climate of Kargil have given this honey a distinctive aroma and taste, setting it apart from other regional varieties and making a way for the untapped potential for high quality honey production from Kargil region.

The official said the institute is planning to expand more bee colonies in desirable villages, honey branding, and marketing and to promote buckwheat honey of Kargil as a unique GI-tagged product in the future.

Six-lane highway in Kerala soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kozhikode, Oct 18: Kerala's long-awaited six-lane national highway, stretching 45 metres wide from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram, will be opened to the public as a New Year gift in 2026, state Public Works and Tourism Minister P A Mohammed Riyas said Saturday.

He described the project as the realisation of a long-cherished dream of Malayalis, made possible through the strong resolve and determined efforts of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.

Riyas was speaking at the inauguration of the 'Vision 2031' Public Works Department (PWD) seminar, according to a statement.

"When the government assumed office, there were only two options before us regarding the national highway project, either abandon it or find the required funds. For the first time in India's history, a state decided to raise its own funds for national highway development," he said.

The state spent ₹5,580 crore to make the project a reality, Riyas said, adding that the highway's development would open new avenues for Kerala's comprehensive growth.

Outlining the PWD's initiatives, he said the department's primary goal is to transform Kerala into an infrastructure development hub by 2031, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the state's formation.

"In the past nine and a half years, we have made remarkable progress in the development sector. Kerala has become one of the few places where BM–BC (Bituminous Macadam–Bituminous Concrete) roads are available even in rural areas," he said.

Riyas added that smart roads have been developed in cities to improve transport infrastructure and that all PWD roads would be built as "smart design roads." By 2031, the aim is to upgrade 100 per cent of state roads to modern standards, he said.

State highways will be converted into four-lane design roads, and major district roads will be upgraded to two-lane standards in a phased manner. Elevated highways will be built along major urban routes with heavy traffic, he added.

A comprehensive road network map will be prepared to connect major tourist destinations, and an integrated road connectivity plan for tribal regions will be implemented jointly with other departments, Riyas said.

Kerala opens Mullaperiyar dam as water level crosses 137 feet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Idukki (Kerala), Oct 18: Following heavy rains, the water levels at various dams in Idukki have risen, prompting authorities to release water, the district administration said Saturday.

The water level in the Mullaperiyar dam has crossed 137 feet, leading to the opening of three shutters to 75 cm and the release of 163 cusecs of water at 9 am, according to an official statement.

At 8 am, the water level at the dam was recorded as 138.25 ft above the permissible limit, officials said.

The volume of water released may be increased later in accordance with the rule curve, they said.

Residents living along the banks of the Periyar River have been advised to remain vigilant.

Instructions have been issued to the respective tahsildars to relocate people from flood-prone areas. The Idukki Sub-Collector has been assigned to coordinate disaster management operations.

Meanwhile, four shutters at the Kallar dam were raised by 60 cm, releasing 1063 cusecs of water. Authorities have alerted people living along the banks of the Kallar and Chinnar rivers about possible flooding.

Four shutters of the Malankara diversion dam also remain open. The inflow to the dam depends on water released after power generation at the Kerala State Electricity Board's Moolamattom plant.

The water level at the Idukki reservoir, the largest dam in the state, was recorded 2,381.92 ft, and live storage was 75.80 per cent at 7 am. All the gates of the dam are currently closed, officials said.

PTI PHOTO

Army officials during patrol and tactical drills along the Line of Control (LoC) near the India-Pakistan border, in Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, Thursday

Kerala launches India's first travel literature fest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 18: Kerala Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas Friday launched India's first travel literature festival -- Yaanam 2025 -- in the coastal town of Varkala here and said it would be an annual feature that brings together writers, artists and travel enthusiasts from around the world to share their experiences.

After inaugurating the three-day festival at Ranga Kala Kendram at the Cliff here, Riyas said the three-day event would also showcase diverse offerings of Kerala before a global audience, according to a Kerala Tourism release. Organised by Kerala Tourism, the October 17-19 festival brings together leading travel writers, vloggers and social media influencers from around the world, setting the stage for them to share their insights and perspectives on sustainable and inclusive tourism to meet the demands of the present-day travellers, the release said.

'Celebrating Words and Wanderlust' is the theme of the festival, it said. Riyas, in his address, noted that the event was being held at a time when travel literature and visual travelogues across the globe were undergoing significant and impactful changes. He also termed the travel lit fest as a path-breaking initiative of Kerala Tourism.

"This country's first festival will propel the tourism prospects of Varkala specifically, by introducing the tourism potential of this picturesque coastal town to the world. It will also add impetus to the arrival of tourists to this scenic destination," Riyas said.

FAMILY SEEKS JUSTICE

Kerala boy denied school bus ride over unpaid fees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malappuram(Kerala), Oct 18: A five-year-old boy was allegedly not allowed to board his school bus a couple of days ago over non-payment of bus fees in this district, police said Saturday.

The incident occurred Thursday and a complaint was received from the child's family in this regard on the same day, they said.

The family and the school authorities were asked to come to the Thenjipalam police station to discuss the issue, but the child's side could not as they were somewhere else, an officer said.

The child's family said they can come on Saturday, but the school was closed during the weekend and its officials were not available.

"Therefore, both sides have been asked to come Monday," he said.

The school authorities have denied the child's family's allegations, the police said.

MODERN FARMING BENEFITS

Samba farmer earns lakhs from floriculture

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Samba, Oct 18: Samba district is fast emerging as a symbol of agricultural innovation in Jammu and Kashmir. Several farmers are moving beyond traditional practices to embrace modern farming techniques.

Among these pioneers is Rampal Sharma, who is a progressive farmer from Tarore village. His journey from conventional farming to earning lakhs through floriculture has become an inspiration for the entire region.

For the past ten years, Rampal Sharma has taken an experimental and forward-looking approach to agriculture. By actively participating in government training programmes, availing the benefits of schemes, and adopting modern technology, he has successfully transformed farming into a profitable business.

While talking, he recalls how he started with traditional crops like wheat, paddy, and maize. But over time, he realised that crop diversification and the use of modern techniques could yield higher returns, even from limited land. This realisation led him to venture into flower cultivation.

Presently, Rampal cultivates various types of ornamental flowers on 12 kanals of land. These flowers enjoy steady demand in the market throughout the year.

"Flower farming does require more care and effort, but if done scientifically, the profits are just as high," he stated with a smile.

"In just one four-month crop cycle, I make a net profit of nearly ₹5 lakhs," he added confidently.

Rampal has smartly utilised various schemes provided by the Agriculture Department, Floriculture Department, Horticulture Department, and the National Horticulture Mission (NHM). Through these schemes, he has received support for drip irrigation systems, subsidies on seeds and plants, and technical training.

"Proper use of government schemes can help farmers reduce costs and increase production," he said. "I've made full use of these resources to elevate my farming practices."

Rampal Sharma's success has made him a source of inspiration not only in the Samba district but across the Jammu region.

He emphasises, "If farmers adopt new thinking and treat agriculture as a business, they can become self-reliant. Our land and climate are so favourable that we can successfully grow almost any crop."

His vision includes generating local employment and encouraging more farmers in Samba to shift towards modern and profitable agriculture.

Rampal Sharma's story proves that with the right mindset, willingness to learn, and support from government schemes, farming can become a highly profitable and respectable profession.

His dedication and success are lighting the way for hundreds of farmers across the region, proving that change begins in the field with one seed of innovation at a time.

Vocalist TM Krishna selected for PG Samskrithi Kendram award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 18: Eminent vocalist and activist T M Krishna has been selected for the fifth edition of the PG National Award, instituted in memory of CPI(M) ideologue and writer the late P Govinda Pillai.

The award, which carries a cash prize of ₹3 lakh, a citation, and a statue, is conferred by P G Samskrithi Kendram, a statement said.

A panel headed by CPI(M) General Secretary M A Baby, and comprising renowned musician Sreevalsan J Menon, eminent dancer Rajasree Warrier, and PG Samskrithi Kendra Secretary R Parvathy Devi, chose the winner.

"Krishna was selected for the award in recognition of his authentic compositions, active involvement in cultural and social fields, and his prominent role in contemporary Carnatic music," the statement said.

The award ceremony will be held at AKG Auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram November 22, the 13th death anniversary of Pillai.

Previous recipients of the PG National Award include lawyer and social activist Prashant Bhushan, journalist N Ram, writer Arundhati Roy, and historian Romila Thapar, the statement added.

The taxes collected by each corporation will now be used within the same zone. Bengaluru East is a resourceful corporation, and its revenue will be used to fix local civic issues

DK SHIVAKUMAR | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

RECORD NUMBER OF PILGRIMS VISIT ADI KAILASH THIS YEAR

A record number of 31,187 pilgrims have visited Adi Kailash so far this year, beating its previous year's record, an official said Saturday. Located in the Dharchula area of Pithoragarh district, Adi Kailash is situated at an altitude of 6,310 metres. It is also referred to as Chotta Kailash and is considered to be a replica of Mount Kailash

Quote of the day

Serving farmers is serving God. We will not compromise on the interests of Indian farmers. Our country is full of wealth and grains. We need to increase crop production

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE MINISTER

It is not only a symbol of self-reliance, but also a great means of employment generation

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH

Corruption has been at the centre of many incidents in recent times, but the government is committed to completely eradicate it

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | UNION MINISTER

Won't join BJP to speed up J&K statehood: Abdullah

The NC leader claimed that a deal with the BJP for the return of statehood is 'out of the question', making reference to the negative consequences of the 2015 PDP-BJP alliance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 18: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday strongly asserted that his party National Conference would never join hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party to hasten the return of statehood to the Union territory, indicating a refusal to repeat the "mistakes" of the past made by others.

