Creative satisfaction Actor Rashmika Mandana says her just-released movie Thamma has been more than

LEISURE | P2



Russia holds N-drills

Russia conducts major nuclear drills following the US delay of a planned Putin-Trump summit on the ongoing Ukraine war

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Al playbooks

WEF launches AI playbooks for SMEs and agriculture as well as AI sandbox white paper to boost responsible AI adoption

BUSINESS | P11



Honour for Chopra

Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been conferred the rank of Lieutenant Colonel

SPORTS | P12

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VOLUME 15, ISSUE 201 I www.orissapost.com

iust work

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2025



BJD Ganjam prez among 12 held in Pitabas murder

Berhampur, Oct 22: Police Wednesday arrested 12 people, including former Berhampur MLA and BJD's Ganjam district president Bikram Panda, for the murder of BJP leader and senior advocate Pitabas Panda, officials said Wednesday.

Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M told reporters that the murder was the result of "political rivalry, personal enmity and financial loss".

Former Berhampur mayor Siba Shankar Das (Pintu), corporator Malay Bishoyi, and Panda's associate Madan Dalei were among those arrested, the SP said.

With the arrests, police have finally cracked the sensational case of the brutal assassination of Pitabas, a member of the Odisha State Bar Council, who was shot dead near his residence at Brahmanagar under the Baidyanathpur police limits in Berhampur October 6.

There was a deal of ₹50 lakh to eliminate Pitabas, of which ₹11 lakh was paid greetings," Modi said on X. to Kurupathi Bhuyan, who referring to the Hindu festiopened fire, the SP said. He added that Bikram had conspired to murder Pitabas. Police have seized the weapon used in the killing,

the SP said. Over the past two weeks, investigators questioned more than 80 people and reviewed over 500 CCTV camera clips, the SP said, adding that police have produced Bikram and others at the Berhampur court under



BJD: Panda's arrest politically motivated

Bhubaneswar: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday strongly condemned the arrest of party's senior leader and Ganiam district president Bikram Panda in connec tion with the sensational murder Panda, terming the police action as completely politically motivated and aimed at defaming the regional party ahead of the Nuapada byelection. Addressing a press conference at Sankha Bhawan here, senior BJD leaders Pramila Mallik, Bhrugu Baxipatra and Lenin Mohanty alleged that a conspiracy was hatched to frame Bikram.

Keeping in view the possible backlash, police de ployed a large police force around the court premises to maintain order.

The SP said that the vic tim was once a close friend of Bikram Panda but had recently become a hurdle to his political ambitions.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters, BJD leader and Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik issued a clean chit to Bikram Panda, claiming that the former Berhampur MLA had been falsely implicated by police to protect the real culprit.

Senior BJP leader and Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, on the other hand, alleged that the BJD was protecting the criminals

for AI content

Labelling likely

New Delhi: In a bid to curb user harm from AI-generated deepfakes and synthetically produced content, the IT Ministry has proposed draft amendments to IT rules that mandate labelling and prominent markers to ensure users can distinguish synthetic and authentic content, and mooted greater accountability for major social media platforms. P3

India 9th nation with most forest

New Delhi: India has climbed to the ninth spot globally in total forest area and retained its third rank in annual forest area gain, according to a new report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). India follows Australia. the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia, placing it among the world's top 10 forest-rich nations.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I think Lokpal deserves BMWs. sir-11 years and not a single corruption charge against us

CM for CBI probe into SI recruitment scam

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The state government Wednesday recommended a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in the recruitment of sub-inspectors (SIs) in various departments, including police, and fire and emergency services, a statement said.

The irregularities appear to span multiple states and are suspected to involve interstate criminal networks, order to completely expose which is why a CBI probe is this corruption and bring required, the statement is- all the criminals involved in sued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi decided to hand over the investigation to the CBI after discussing the matter with different stakeholders, it said.

The case is at present irregularities, officials said. being investigated by the Crime Branch of the Odisha Police. However, findings from the ongoing investigation indicate that the web of corruption may extend beyond Odisha, possibly involving operatives in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other states.

the involvement of interstate organised criminal over the depth and scale of the examination scam.



"In view of all this, and in it to justice and give exemit to justice and give exemplary punishment, the CM HANGING IN BANGALORE has decided to hand over the investigation to the CBI," the POST NEWS NETWORK statement said.