The NC leader claimed that a deal with the BJP for the return of statehood is "out of the question", making reference to the negative consequences of the 2015 PDP-BJP alliance.

"We have already seen how much that (alliance) ruined J&K. It was a useless coalition between the BJP and the PDP in 2015, and we are still reeling from its effects. I have no desire to make the same mistakes that others did," the chief minister told reporters here.

Abdullah also dared the BJP to be open if the restoration of statehood depended on a BJP-led government in J&K.

"If so, I believe the BJP should be transparent, and let us know that as long as J&K has a non-BJP government, you will never attain statehood. Then we will see what we can do about it," he said, pointing out that the BJP did not make such a condition in its manifestos or promises to Parliament and the Supreme Court.

The chief minister also said he is in active consultation with legal experts regarding the possibility of his office becoming a party to the current batch of pleas placed before the Supreme Court for the re-establishment of statehood.

The Supreme Court is hearing a batch of petitions seeking the restoration of statehood to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and October 10, it directed the Centre to respond in four weeks.

Emphasising his unique status, Abdullah said, "I am the only person in the whole country with the experience of being the chief minister of a state and the chief minister of a UT."

Abdullah believes this perspective is crucial to detail the disadvantages of UT status to the apex court.

Abdullah also dared the BJP to be open if the restoration of statehood depended on a BJP-led government in J&K

"That said, it is for my lawyers to advise whether it would actually be beneficial to the people of J&K. If so, I have no hesitation in becoming a party to this case in the SC. So, this is something that is actively being discussed with a legal team and based on their opinion, there is a possibility that as chief minister, I will make myself a party to this case," he said.

Asked if he has any hopes with the Supreme Court on the restoration of statehood, Abdullah said, "We should have hopes. But it is also true that somewhere Pahalgam is being linked to the restoration of statehood. The people of J&K do not support it. No one involved in the attack was from J&K."

Refusing to go into the politics of it, Abdullah said, "It was repeatedly said in Parliament that there are three steps -- delimitation, election and statehood. Two steps have been taken, now we hope the third will also be done."

A firefighter rescues a dog after a fire broke out at Brahmaputra apartments, in New Delhi, Saturday PTI PHOTO

Massive fire at apartment complex

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: A massive fire broke out at an apartment complex, housing residences of several Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, opposite Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital Saturday afternoon, an official said.

No casualties have been reported so far, a Delhi Fire Services official said.

However, some residents have claimed that a few children were injured in the incident and taken to RML Hospital.

A call regarding the fire at Brahmaputra Apartments on Baba Kharag Singh Marg was received at 1.22 pm, he said, adding that 14 fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the blaze was brought under control by 2.10 pm.

Meanwhile, residents of the apartment complex, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020 and houses residences of several Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, claimed that the fire started after some couches lying on the stilt floor caught fire due to bursting of firecrackers.

Visuals of the apartment show thick, black smoke billowing into the sky from a distance, engulfing the building and casting a dark haze over the surrounding area.

Bhupendra Prakash, a DFS official, told PTI, "When we arrived, we found fire in the household storage items on the stilt floor. The flames were rising and causing damage to the upper floors."

The cause of the fire is currently being investigated by the Delhi Police, he added.

Kamal, the personal assistant to an Uttarakhand MP, told PTI he was at work when the incident occurred.

"From what I have heard, the fire began after some sofas in the area caught fire," he said.

"All our belongings, documents, jewellery, clothes, and essentials have been completely destroyed. The only thing left are the clothes on our bodies. We have to start from zero now," Kamal added.

Anil Kumar, another resident of the apartment block gutted by the blaze, said the fire is believed to have started after a child was playing with crackers.

"The fire fell on some couches stored there and quickly spread across the building," he told PTI.

"Two girls have been rushed to the hospital, and several belongings and materials belonging to staff members have been destroyed," Kumar claimed.

SHORT TAKES

AI's Dhaka flight takes off from Delhi

New Delhi: Air India's Delhi-Dhaka flight took off at around 9.30 pm Saturday after being delayed for four hours due to closure of the airport in the Bangladesh capital following a fire incident. A massive fire broke out at the cargo complex of Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Saturday afternoon, forcing authorities to suspend all flight operations. An official said the fight AI237 took off at around 9.30 pm as operations have resumed at the Dhaka airport. Air India was scheduled to operate the Delhi-Dhaka flight at around 5.30 pm. Due to closure of Dhaka airport for all flight operations, flight AI237 scheduled to operate from Delhi to Dhaka on 18 October has been delayed..

Licenses issued for green firecrackers

New Delhi: Ahead of Diwali, authorities have issued 168 temporary licences for the retail sale of NEERI-approved green firecrackers at designated locations across the city till Saturday, officials said. The district authorities, in collaboration with Delhi Police, have formed patrolling teams headed by area sub-divisional magistrates (SDMs) to ensure full compliance with the Supreme Court's guidelines regarding the sale and use of approved firecrackers, officials added. A total of 188 applications were submitted for temporary licences to sell green firecrackers. Of these, 168 were approved, and 10 rejected, according to a senior police officer.

8 killed, 15 hurt as truck falls into gorge

Mumbai: At least eight persons were killed and 15 others injured when a speeding mini truck fell into a gorge in Maharashtra's Nandurbar district Saturday, police said. The incident occurred around 10.30 am in the Chandsaili ghat section within the jurisdiction of Taloda police station. A mini truck with about 40 persons on board was returning from a pilgrimage site when its driver lost control of the vehicle, an official said. The mini truck plunged into a 200-foot-deep gorge, he said. Eight passengers lost their lives, while 15 others suffered injuries, the official said. The injured persons, including the mini truck driver, are being treated at the sub-district hospital and Civil Hospital in Nandurbar.

Nirav Modi hints at 'sensational developments' in UK extradition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 18: Nirav Modi, in prison for over six years, has told a UK court there are "sensational developments" to come when his Indian extradition case on fraud and money laundering charges reopens for a hearing in London next month.

The 54-year-old fugitive diamantaire appeared in the dock before High Court Judge Simon Tinkler at the Royal Courts of Justice here Friday to present his defence in an unrelated case, involving an over $8 million unpaid Bank of India debt.

The judge turned down Nirav's application for a stay on the proceedings on the grounds of technical and medical constraints in prison, which is set to proceed to a trial scheduled in January 2026.

"They (Bank of India) refer to my extradition… I'm still here. There will be some sensational developments, and I have never used these words before," said Nirav, during a pre-trial review hearing.

The fugitive diamond merchant, wanted in India in the estimated $2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan scam case, told the court he was "extremely hopeful" of either being discharged or granted bail after the court agreed to accept new evidence despite a "high bar" in such matters.

The UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has confirmed that Nirav "has lodged an application to reopen his (extradition) appeal", with the Indian authorities submitting their response ahead of a hearing expected towards the end of November.

Defending himself as a "Litigant in Person", Nirav read from copious handwritten notes as he addressed the judge. Officers sat guard as their prisoner, dressed in a worn-out white t-shirt and pink track pants, spoke in mumbled tones about struggles with his eyesight and lengthy delays over access to a computer behind bars, which he stressed made any trial unfair and imbalanced.

JMM to contest Bihar polls independently

Elections to 243 seats of the Bihar Assembly will be held November 6 and November 11, and the votes will be counted November 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 18: The JMM Saturday announced that it will contest the Bihar Assembly polls independently, and said the party would "review" its alliance with the Congress and RJD in Jharkhand after the elections in the neighbouring state.

Addressing a press conference, JMM general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya said the party will field candidates in six seats in Bihar.

Elections to 243 seats of the Bihar Assembly will be held November 6 and November 11, and the votes will be counted November 14.

"The party has decided to contest the Bihar polls on its own. It will contest six assembly seats – Chakai, Dhamdaha, Katoria (ST), Manihari (ST), Jamui and Pirpainti (SC)," Bhattacharya said.

These seats will go to polls in the second phase November 11.

Asked if the JMM would consider contesting more seats in Bihar, Bhattacharya said,"We are discussing the matter... The number of seats may rise to 10."

The JMM had October 11 communicated to INDIA bloc leaders that the party would take its own decision on contesting the Bihar polls, if "a respectful number of seats" was not allocated to it by October 14. The JMM had demanded 12 seats for the polls as an ally of the coalition.

We will fight, win and make sure that without the JMM, no government is formed in Bihar

SUPRIYO BHATTACHARYA | JMM GENERAL SECRETARY

"We had urged constituents of the INDIA bloc like the Congress, Left parties and the RJD, which is one of the largest parties in Bihar, to provide the seats demanded by the JMM. In the 2019 Jharkhand election, we had given our support to Congress and RJD. The party not only gave seven seats to RJD, but also made its MLA from Chatra a minister," Bhattacharya said.

Even in the 2024 Jharkhand polls, JMM gave six seats to the RJD and "accommodated an MLA as minister", he said.

Bhattacharya also said the battle of Bihar is a multi-corner fight where "infighting prevails in the NDA as well as the INDIA bloc". "We will fight, win and make sure that without the JMM, no government is formed in Bihar," he asserted.

"And, after the Bihar polls, the JMM will have a relook at the coalition in Jharkhand," Bhattacharya added.

The party also declared a list of 20 "star campaigners" for the elections, which will be led by its president and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The other star campaigners include the CM's wife and Gandey MLA, Kalpana Soren, Dumka legislator Basant Soren, senior party leaders Stephen Marandi and Sarfaraj Ahmed.

Airport agencies must sensitise officers in prevailing laws: SC

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta made the observations while quashing the arrest and criminal proceedings against NRI Rocky Abraham, an Indian citizen settled in Italy for over two decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: There is an imminent need for jurisdictional agencies, handling affairs at international airports, to sensitise their officers in the prevailing laws before taking the drastic step of detention and arrest of an international traveller, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta made the observations while quashing the arrest and criminal proceedings against NRI Rocky Abraham, an Indian citizen settled in Italy for over two decades.

He was detained at the Delhi airport in January 2025 for allegedly carrying a deer horn in violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Abraham was arrested after airport officials found the horn in his baggage and registered an FIR under Sections 39, 49, and 51 of the Act.

He remained in custody for nearly two weeks before securing bail with onerous conditions, including a ban on leaving India.

The top court noted that the article recovered from the petitioner upon DNA analysis was a reindeer horn, which does not infringe any provision of law pertaining to forest or wildlife in India.

"This court feels an imminent need to require the jurisdictional agencies concerned, handling affairs at the international airports, to sensitise their officers in the prevailing laws before taking the drastic step of detention and arrest of an international traveller. Needless to state that any such step should not be taken in haste and must be proceeded by appropriate legal opinion and with a pragmatic approach," the bench said.

The apex court said such ill-advised actions tend to bring the reputation of the country to disrepute in the international fora, in addition to bringing the conduct of the concerned officers into breach of the human rights guarantees.

"Consequently, we hereby declare the arrest of the petitioner and so also the FIR and all proceedings sought to be taken thereunder against the petitioner to be unlawful. The same are hereby quashed.

"The writ petition pending before the High Court and the proceedings, if any, pending before the jurisdictional trial Court shall also stand closed. The petitioner is given liberty to avail a suitable remedy seeking damages before the appropriate forum," it said.

national

The increase in demand for electronics goods is directly impacting electronics manufacturing. Electronics manufacturing is now growing at a double-digit CAGR

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

AURANGABAD STATION RENAMED SAMBHAJINAGAR

The Aurangabad railway station in Maharashtra has been renamed as Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar station through a gazette notification issued by the state government. The move comes nearly three years after the then government headed by Eknath Shinde formally rechristened Aurangabad city as Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Quote of the day

From affordable housing to clean cooking, safe drinking water to scientific waste management, our urban development journey is ensuring dignity, comfort, and better living standards for every citizen

PEMA KHANDU | CHIEF MINISTER, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

As they say, Thala for a reason... As Diwali knocks on the door, we have cleaned our house and removed 7 unwanted elements, who have been PUSHED BACK to their origins

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM

First, we have to reopen those places which have been shut. We did not shut these places in 35 years. When the militancy was at its peak, Drang or Doodhpathri were not closed, the upper areas of Gulmarg were not shut, Aru valley was not closed

OMAR ABDULLAH | JAMMU AND KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER

X POST OF THE DAY

Unluckiest combo to be born with in this country:
> General category
> Middle class
> Average student

No one's coming to save you - it's all on you

@talk2anuradha

SHORT TAKES

Dalit lynching case: 2 more held

Raebareli (UP): Two more individuals have been arrested in the Raebareli district in connection with the lynching of a Dalit man, Hariom Valmiki, police said Saturday. Ajay Agrahari was arrested October 15, while Akhilesh Maurya was arrested Saturday. With this, the total number of arrests made in the case is 16, the police said in a statement.

Ghatshila bypoll: Pocket meetings held

Jamshedpur (Jharkhand): A day after filing nominations for the November 11 bypoll to Ghatshila assembly constituency in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, both candidates held 'pocket meetings' Saturday. The candidates' poll strategists said they would wait for the allotment of symbols before holding large public meetings. "BJP candidate Babulal Soren and other senior leaders are holding pocket meetings in different places. Once the poll symbol is allotted, there will be full-scale election rallies," said Sudhir Kumar, who looks after social media handles of former chief minister and Babulal's father Champhai Soren.

Army honours 1962 war heroes

Itanagar: The Indian Army honoured the heroes of the 1962 India-China war and promoted unity during the four-day 'Shaurya Motorcycle Rally', which traversed through rugged terrain and remote valleys of Arunachal Pradesh, retracing the historic routes taken during the conflict, an official said. The rally, which commenced at Likabali military station in Lower Siang district October 14, culminated at the under-construction Neelam Tebi War Memorial at Neelam village in Keyi Panyor district Friday. The event was organised by the Army to pay solemn tributes to the valour and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought the 1962 war, the Army official said.

U'khand to amend live-in rules under UCC: Govt to HC

The affidavit read that the proposed changes focus on improving the process for registration and termination of cohabiting relationships, lending greater clarity in sharing information with the police, and extending the appeal period for rejected applications

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nainital, Oct 18: The Uttarakhand government has filed a 78-page affidavit in the high court saying that a few provisions of rules under the Uniform Civil Code are being amended.

The affidavit submitted by Advocate General SN Babulkar before a division bench of Chief Justice G Narendra and Justice Subhash Upadhyay October 15 states that the amendments relate to Rule 380 of the Registrar's Office, which lists the conditions under which a live-in relationship cannot be registered.

These include situations where the couple belongs to a prohibited level of relationship, if one or both are already married or living in another cohabiting relationship, or if one of the couple is a minor.

The affidavit read that the proposed changes focus on improving the process for registration and termination of cohabiting relationships, lending greater clarity in sharing information with the police, and extending the appeal period for rejected applications.

The amended provisions seek to limit the scope of data sharing between the registrar and the local police, making it clear that this is being done solely for "record-keeping purposes."

The proposed amendments also include changes related to the mandatory use of Aadhaar as proof of identity in various registration and declaration processes.

These changes primarily aim to provide "flexibility" by allowing alternative identification documents in cases where applicants cannot provide Aadhaar, especially in cases where they are not the primary applicant.

The affidavit also said that an amendment proposes to increase the time period for applicants to challenge the registrar's decision rejecting a declaration of cohabitation from 30 days to 45 days from the date of receipt of the rejection order.

Mamata urges Modi to revoke Gorkha interlocutor appointment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 18: Expressing "surprise and shock" over the appointment of an interlocutor to hold discussions on the issues relating to Gorkhas, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demanded revocation of the decision.

Banerjee claimed her government was not consulted before retired IPS officer Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed as an interlocutor to hold discussions on the issues relating to Gorkhas in Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars regions of West Bengal, which she said was "inconsistent with the spirit of cooperative federalism". "This appointment has been made without any consultation with the Government of West Bengal, even though the issues under reference directly relate to the governance, peace, and administrative stability of the area under the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), an autonomous body under the Government of West Bengal," she said in the two-page letter.

"Such unilateral action is inconsistent with the spirit of cooperative federalism that forms one of the foundational principles of our Constitution," she added. Banerjee stressed that any initiative concerning the Gorkha community must involve the West Bengal government to ensure sustained peace and harmony in the region.

"It may be recalled that the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) was constituted following a Tripartite Agreement signed on 18th July, 2011 at Darjeeling, between the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) in the presence of the then Hon'ble Union Home Minister and the Chief Minister of West Bengal," she said. "The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) was created to ensure socio-economic, infrastructural, educational, cultural and linguistic developments of the hill areas, while safeguarding the ethnic identity of the Gorkhas and promoting peaceful co-existence among all communities, a hallmark of the unity and harmony of the hills," she noted.

Constable stabbed to death by accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 18: A 42-year-old constable was allegedly stabbed to death by a habitual offender while being taken to a police station in Nizamabad city, police said Saturday.

The incident occurred between 8.30 PM and 9 PM Friday.

The accused, Shaik Riyaz (24), who was caught in connection with a case, attacked E Pramod with a knife on his chest when he was being taken on a two-wheeler by the constable to the police station in Nizamabad city. The accused apparently had concealed the knife inside his shoe. Pramod, who suffered injuries, subsequently died.

A Sub-Inspector, who was following the constable, sustained injuries on his fingers when the accused also attacked him and fled the scene.

"He is a regular offender. What prompted him to do this (attack on constable), can be known only after he is taken into custody," a police official said.

Expressing grief over the death of the constable, Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) B Shivadhar Reddy directed Nizamabad Police Commissioner to form special teams to arrest the accused.

The DGP further instructed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Multi Zone-I, S Chandrashekhar Reddy to visit Nizamabad and monitor the situation, an official release said. The DGP has taken a serious view of the incident.

LAB seeks inclusion of Ladakh representative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Oct 18: Leh Apex Body (LAB) Saturday welcomed the centre's decision to conduct a judicial probe into the September 14 violence but demanded inclusion of a representative from Ladakh in the team.

The group criticized the Lt Governor-led administration for foiling the silent march earlier during the day and said "such actions can never prove fruitful or convince us to resume talks with the centre".

The Centre Friday moved to address a key demand of the protesting Ladakh groups by announcing a judicial inquiry headed by a retired Supreme Court judge into the violent clashes of September 24 in Leh, which claimed the lives of four people, including a 1999 Kargil war veteran.