So far, 123 people, including Bangalore, Oct 22: A cou-114 aspirants, have been ar- ple from Dhenkanal reportrested in connection with the

The recruitment examination was scheduled to be held October 5 and 6, but was postponed by the Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB) after irregularities were detected, they said.

Meanwhile, the state government is also considering firm in the industrial area the establishment of a per-Authorities also suspect manent commission for recruitment to the police and other uniformed services, accountability in future selection processes.

India nears deal to cut US tariffs

New Delhi, Oct 22: India and the United States are nearing a long-stalled trade agreement that would reduce US tariffs on Indian imports to 15 per cent to 16 per cent from 50 per cent, India's Mint reported Wednesday citing three people aware of the matter.

The deal, which hinges on energy and agriculture, may see India gradually scale back its imports of Russian

crude oil, Mint reported. India's Ministry of Com-

edly committed suicide by

hanging at Kalbalu village

under Jigani police limits

in Bangalore, sources said

The deceased have been

identified as Seema Nayak

(25) and Rakesh Patra (23).

Both of them were working

as housekeeping staff at a

informed the police. Upon

being alerted by a call, the

here, sources added.

Wednesday.

ODISHA COUPLE FOUND

diately respond to Reuters' requests for comment. President Donald Trump said he spoke to Indi-

White House did not imme-

an Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday, largely focusing on trade. Trump said energy was also part of their discussion,

and Modi assured him that India would limit its oil purchases from Russia.

leaders had talked, but non-genetically modified gave no details about what US corn and soymeal, Mint was discussed. "Thank you, reported citing the sources.

police went to the spot, en-

tered the house by breaking

open the door and found the

After a preliminary probe,

police said Patra first hanged

himself, and asserted that

Nayak used a knife to cut

the rope and subsequently

hanged herself. It is suspect-

ed that the two were not mar-

ried but were living together.

bours revealed that Patra

was an alcoholic and the

couple engaged in a quar-

contact with their relatives in

Odisha," the police said.

Inquiries with the neigh-

couple hanging.

"On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terror-

phone call and warm Diwali

val, which was celebrated

ism in all its forms," he said. As part of negotiations with Washington, India may Modi also said the two allow increased imports of

DHARITRI OUTH"

ENVIRONMENTAL FILM COMPETITION

CALLING ALL YOUNG FILMMAKERS!



indradhanura chhai and Biswaprakash, the latter winning the 2000 National Award, Co-founder of BYOFF, he has been championing independent cinema platforms.

His recent film Josef - Born in Grace (2019) earned international acclaim winning the Silver Remi Award

SHEHASIS DAS

Award-winning Odia filmmaker and founder of The Naked Eye Films, his film kokoli: Fish Out of Water (2021) won Best Director & Best Feature at Mexico International Film

With 30+ documentaries and 20 short films, his work showcase social and environment concerns.



LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OCTOBER, 2025



Sources said, the couple's rel Sunday. The events that followed are currently unrented house was closed since last Sunday. The landknown. "Further details will be known after we establish syndicates, raising concerns to ensure transparency and lord became suspicious and

Together since 60s: Meet our so-called '2nd moon' 'n a cosmic twist that is only visible with powerful sounds straight out of telescopes. science fiction, astrona small asteroid — affectionately dubbed a "quasi-moon" — trailing alongside Earth in a shared orbit named 2025 PN7, is about the size of a city bus (around 19 metres) and was officially spotted by scientists at the Pan-STARRS observatory in Hawaii this August.

While the idea of Earth having a "second moon" sounds thrilling, don't expect to see it lighting up the night sky. This space rock is nearly four million kilometres (2.5 million miles) away about ten times farther than our actual Moon — and

Though it may seem like omers have discovered a new lunar neighbour, scientists stress that 2025 PN7 is not a true moon. Unlike Earth's natural satellite, this asteroid isn't gravitaaround the Sun. The rock, tionally bound to our planet and doesn't orbit it directly. Instead, it orbits the Sun, just like Earth does — but on a similar path, creating the illusion that it's looping

around our planet. According to experts at The Planetary Society, quasi-moons appear to orbit Earth from our perspective but are actually independent solar orbiters. Their motion is a celestial illusion, not a true

gravitational relationship.

pact on Earth's tides, gravity, or daily life. It simply follows a similar track around the Sun, making it more of

a travelling companion than a satellite. So why was it only discovered now, despite trailing Earth since the 1960s?