According to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry, the judicial probe, to be headed by Justice BS Chauhan, a former judge of the Supreme Court, is mandated to investigate the circumstances leading to the serious law and order situation, the police action and the resultant unfortunate deaths of four people .

Retired district and sessions judge Mohan Singh Parihar will function as judicial secretary, while IAS officer Tushar Anand will be the administrative secretary of the inquiry commission.

"We welcome the MHA's notification for a judicial inquiry. But we saw some shortcomings like the reference which is FIR No:144. It looks that the inquiry is against our boys and secondly, none of the threeis from Ladakh. We want this inquiry to be completely transparent and no attempt should be made to hide anything. We want someone from Ladakh to be made part of the team," LAB Co-chairman and Ladakh Buddhist Association chief Chering Dorje Lakruk told reporters here.

People light 'diyas', earthen lamps, along the Kartavya Path as laser show lights up the sky during 'Delhi Deepotsav' event, at the India Gate, in New Delhi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

As security forces gain upper hand, Maoist leader urges cadres to surrender

The one-page communication in Hindi claimed that Sonu Dada surrendered after realising that the armed struggle was no longer feasible due to assertive security forces, organisational errors, and missed opportunities which weakened the Naxalites' ability to sustain guerrilla warfare

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gariaband, Oct 18: Amid a wave of mass surrenders that has gripped Naxal strongholds in Chhattisgarh, a senior leader has issued a letter appealing to the cadres to lay down their arms and join the mainstream, citing the crippling blow to the network due to the relentless push by security forces.

Police have acknowledged the letter and appealed to Naxal cadres to shun violence.

The one-page communication in Hindi claimed that Sonu Dada (Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Bhupathi) surrendered after realising that the armed struggle was no longer feasible due to assertive security forces, organisational errors, and missed opportunities which weakened the Naxalites' ability to sustain guerrilla warfare.

Gariaband Superintendent of Police Nikhil Rakhecha has welcomed the letter, being shared with the media, that was issued in the name of Maoist leader Sunil of the Udanti Area Committee.

The police officer has appealed to all active Naxal cadres to join the mainstream and live a peaceful life.

The Udanti Area Committee is active in parts of Gariaband and adjoining regions along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border.

The statement said that Sonu Dada (Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Bhupathi) and 60 cadres laid down their arms in Gadchiroli of Maharashtra October 16, while another senior leader, Rupesh, surrendered with 209 cadres in Bastar October 17.

All the surrendered Maoists handed over their weapons to authorities, it stated.

Bhupathi, a top Maoist strategist, carried a ₹6 crore bounty on his head, according to police.

The letter further stated that

Sonu Dada had released a booklet admitting that the armed campaign under current conditions was no longer feasible due to the growing pressure from security forces.

He (Sonu Dada) also acknowledged that organisational errors and missed opportunities had weakened the Naxalites' ability to sustain guerrilla warfare. The booklet issued by him has urged cadres to shift focus from armed struggle to participating in mass movements aimed at addressing public grievances, the letter stated.

The Udanti Area Committee expressed support for the decisions taken by Sonu and Rupesh and appealed to units in Gobra, Sinapali, Sonabeda-Dharambandha-Kholibatar (SDK) and Sitanadi areas to follow the suit.

> The Dandakaranya region, which spans parts of south Chhattisgarh (Bastar) and adjoining areas of Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, has long been a Maoist stronghold
>
> Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said 477 Naxalites had been neutralised in the past 22 months, while 2,110 others have surrendered, and 1,785 arrested

"We have already lost many important comrades. It is time to make the right decision before it becomes too late," the letter said and called on cadres to surrender and raise issues of people through peaceful movements.

Reacting to the development, SP Rakhecha said, "We welcome this letter. It's a positive initiative. I appeal to active Naxalites in Udanti, Gobra, Sinapali, SDK and Sitanadi areas to surrender at the earliest. They can directly contact me without hesitation. We will ensure their safe return to their families".

The Naxal strongholds in Chhattisgarh, including the dreaded Abujhmad region, are falling apart due to aggressive drives launched by security forces, with the deadline to uproot Naxalism by March 31, 2026, drawing close.

The surrender by Bhupathi has prompted several armed guerrillas to surrender before security forces.

28 Maoist cadres surrendered in Sukma and Kondagaon districts of Chhattisgarh Wednesday, followed by 210 Naxals, including Central Committee member Rupesh and 111 women, in Bastar district. The Bastar cadres carried a cumulative bounty of ₹9.18 crore, police said.

international

Work has begun to repair the damaged power supply to Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

RAFAEL GROSSI | HEAD, INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

TRUMP, KIM MEET ON CARDS

Trump administration officials are privately discussing a potential meeting between Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during the US president's upcoming Asia visit. In August, Trump expressed interest in meeting the North Korean leader after hosting South Korean President Lee Jae Myung at the White House for the first time

Quote of the day

We strongly condemn all instances of hate or violence directed towards minority religious communities

ALAN CAMPBELL | LEADER, HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Republicans control the House. They control the Senate. They control the White House. They are in charge, and they are responsible for the shutdown

KAMALA HARRIS | FORMER VP, US

Drawing on our experience in Northern Ireland, we stand ready to play a key role in the decommissioning of Hamas' weapons and capability

KEIR STARMER | PM, UK

SHORT TAKES

Over 5K members of Islamist party held

Lahore: Pakistan's Punjab police have so far arrested over 5,500 members of a radical Islamist party following violent clashes earlier this week over plans to stage an anti-Israel demonstration. The supporters of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) launched a protest march Friday last with the mission to stage a sit-in in front of the US Embassy in Islamabad in support of the people of Palestine. On Monday this week, 16 people, including policemen, were killed and over 1,600 injured in clashes between police and TLP supporters at Muridke, some 60 km from Lahore, the Punjab police said. The TLP, however, claimed that dozens of its supporters were killed, while thousands injured after police allegedly opened fire on the "unarmed" protesters expressing their solidarity with Palestinians.

Three Indians killed in boat accident

Maputo: Three Indian nationals were killed, one was injured, and five others rescued in a boat accident off the coast of Beira in Mozambique, the Indian High Commission here said Saturday. The mishap took place Thursday. In a social media post, the Indian mission conveyed its "heartfelt condolences on the loss of lives, including of three Indian nationals," in the boat accident off Beira port. It said the mission was in contact with the families of those who lost their lives in the mishap and is extending all possible assistance to them. In another post, the High Commission said a Consular Officer from the mission visited an Indian national who survived the accident and was receiving medical attention in a hospital in Beira.

Strike ignites ship off Yemen coast

Dubai: A ship caught fire Saturday in the Gulf of Aden off Yemen after being struck by a projectile, the British military said, with one report suggesting its crew was preparing to abandon the vessel. The incident comes as Yemen's Houthi rebels have been attacking ships through the Red Sea corridor. However, the rebels did not immediately claim the attack, though it can take them hours or even days to do so. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre issued an alert about the vessel, describing the incident as taking place some 210 kilometres (130 miles) east of Aden. The maritime security firm Ambrey described the ship as a Cameroon-flagged tanker that was "en route from Sohar, Oman, to Djibouti."

Pak, Afghan talk after fierce fight

The peace negotiations come against the backdrop of escalating cross-border attacks blamed by Pakistan on militants operating from Afghan soil, straining relations between the two neighbours

REUTERS

Islamabad, Oct 18: Afghanistan and Pakistan were holding peace talks in Doha Saturday, both sides said, after the South Asia neighbours extended a ceasefire following a week of fierce border clashes.

They are seeking to find a way forward after the clashes killed dozens and wounded hundreds in the worst violence between the two countries since the Taliban seized power in Kabul in 2021.

"As promised, negotiations with the Pakistani side will take place today in Doha," Afghan government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said, adding that the Kabul team led by Defence Minister Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob had arrived in Doha.

Pakistan's foreign office said Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif would lead discussions with representatives of the Afghan Taliban.

"The talks will focus on immediate measures to end cross-border terrorism against Pakistan emanating from Afghanistan and restore peace and stability along the Pak-Afghan border," it said.

It was not immediately clear how long the talks would last. Officials on both sides have said they could be extended from Saturday, adding senior intelligence officials from both countries were part of the talks.

The ground fighting between the one-time allies and Pakistani airstrikes across their contested 2,600-km (1,600-mile) frontier were triggered after Islamabad demanded that Kabul rein in militants who had stepped up attacks in Pakistan, saying they operated from havens in Afghanistan.

The Taliban denies giving haven to militants to attack Pakistan and accuses the Pakistani military of spreading misinformation about Afghanistan and sheltering Islamic State-linked militants to undermine its stability and sovereignty. Islamabad denies the accusations.

Militants have been waging a war for years against the Pakistani state in a bid to overthrow the government and replace it with their strict brand of Islamic governance system.

On Friday, a suicide attack near the border killed seven Pakistani soldiers and wounded 13, security officials said.

The Afghan government spokesperson said Pakistan had conducted airstrikes in Afghanistan hours after the ceasefire, which began on Wednesday, was extended on Friday for as long as the talks continued.

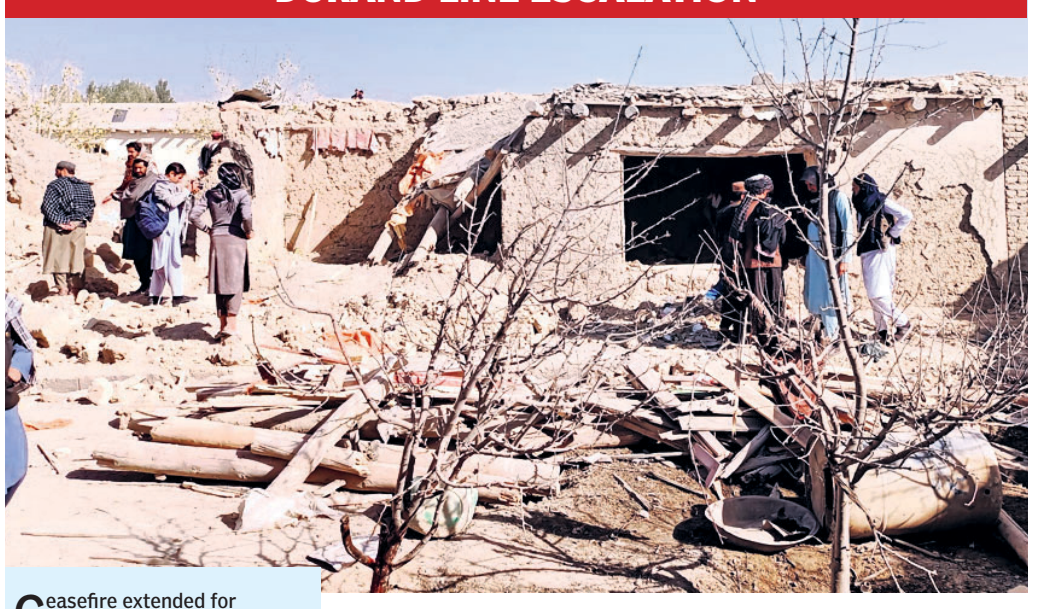
He said the attacks targeted civilians, adding that Kabul reserved the right to respond but that Afghan fighters had been directed to refrain from retaliating to respect the negotiating team.

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said in a post on X Saturday that Pakistan had struck "verified" camps of Islamist militants along the border areas and rejected that the strikes had targeted civilians.

He said militants had attempted to launch multiple attacks inside Pakistan during the ceasefire period.

He said more than 100 militants were killed by Pakistani security forces, the majority of them in strikes against a militant group that he said had carried out Friday's suicide attack on the military camp.

DURAND LINE ESCALATION



Ceasefire extended for duration of peace talks

Kabul says Pakistan conducts airstrikes after truce extended

Pakistan says strikes killed dozens of militants

1,200 border violations, 710 airspace breaches by Pak in 4 years

The Afghan regime must rein in the proxies who have sanctuaries in Afghanistan and are using Afghan soil to perpetrate heinous attacks inside Pakistan

ASIM MUNIR | ARMY CHIEF, PAKISTAN

EASY FOR ME TO SOLVE, SAYS US PRESIDENT

Amid escalating hostilities between Afghanistan and Pakistan, US President Donald Trump claimed that the conflict between the two countries will be an "easy" one for him to solve, if he had to solve it. While speaking to the media during a bilateral lunch with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on Friday, Trump said, "I do understand Pakistan attacked or there is an attack going on with Afghanistan, that's an easy one for me to solve if I have to solve that." Trump once again claimed to have saved millions of lives while assuring that he will have "success" in resolving the conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan. I like stopping people from being killed. I have saved millions and millions of lives, and I think we are going to have success with this war," the US president said. Meanwhile, Trump has once again expressed dismay at not receiving the Nobel Peace Prize despite resolving "eight wars". "You know we resolved eight others, it's funny how people say this, if you get this one ... every time I do one, they forget about that one. I solved eight wars," Trump said. "Every time I solve one, they say if you solve the next one, you are going to get the Nobel prize," Trump added. However, the US President was quick to add that he did not do it for the Nobel while claiming that he does not know María Corina Machado, the Nobel Peace Prize winner for 2025, without naming her.

Nobel Prize–winning Chinese physicist Chen-Ning dies at 103

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 18: Noted Chinese physicist and Nobel Laureate Chen Ning Yang, died in Beijing on Saturday. He was 103 years old.

Yang was born in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, in 1922. In the 1940s, he went to the United States to pursue academic studies and subsequently held teaching positions. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1957, official media here reported.

In 1954, he co-authored a set of equations with the American physicist Robert Mills that turned out to be as important to physics as Einstein's theory of relativity.

The resulting Yang–Mills theory described how three of nature's four fundamental forces – the electromagnetic, weak and strong interactions – operate in the subatomic world, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Their theory laid the mathematical foundation for what later became known as the Standard Model, the cornerstone of modern physics that unifies these forces and explains the behaviour of all known elementary particles.

"Yang was one of the greatest theoretical physicists of the 20th century," Shi Yu, professor of physics and associate director of the Wilczek Quantum Centre at the Shanghai Institute for Advanced Studies said.

Yang's most profound contribution was changing the mindset of Chinese people who once believed they were not as good as others in science and inspiring future generations to believe they could stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's best scientists, she said.

Nepal's Gen Z group to form political party; puts conditions to contest polls

Elections in the Himalayan nation are slated to take place March 5, 2026

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Oct 18: Nepal's Gen Z group Saturday announced that it will establish a political party, but said its participation in next year's general election depends on the fulfilment of certain "bottom-line" conditions.

The youth-led group led protests against corruption and a government ban on social media sites last month, resulting in the ouster of the KP Sharma Oli-led government.

Led by Miraj Dhungana, one of the leaders of the recent Gen Z movement, the group unveiled its agenda in a press conference here.

They asserted that although they are considering forming a political party to bring together the Gen-Z youths, they will not contest the election until their "bottom line" demands are addressed.

The group has been primarily advocating for two key agendas: a directly elected executive system and voting rights for Nepali citizens residing abroad.

According to Dhungana, his group has decided that the formation of a political party is essential to unite the youths associated with the Gen-Z movement.

While disclosing their agenda, Dhungana underscored the formation of a citizen-led investigation committee for corruption control and the adoption of a clear policy on economic transformation.

"We will continue to fight for issues like promoting good governance, transparency and checking corruption. We will not let the sacrifices of Gen-Z youths go in vain," he said, calling for collective commitment and cooperation from all sides in the nation-building task.

He added that they are currently collecting suggestions for an 'appropriate' name for the new party.

In talks with Zelenskyy, Trump appears to press pause on fresh arms' support

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 18: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy came to the White House Friday looking for weapons to keep fighting his country's war with Russia, but met an American president who appears more intent on brokering a peace deal than upgrading Ukraine's arsenal.

While US President Donald Trump did not rule out providing the long-range Tomahawk missiles Zelenskyy seeks, Trump appeared cool to the prospect as he looked ahead to a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Hungary in the coming weeks.

After speaking with Zelenskyy for more than two hours, Trump implored both Ukraine and Russia to "stop the war immediately," even if it means Ukraine conceding territory.

"You stop at the battle line, and both sides should go home, go to their families," Trump told reporters on his way to his home in West Palm Beach, Florida. "Stop the killing. And that should be it. Stop right now at the battle line. I told that to President Zelenskyy. I told it to President Putin."

The two leaders then went behind closed doors where they also discussed a call the previous day between the Russian president and Trump, who has portrayed himself as a mediator between the warring forces despite the fact that Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

'GET ALONG A LITTLE'

"I think President Zelenskyy wants it done, and I think President Putin wants it done. Now all they have to do is get along a little bit," Trump told reporters.

Zelenskyy, however, noted how difficult it has been to try to secure a ceasefire. "We want this. Putin doesn't want (it)," he said.

The Ukrainian leader was frank, telling Trump that Ukraine has thousands of drones ready for an offensive against Russian targets, but needs American missiles. "We don't have Tomahawks, that's why we need Tomahawks," he said. Trump responded: "We'd much rather have them not need Tomahawks."

Later, Trump reiterated that he wants the United States to hold onto its weaponry.

When asked about Trump's comments, Zelenskyy said: "President (Trump) is right, and we have to stop where we are. This is important, to stop where we are, and then to speak."

Enough blood has been shed, with property lines being defined by War and Guts. They should stop where they are. Let both claim Victory, let History decide!

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

PALESTINIAN DEATH TOLL IN GAZA CROSSES 68,000

Tel Aviv: More than 68,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday. The ministry said the number of dead has climbed since the ceasefire went into effect more than a week ago. The majority of the newly counted dead bodies have been found during recovery efforts under the rubble. Meanwhile Israel received the remains of another hostage from Gaza Friday, the prime minister's office said, a handover from Hamas as the militant group worked to shore up a ceasefire by using bulldozers in a search for bodies under the rubble in the war-scarred enclave. The handover came after Hamas' military wing, known as the Qassam Brigades, said the remains were that of an "occupation prisoner", suggesting that they belonged to an Israeli rather than one of the hostages of several other nationalities also taken in Gaza.

Prince Andrew: The British royal brought down by scandal

King Charles III's brother Prince Andrew gives up royal titles amid Epstein sex scandal

REUTERS

London, Oct 18: Once widely reputed to be Queen Elizabeth's favourite son and feted as a dashing young military officer, Britain's Prince Andrew will now always be seen in the public eye as the royal who was accused of sexually abusing a teenage girl.