2025 PN7 has likely been doing this since the 1960s, Ten times farther than the slipping under the radar due PN7 will remain in Earth's

Moon, 2025 PN7 has no im- to its small size, faint glow, and the brief windows when it's visible. Carlos de la Fuente Marcos, an astronomer at the Complutense University of Madrid, called it a "challenging object," and one that only now could be detected thanks to modern telescopes.

But this cosmic companion won't stick around forever. Scientists predict 2025

neighborhood until 2083, before the Sun's gravitational influence nudges it onto a new path.

It's one of several known quasi-moons — including the long-orbiting Kamo'oalewa — and part of a special group of Earth-synchronised asteroids known as Arjunas.

And who knows? With new observatories like the Vera C. Rubin Observatory now scanning the skies, this might just be the start of finding more of Earth's quiet tag-alongs.

For now, 2025 PN7 remains a fascinating reminder that Earth's journey through space is far from solitary — even if its companions are only temporary.









eisure



DAKOTA JOHNSON'S DARING STYLE CHOICES

Hollywood actress Dakota Johnson has talked about her daring choice of wearing see-through dresses and said that she feels beautiful in them, hence she wears them. The actress opened up to Vogue Germany about her daring style choices and why she plans to continue rocking designs similar to her buzziest looks.

OLSEN'S CONDITION FOR STUDIO MOVIES

Hollywood actress Elizabeth Olsen is putting her foot down. The actress has said that she is no longer signing on to Hollywood studio movies that don't have a guaranteed theatrical release.



accuracy • reliability • trust

If you get a chance to display your presentation skills, don't lose it, says Ganesha. Your eloquence may receive wide acclaim. Your children too may give you reason to be proud. Do remember to take time out for the elderly in your family.

TAURUS

You may feel that you woke up on the wrong side of the bed today, says Ganesha. The day is filled with a fair share of iittery moments and lingering worry. Stand firm and remem ber that every night has a dawn. The law of averages will make your evening more enjoyable. You may discuss certai intimate issues with your sweetheart for the betterment of your relationship.

GEMINI

Your day will be spent indulging in activities that appeal to you. You may go out shopping with your family members, or go out to dinner with friends. A lesiurelv. entertainment filled, fun dav awaits you, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You may face unwanted events and circumstances. As a result you will feel sad, vet you will wriggle out of it with your efficiency. Put in efforts in studies, says Ganesha. remember that in success destiny is one per cent and effort 99 per cent

One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesha. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill. But more importantly. Ganesha foresees the day leading you to a fulfilling evening.

A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag o' jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesha advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your

There is no end to work. so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesh expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today. You may also launch a new business scheme, especially if you are self-employed.

SCORPIO

The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too, says Ganesha. Long overdue payments might get encashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You may have women swooning over you today; such is your charm and way with them, says Ganesha. But friends are highly valuable to you, and you shall spend much time with them cherishing their company and reliving amazing times spent together.

CAPRICORN

It may seem to be an unusual combination, but you will experience pain and pleasure in equal measure today, says Ganesha. The errands you may have to run for at home will leave you exhausted, so conserve some energy for the rest of the day. Your wit can get you whatever you want, but it's important that you use it in the right way and not just to meet your selfish interests.

AQUARIUS

Good news may hit home today. Promotion, profit, scholarship, anything you've been working for will probably materialise. You are ingenuous, and will crack the toughest of problems with consummate ease. Ganesha sees money lenders and brokers doing well.

PISCES Being a friend in need is what today will be about, savs Ganesha. Making new acquaintances and associations is also on the cards. Try not to let jealousy mar your better judgement while you are at it.



Gates' cameo in *Kyunki...*

Mumbai: Star Plus' iconic daily soap Kyunki Saas Bhi

Kabhi Bahu Thi(KSBKBT)has once again taken over

television screens with its all-new season. In what could

be one of the most unexpected and never-seen-before

moments in Indian television history, Kyunki Saas

Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi is all set to host a cameo that has stunned fans and industry insiders alike.