Andrew, 65, said Friday he would give up his title of Duke of York after years of criticism about his connections to the late, disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein.

The brother of King Charles was accused by Virginia Giuffre of sexually abusing her when she was a teenager at properties owned by Epstein or his associates, and in February 2022 he made an undisclosed payment to settle a US lawsuit.

BY THE QUEEN'S SIDE

While he admitted no wrongdoing, Andrew - who had already stepped down as a working royal over his relationship with Epstein and following a disastrous BBC interview in which he had hoped to clear his name - was stripped of his military links, royal patronages and "His Royal Highness" moniker.

"I never have really partied," he told the BBC. "I was single for quite a long time in the early 80s but then after I got married I was very happy and I've never really felt the need to go and party and certainly going to Jeffrey's was not about partying."

Increasingly unloved by the public, he was cast aside by his family who saw him as an embarrassment who might cause lasting damage to their whole institution.

Only his late mother seemed to retain her affections, allowing him to escort her into a memorial service for her husband Prince Philip in March 2022.

His public appearances thereafter were limited to major family occasions such as the funeral of the queen later that year and his brother's coronation in 2023.

Earlier in his career, he served in the navy for 22 years and in 2001 he was named the United Kingdom's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment, a role he held until he was pilloried for his connections to Epstein.

Until that point, Andrew was probably best known for his 1986 marriage to the vivacious, flame-haired Sarah Ferguson, or "Fergie" as she was dubbed by the press.

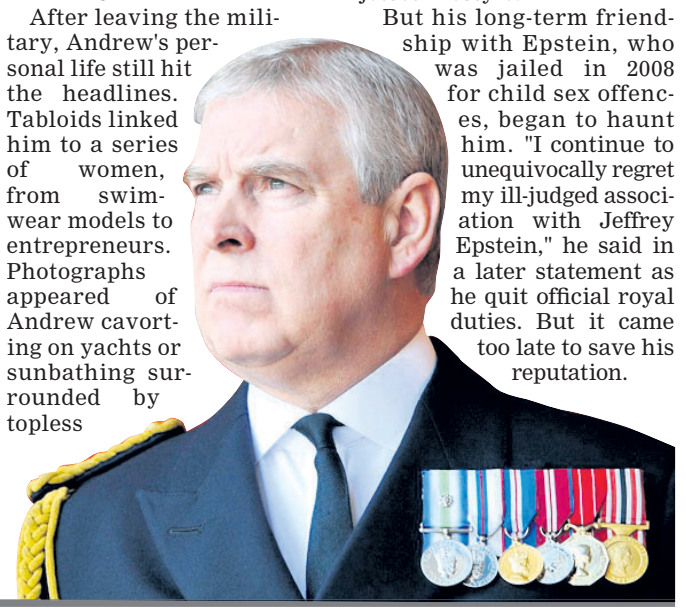
They separated in 1992, not long after he moved to a desk job at the Ministry of Defence so he could be at home more. It was a year of travails and scandals for the royal family which the queen described as an "annus horribilis".

Andrew was said to be devastated by the break-up from his wife, who described him as a gentle man who deserved to be loved.

The couple had two children, Beatrice and Eugenie, and the family remained close and on good terms after they divorced in 1996, going on holiday together and sharing the same house.

'AIR MILES ANDY'

After leaving the military, Andrew's personal life still hit the headlines. Tabloids linked him to a series of women, from swimwear models to entrepreneurs. Photographs appeared of Andrew cavorting on yachts or sunbathing surrounded by topless women. The papers dubbed him "Air Miles Andy" for his jetset lifestyle.



But his long-term friendship with Epstein, who was jailed in 2008 for child sex offences, began to haunt him. "I continue to unequivocally regret my ill-judged association with Jeffrey Epstein," he said in a later statement as he quit official royal duties. But it came too late to save his reputation.

business

On these 54 items on which we have been getting inputs from the zonal areas... we are convinced that on every such items the benefits are being fully passed on to consumers

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

KAYAK INTRODUCES 'AI MODE'

Kayak, the world's leading travel search engine, launched its 'AI mode', which is a natural-language search experience that combines Kayak's data with ChatGPT, an official statement said. This integration is intended to deliver smarter and contextual results to the customers. Basically, it is the first major travel site to let users plan complete trips by typing questions directly into the search box. With AI Mode, travelers can quickly surface insights like these and plan smarter without the stress

Quote of the day

The BRICS+ countries can become hubs for the development of creative solutions based on breakthrough technologies, and the Created in BRICS+ label is a new symbol of quality and innovation

VLADISLAV KREININ | SENIOR VP, SBERBANK

India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was USD 136.53 billion in 2024-25 (exports worth $ 75.85 billion and imports worth USD 60.68 billion), making it the largest trading partner for goods.

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE MINISTER

Precious jewellery sales on the platform have surged 96 per cent year-on-year, with gold and diamond jewellery, including lab-grown diamonds, driving the demand

SIDDHARTH BHAGAT | DIRECTOR, AMAZON F&B, INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Yes Bank profit drops

Mumbai: Yes Bank's net profit for the second quarter of the financial year 2025-26 (Q2 FY26) stood at ₹654.47 crore, down 18 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) from ₹801.07 crore in the April-June period (Q1 FY26), it was announced Saturday. The private sector lender also reported a 3 per cent decline in its total income QoQ to ₹9,023.15 crore from ₹9,348.11 crore in the previous quarter. However, the bank's net profit for the July-September period jumped 18 per cent year-on-year (YoY) from ₹553.04 crore in Q2 FY25. Meanwhile, its total expenditure for the period stood at ₹7,726.6 crore, down over 3 per cent from ₹7,990.07 crore in the April-June period (Q1 FY26). According to Yes Bank's exchange filing, the non-interest income (NII) for the quarter was ₹1,644 crore, up 16.9 per cent (YoY), while operating profit stood at ₹1,296 crore. Till September 30, the total deposits stood at ₹2.96 lakh crore, and advances crossed the milestone of ₹2.5 lakh crore.

Federal Bank net falls

Mumbai: Federal Bank Saturday reported its net profit for the second quarter of the current financial year (Q2 FY26) at ₹955.26 crore, down 9.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY). The private sector lender had posted a net profit of ₹1,056.6 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago (Q2 FY25). However, the bank's profit surged over 10 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) from ₹861.75 crore in the previous quarter. Despite a decline in net profit, Federal Bank's total income jumped over 3.5 per cent YoY to ₹7,824.3 crore from ₹7,541.23 crore. The net interest income (NII) for the quarter stood at ₹2,495 crore, while the operating profit stood at ₹1,644.17 crore.

IDBI Bank profit nearly doubles

New Delhi: IDBI Bank Saturday said its standalone net profit in September quarter nearly doubled to ₹3,627 crore, which includes gains on sale of investment in NSDL. The LIC-controlled bank had reported a profit of ₹1,836 crore in the July-September period of 2024-25. The bank had offered over 2.22 crore equity shares, comprising 11.11 per cent shareholding in National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), in its IPO at issue price of ₹799.87 per share and booked net gain of ₹1,698.96 crore.

India-UK trade deal to increase seafood exports: MPEDA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Oct 18: The India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is poised to create significant opportunities for India's seafood export sector, according to the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

During a two-day interaction with exporters, MPEDA chairman DV Swamy urged them to adopt strategies focused on value addition and workforce upskilling to fully leverage the agreement.

The CETA pact, inked in July this year, grants zero-duty access to 99 per cent of tariff lines, enhancing the competitiveness of Indian seafood in the UK market.

Key categories such as Vannamei shrimp, frozen squid, lobsters, frozen pomfret, and black tiger shrimp are expected to benefit directly from the duty-free access.

The meetings provided a platform for industry stakeholders to explore the implications of the agreement.

Presentations by Anil Kumar P, Joint Director, MPEDA, outlined the salient features of CETA, while Alex Paul Menon, Development Commissioner

of the MPEZ-SEZ, highlighted the potential for Marine Aquapark SEZ development in Tamil Nadu.

Stakeholders, including officials from the Department of Commerce, Export Inspection Agency (EIA), and the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI), alongside over 90 exporters from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha, shared insights on market opportunities and operational strategies.

India exported marine products worth $7.45 billion in 2024–25, with shrimp, fish, and cuttlefish forming the bulk of shipments. Exports to the UK reached 16,082 MT valued at $104.43 million, driven largely by demand for frozen shrimp, which accounted for 77 per cent of the total UK shipments, followed by frozen fish at eight per cent.

Industry experts anticipate that the India-UK CETA could double Indian seafood exports to the UK in the near term.

The agreement is expected to catalyse economic growth, employment generation, and innovation while promoting sustainable practices in the sector.

Swamy emphasised that tapping into this opportunity will require coordinated efforts to enhance product quality, scaling up processing capabilities, and training skilled labour to meet the rising demand in global markets.

The MPEDA chairman further pointed out that with proactive adaptation and strategic investment, Indian seafood exporters can establish India as a competitive, high-value supplier in international seafood trade.

High gold prices drive 40% surge in silver sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, Oct 18: Despite high prices, consumer demand for silver outpaced gold on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras, with silver coin sales surging 35-40 per cent year-on-year and overall value more than doubling, even as the jewellery body expects a 15 per cent volume drop for gold.

Dhanteras, the most auspicious day in the Hindu calendar for buying precious metals, is being celebrated over two days until 1:45 pm on Sunday. Jewellery stores remain open through midnight and Sunday.