The newly released promo shows Tulsi en-

gaging in a video call with someone on her

laptop, clearly thrilled about meeting him.

While only a voice is heard, the suspense

around the identity of this global guest

has sparked wild speculation. But if

inside sources are to be believed, the

mystery guest might actually be none

other than tech titan and philanthrop-

Ever since the speculations have

been out through the promo, fans

were seen flooding to the com-

ment section in expressing their

excitement and thrill. If this

pans out, this would mark Bill

Gates' second-ever appearance

on a television show, the first

being his legendary cameo on

The Big Bang Theory. For In-

dian television, this would be

a groundbreaking moment,

a global icon appearing in a

domestic daily soap.

ist Bill Gates.

Rashmika Mandanna starrer horror com-

edy, Thamma has finally reached the movie buffs Tuesday, and taking a moment from the promotions, the Animal actress decided to look back at her incredible journey of making this movie.

Rashmika took to social media and wrote, "Thamma... Ahh... where do I even begin...From the very first call-sheet to the final cut, this film has been more than just work.. it's been a journey of heart, of grit, of laughter and bruises and mornings we didn't want to wake up for and nights we didn't want to end (sic)."

Thanking filmmaker Aditya Sarpotdar for trusting her, she shared, "To our incredible director, @aditya_a_sarpotdar sir my heart is full of respect for you.. You trusted me, you pushed me.. You saw what the film could be and you helped us get there..'

Expressing her delight at sharing screen space with Ayushmann Khurrana, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and Paresh Rawal, Rashmika penned, "@ayushmannk, @pareshrawalofficial sir, @nawazuddin._siddiqui sir

> one together.." Acknowledging all the efforts made by the crew during the shoot, Rashmika added, "To our crew.. the ones who came early, stayed late, carried equipment up hills, chased light and rain and weather mood, patched up

> natural.. sooo happy we got to work on this

wounds.. Because of you, we stood on those locations. we captured frames we creat ed those memories.."

doing scenes with you is so effortless and

Rashmika's journey of heart, grit, bruises

Mumbai:

Palak redefining stardom

> the hit music video Bijlee Bijlee opposite a top artist in 2021, immediately gaining widespread attention. Her unique look, confidence and presence in the video opened doors and prompted casting in the 2023 major film with a leading actor, signalling her transition into mainstream cinema. Born in Mumbai to a well-known

television actress Shweta Tiwari and actor father Raja Choudhury, Palak grew up witnessing the film industry's workings and learnt early how to balance privilege with hard work. She studied psychology at college and conscious ly chose acting, modelling and brand ventures to craft her own identity, forging a path distinct from her family's legacy. Palak's fashion choices and social media presence reflect a

modern blend of glamour and relatability. In 2023 Palak landed a prominent role in the bigbudget film Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan where she appeared opposite superstar Salman Khan, marking a significant step into major releases. Although the film's commercial performance re ceived mixed reviews, critics noted her on-screen ease and the promise of growth, making her one of the most watched newcomers in Hindi cin ema. Beyond acting and style, Palak speaks openly about industry pressures including beauty standards, celebrity scrutiny and personal growth. Her candid interviews re veal a thoughtful young performer

aware of her influence and com-

mitted to evolving both craft and

First Indian actress to outearn her male co-stars

MUMBAI: According to Indian Express, at a time when male actors dominated the industry in both prominence and earnings, Suraiya broke all norms by commanding a fee of ₹1 to ₹2 lakh per film, more than her celebrated co-stars like Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand, and Ashok Kumar. This unprecedented pay made her India's highest-paid actress of the 1940s and early 1950s, reflecting not only her popularity but also her formidable box office pull.

Suraiya's journey into films began at just 12 years old when she accompanied her maternal uncle to film sets. She got her first acting role as the young Mumtaz Mahal in Taj Mahal. Her natural singing talent was discovered by composer Naushad while she was performing for All India Radio, leading to her playback debut in Sharda (1942). She went on to sing 338 songs, a rare feat for an actress-singer of her era.