While gold prices surged 63 per cent to ₹1,32,000 per 10 grams of 24-carat (inclusive of taxes) in the national capital -- up from ₹81,400 last Dhanteras October 29, 2024 -- silver prices gone up by 40 per cent, yet demand held firm.

In major markets, gold and silver prices saw a modest correction on Dhanteras. In Mumbai, 24-carat gold eased to ₹1,28,000 per 10 grams Saturday from ₹1,30,000 Friday, while silver fell to ₹1,70,000 per kg from ₹1,77,000.

In Delhi, gold dropped to ₹1,32,000 per 10 grams (from ₹1,34,800) and silver to ₹1,70,000 per kg (from ₹1,77,000).

The overnight ₹2,000 dip in gold further fuelled purchas-

es. Buying momentum picked up post-lunch, with consumers shifting to coins and bullion in 1-50 gram denominations for investment, early weddings, and lightweight jewellery.

According to All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman Rajesh Rokde, "Dhanteras 2025 has seen a 10-15 per cent dip in overall volume compared to last year, but value is up sharply... we expect festive sales to cross ₹50,000 crore.

"Despite high prices, sentiment remains upbeat, driven by strategic purchases. Silver coins and puja items surged 40 per cent year-on-year, marking silver's rise as a smart, value-focused investment," he told PTI.

GJC Vice Chairman Avinash Gupta highlighted consumer maturity: "Average transaction value rose 20-25 per cent despite volume dips from high prices. Most encouraging is the 35-40 per cent surge in silver coin sales, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where buyers opted for budget-friendly investments and ceremonial gifting."

He noted a 15 per cent increase in self-purchase trends, with younger consumers choosing lightweight, responsibly sourced silver jewellery.

"Digital campaigns expanded reach, with jewellers in smaller towns reporting stronger growth than metros. This year isn't just tradition -- it's thoughtful, value-driven celebration."

Senco Gold and Diamonds Managing Director and CEO Suvankar Sen said high prices boosted demand for lightweight gold jewellery, but silver bars and coins shone brightest.

Gold drops ₹2,400

New Delhi: Gold prices retreated from record levels and dropped by ₹2,400 to ₹1,32,400 per 10 grams in the national capital Saturday, even as buyers flocked to jewellery stores across the country on Dhanteras, marking the start of the Diwali festival. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had surged by ₹3,200 to touch an all-time high of ₹1,34,800 per 10 grams Friday. In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also saw a sharp pullback, depreciating by ₹2,400 to ₹1,31,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had touched a lifetime high of ₹1,34,200 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Pre-bookings, now 15 per cent of business (up from negligible last year), were led by silver.

"Gold sales volume will decline 12 per cent year-on-year due to 40 per cent higher prices, but value rises 20-25 per cent. In silver, volume is similar to last year, but with prices up over 100 per cent, we expect more than double the business," he noted. India is the world's second-largest gold consumer and one of the largest importers globally, after China.

FIEO backs Indian exporters to go global

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Saturday unveiled Global Tender Services (GTS), a transformative step aimed at expanding the global footprint of Indian exporters, especially MSMEs.

Developed and managed by FIEO, GTS is now live on the Indian Trade Portal, India's one-stop platform for trade-related intelligence and facilitation.

"Launching GTS on Dhanteras is symbolic of new beginnings and prosperity. This is not just a platform, it's a gateway to the world for Indian exporters," said Dr Ajay Sahai, Director General and CEO of FIEO.

"By unlocking access to global tenders, GTS empowers our businesses to compete internationally with agility, confidence, and precision. This marks a significant step in reshaping India's export strategy for the digital, data-driven era," he added.

It is a subscription-based, real-time tender aggregation platform providing Indian businesses with access to over 15,000 live international tenders daily, sourced from more than 8,000 verified channels across over 150 countries.

"From major development banks to government agencies, PPP bodies, multilateral institutions, and global corporations, GTS connects Indian exporters directly with procurement opportunities previously scattered, obscure, or difficult to access," FIEO said in a statement.

GTS sources opportunities from reputed entities such as the World Bank, ADB, UNICEF, USAID, and various national and sub-national procurement bodies globally, ensuring exporters receive only credible and actionable leads.

According to FIEO, with smart filters, sector and region-specific dashboards, and AI-powered search capabilities, GTS enables users to track, shortlist, and act on global tender opportunities with speed and precision. It is designed not just to inform, but to empower, reducing the cost and complexity of global bidding, and substantially improving success rates.

The launch of GTS assumes special significance as India deepens its engagement in international trade negotiations, particularly under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Record auto sales on Diwali festivities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India Saturday said it expects to have record sales on Dhanteras clocking over 50,000 units, while rival Hyundai Motor India also posted over 20 per cent growth over last year at about 14,000 units.

This year Dhanteras is spread over two days as it was in the last year between Saturday and Sunday. Although many customers hesitate to buy the metal Saturday, Maruti Suzuki India is expecting to reach around 41,000 deliveries today, company Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee told reporters in an interaction.

"This is going to be the all-time high deliveries, which we have done during the period of any time. Moreover, we are expecting that there will be another 10,000 customers who have hesitated to take the delivery today, due to Saturday, they will be taking the delivery tomorrow," he noted.

The company's production team is also working even on holiday to meet Dhanteras demand, Banerjee said.

The company's previous highest Dhanteras sales was last year when it clocked around 41,500 units, he added.

Due to the "GST 2.0 magic" many of the customers are flocking to the showrooms, he said, adding in many of the places the company may not be in a position to give vehicles unless bookings and deliveries are not taken on time.

Expressing similar views, Hyundai Motor India Ltd MD & CEO Designate Tarun Garg said, "We are witnessing strong customer demand, with deliveries expected to be around 14,000 units approximately, 20 per cent higher than last year. The positive momentum is driven by the festive spirit, a buoyant market environment and the encouraging impact of GST 2.0 reforms."

He also noted that this year, Dhanteras deliveries are spread across multiple days because of it being a Saturday.

On the consumer electronics side, Panasonic Life Solutions Director and Head- Sales consumer division, Sandeep Sehgal said, "This Dhanteras, we are witnessing a strong customer turnout since morning, with robust demand across product categories."

VinFast India launches electric cars VF6 and VF7

Bhubaneswar: VinFast India marked its entry into the regional EV market with the launch of two new SUV EV range-VF6 and VF7 at the AMP Wheels outlet in Pahala, Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The VF6 offers a driving range of up to 460 km on a single charge, while the VF7 can travel up to 510 km, according to the company. The VF6 is priced at ₹16.5 lakh and the VF7 at ₹20.9 lakh. Sushmita Patnaik, General Manager (Sales), was commended for her exemplary performance and customer engagement. Her efforts led to 40 plus confirmed bookings with advance payments within the first month of launch.
HR Manager Liza Singh, Team Leader Arijit Sarkar, and several AMP Wheels staff members were present at the launch.

TPCODL Diwali message to consumers

TPCODL
TP CENTRAL ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has appealed to consumers to follow essential electrical safety measures during Diwali to prevent accidents and ensure a safe celebration. As homes and markets light up with festive decorations, TPCODL has advised people to remain vigilant while using electrical appliances and lighting. The company urged consumers to inspect decorations before use, avoid damaged wires, refrain from overloading sockets, and ensure proper earthing of installations. "As we celebrate the festival of lights, let us also prioritize safety to make this Diwali truly joyous and secure for everyone. We request all our consumers to observe basic electrical safety practices to prevent mishaps," said Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, extending greetings for a "safe, bright and happy Diwali." Consumers have been encouraged to promptly report issues such as sparking wires or snapped lines through TPCODL's 24x7 Call Centre numbers 1912 or 1800-345-7122 for immediate assistance.

Regulation on deepfakes soon, two semicon units operational: Vaishnaw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

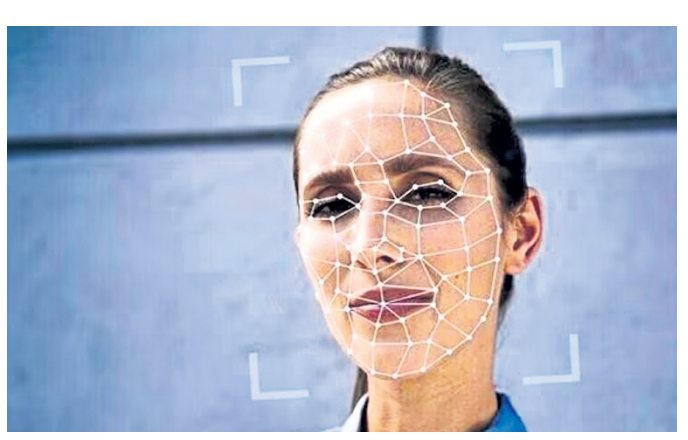
New Delhi, Oct 18: The government is going to bring a regulation on deepfakes soon that will take help of technology for efficient implementation, Union electronics and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Saturday.

Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, the minister said that chips are key for building AI infrastructure and two semiconductor units, CG Semi and Kaynes, have started production in the country.

Vaishnaw said that there are six Ai models getting developed in the country, out of which two will use around 120 billion parameters and will be free from biases like western models have.

He said that AI in several cases is being used in a positive way and for fun that must be encouraged, but there is need to save the society from the significant harms which can be caused by using deepfakes where one's voice and face can be presented to give out a message which is absolutely disconnected with the person.

"It's your right to make sure that your face and your voice should not be used in a harmful way for society. That's the thought process by which we are approaching this topic. And we will very soon bring out



regulations on the deepfakes," Vaishnaw said.

He said the government is taking a techno-legal approach for building the framework.

"We believe that the world of AI cannot be regulated simply by passing a law. There has to be a technical solution to it. So that technical solution plus a regulation combined with it is going to be more effective than, let's say, the European Union where they simply focus on regulating things. Our bias is more towards innovation. As a country and as a government, we are focused more on innovation," Vaishnaw said.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT had earlier in March 2024 issued an advisory to curb potential harm from AI, especially deepfake under IT Rules 2021.

The minister said that the government's approach is to encourage innovation in AI, which involves several building blocks from AI compute infrastructure to building indigenous chipsets.

He said that the government has made available 38,000 GPUs (graphics processing units) for AI development and Google has also committed $15 billion for setting up a major AI hub.

"We are inviting other large players to come and set up the computer facility in India. Once we have the computer, then the ability to do good research and the ability to develop AI applications will significantly increase. So Google has come with a $15 billion investment. I think Meta is also working on another investment," Vaishnaw said.

Jyothi's aim pierces history

ARCHER CLINCHES BRONZE AT THE ARCHERY WC FINAL, BECOMING FIRST INDIAN WOMAN COMPOUND ATHLETE TO GET A MEDAL AT THE EVENT

REIGNING ASIAN GAMES CHAMPION'S FLAWLESS 150/150 SCORE - FIRST-EVER IN A WORLD CUP FINAL, SETS NEW STANDARD IN WORLD ARCHERY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nanjing (China), Oct 18: Decorated Indian archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam Saturday became the first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at the World Cup Final, clinching the bronze with a flawless performance here.

The reigning Asian Games champion was at her imperious best against world No 2 Ella Gibson of Great Britain, shooting 15 perfect arrows to prevail 150-145 and secure her maiden podium finish in the tournament.

The eight-archer World Cup season finale saw the 29-year-old Indian begin with a confident 143-140 win over Alexis Ruiz of the USA in the quarterfinals.

Jyothi, however, went down narrowly to world No 1 Andrea Becerra of Mexico 143-145 in the semifinals after a closely-fought contest.

Jyothi briefly led by one point after the third end (87-86) but Becerra hit three 10s in the fourth end to edge ahead 116-115 and sealed the final spot by taking the fifth end 29-28, as the Indian fell just short of her best finish.

The 2021 World Championship silver medallist, however, bounced back in style in the bronze medal match, reeling off 15 consecutive 10s across five ends to outclass Gibson and end her campaign on a high.

This was Jyothi's third appearance at the World Cup Final, having earlier competed at the Tlaxcala (2022) and Hermosillo (2023) editions, where she had exited in the opening round.

India had another qualifier in the women's compound section, Madhura Dhamangaonkar, who made an opening-round exit after losing 142-145 to Mariana Bernal of Mexico.

NARROW MISS FOR MEN

India, however, had heartbreak in the men's compound section as the country's top-ranked archer Rishabh Yadav narrowly missed out on a bronze medal, losing to former world champion Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands by millimetres in the shoot-off.

Both archers dropped just three points across the regulation five ends to be tied 147-all.

The shoot-off also produced a thrilling finish, with both shooting perfect 10s, but Schloesser's arrow was adjudged closer to the centre, denying Yadav a World Cup Final medal by the narrowest of margins.

Abhishek Verma thus remains the only Indian compound archer to have won medals at the World Cup Final, having claimed a silver in 2015 (Mexico City) and a bronze in 2018 (Samsun) respectively.

No Indian has qualified in the recurve section in this season's World Cup Final.

ONE STEP TO HISTORIC GLORY

Tanvi smashes into final

The shuttler had assured India of a medal in the World Junior Championships for the first time in 17 years and she came out fighting against Li from the first point in their semifinal clash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 18: India's top seeded Tanvi Sharma produced a near-perfect match against China's Liu Si Ya to storm into the final of the BWF World Junior Champions here Saturday.

The 16-year-old Tanvi followed the footsteps of former World No 1 Saina Nehwal and Aparna Popat to become only the third Indian female player to qualify for the final of the tournament, recording a 15-11, 15-9 win over her opponent.

Tanvi will now play against the second-seeded Anyapat Phichitpreechasak from Thailand, who fought back from a game down to beat compatriot Yataweemin Ketklieng 10-15, 15-11, 15-5 in the other semifinal.

She wasn't afraid to unleash the late flicks and cross-court pushes from the front court and remained ahead in the game. The Indian worked to a 7-3 lead in the opening game and even though Liu managed to narrow the gap to 8-7 at one stage, Tanvi did not flinch.

Tanvi finished the first game in mere 13 minutes as she never allowed Liu to set into her rhythm and in the second set, she was up to a 12-4 lead in quick time to indicate which way the match was headed.

Though there was a phase where Tanvi was not at her best, she bounced back with another perfectly weighted down-the-line smash on the Chinese's serve.

"I was feeling very comfortable today and I am very happy with the way I played. It was only in the second game at 12-4 that I made a few mistakes but my coach told me to focus on playing my strokes slightly inside the lines and it worked," Tanvi said after the match.

BLOCKBUSTER SUNDAY

1st ODI: Returning RoKo in focus vs Oz

Perth: Even amid the emotional theme of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's return to India fold, Shubman Gill's maiden outing as full-time ODI skipper provides an equally compelling narrative to the first one-dayer against Australia here Sunday. Kohli and Rohit are coming back to national colours after playing the Champions Trophy in March, and the dynamics of Indian cricket has changed irrevocably in these seven months. The cricketing ecosystem has learned to survive the prolonged absence of Kohli and Rohit — at least in two formats — in this interim period. But the challenge for these two giants is to shake off the accumulated rust post the IPL, their last competitive outing. It might just be a blessing for them that their return coincided with a series against Australia, a team that had cathartic influence during the course of their long careers. In that context, the three-match ODI series can be considered as a barometer of their individual drive and willingness to travel still farther in their working lives as one-format players.

Women in Blue look to bounce back

Indore: Under pressure to revive their campaign after back-to-back defeats, India will have to consider adding a sixth bowler to bring more balance to their attack when they face England in a crucial Women's ODI World Cup match here Sunday. India's campaign has hit a stumbling block after successive three-wicket losses to South Africa and Australia in Visakhapatnam, results that have left their strategy under the scanner. The combination of five batters, a wicketkeeper, and five bowlers -- three of them all-rounders -- has been India's trusted template through much of this World Cup cycle. But its limitations have been brutally exposed, forcing a rethink as the 'Women in Blue' now stare at a must-win scenario, needing two victories from their remaining three matches to stay alive in the semifinal race. The five-bowler approach came undone against South Africa, yet the management persisted with it against Australia, resulting in another defeat. It offered clinching evidence that India cannot afford to field an attack lacking variety and bite against top teams.

Baroda win despite Odisha resistance

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 18: Baroda secured a convincing 7-wicket win over Odisha on Day 5 of their Ranji Trophy clash at Barabati Stadium here Saturday despite a spirited fightback from the hosts.

Starting Day 4 trailing by 142 runs, Odisha folded for 174 in their second innings. Subhranshu Senapati (59 off 114) and Gaurav Choudhary (28 off 69) were the only notable contributors. Mahesh Pithiya's economical spell of 4/63 in 26.3 overs, well supported by Bhargav Bhatt (2/57), restricted Odisha and handed Baroda a modest target of 33.

On the final morning, Baroda made light work of the chase despite losing three wickets early. Shivalik Sharma led the way with a brisk 32* off 26 balls, smashing six boundaries at a strike rate of 123.08. Mitesh Patel stayed calm on the other end with 2* off 12 as Baroda reached 36/3 in just 7.4 overs, clinching the match with a day to spare.

The victory was built on Baroda's dominant first innings total of 413/7 declared, anchored by centuries from Shivalik Sharma (124) and Mitesh Patel (100*). Odisha, despite a gritty 94 by Rajesh Dhupar and 79 by Senapati in the first innings, couldn't keep up.

Baroda's bowling unit, especially A Sheth (4/67) and Pithiya, played key roles across both innings. With this win, Baroda kickstarts their Ranji campaign with strong momentum.

Brief scores

Odisha 271 all out in 116.1 overs & 174 all out in 59.3 overs (Subhranshu Senapati 59; Mahesh Pithiya 6/63, Bhargav Bhatt 3/57) lost to Baroda 413/7 decl & 36/3 in 7.4 overs (Shivalik Sharma 32 not out; Badal Biswal 2/20) by 7 wickets

Australia deny India Johor Cup glory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johor Bahru (Malaysia), Oct 18: Ian Grobbelaar struck twice, including a decisive penalty corner in the dying minutes, as Australia pipped India 2-1 to win their third Sultan of Johor Cup under-21 hockey title, here Saturday.

Grobbelaar opened the scoring in the 13th minute with a perfectly-executed drag flick just before the end of the first quarter. Three-time former champions India responded in the second quarter through Anmol Ekka, who converted a penalty corner in the 17th minute to level the match at 1-1.

The victory allowed Australia to finally break their streak of three successive final defeats since the loss against India in 2022. With this win, they also avenged the defeat three years ago. This was their third Sultan of Johor Cup title overall.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha;Phone:(0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159