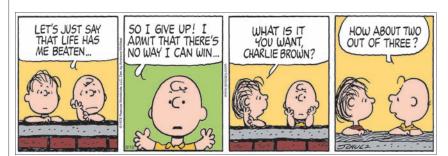
Suraiya and Dev Anand's love story captivated the nation. They starred together in seven films and were in a relationship from 1948 to 1951. Dev Anand famously borrowed money from friends to buy her a 3,000 diamond ring, a gesture of his deep affection. staunch opposition from Suraiya's conservative Muslim family, primarily because of their religious differences. When Suraiva's grandmother

However, their relationship faced

discovered the diamond ring, she removed it from Suraiva's finger and forbade any further contact with Dev Anand. Heartbroken, Dev Anand reportedly threw the ring into the Arabian Sea. Though he proposed to her again years later, Suraiya declined, unwilling to defy her family. She remained unmarried for the rest of her life, and many believe her personal heartbreak also cast a shadow over her later career. After her split with Dev Anand.

Suraiya's career faced a downturn, with several of her 1950s films failing at the box office. Yet she achieved a triumphant comeback with Mirza Ghalib (1954), which was both a critical and commercial success. India's then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru praised her moving performance, remarking, "You brought Mirza Ghalib's soul back to life." Today, Suraiya is remembered as one of Indian cinema's most talented actresses and a true singing star who left an indelible mark on film history.

PEANUTS



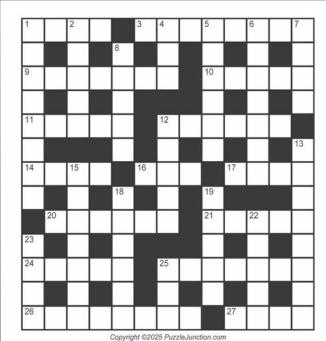
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**



24 Venomous snake

25 Get a divorce

performers

(5,2)

26 Circus

27 Twist

Down

Across 1 Short run 3 And so forth

> (2.6)9 Martinique

neighbour (2,5) 10 Similar

11 Cut of beef

12 Theatre ad

14 Wagers

16 Busy airport 17 Paper purchase

20 Pond sounds 21 Laud

7 Bailiwick

5 Pass, as time 6 Curse (4,3)

4 Oolong, for one

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

1 Identify 2 Chip dip

warning? 18 Sacred beetle of ancient

Egypt

8 Sharp as a tack

contagious

viral disease

12 Broods

13 Highly

15 Storm

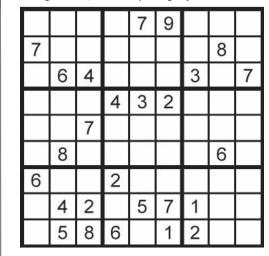
19 Water sources

22 Demolish

23 Hot rock 25 Congeal

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD PASTURE DENIM I T

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

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

SUDOKU

₹50L deal struck for € Pitabas murder

SUBASA CHANDRA PADHY, OP

Berhampur, Oct 22: Over a fortnight after advocate and BJP leader Pitabas Panda was gunned down by miscreants near his house in the Silk City, Berhampur Police Wednesday claimed to have cracked the gruesome murder by arresting BJD district unit president Bikram Panda and 11 others, and revealing that a ₹50-lakh contract was made for the ex-

Initially, police arrested two ouths from Bihar — Kumar Paswan and Kundan — who were reportedly brought to Berhampur by Uma Bisoi to carry out the shooting. Bisoi had arranged their stay in a rented accommodation in Alakapuri area with the help of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) corporator Malay, officers said.

The duo conducted reconnaissance for two days, but abandoned the plan after learning that Pitabas was an advocate, the accused told police. The investigation took a new turn after Malay was interro-

According to police, two local political leaders - Bikram, a former MLA, and Pintu - had negotiated a ₹50-lakh deal through intermediaries to eliminate Pitabas. Uma, who lived in Balipada, allegedly took ₹11 lakh from the shooters for the job.

When the Bihar youths returned home, Uma reportedly panicked and then hired two from Banthapalli — to execute the killing. The two men were housed in a rented building about 200 metres from Pitabas' residence five days before the murder, police said.

Around 10 pm October 6, Pitabas was returning home from his chamber when Kurupati and Chintu waylaid him near his house. The duo approached him and asked, "Panda Babu, how are you?

Before Pitabas could respond, Kurupati allegedly took out a gun and fired at his chest. As Pitabas collapsed, the duo sped away on a motorcycle toward Shikulapalli canal via Lochapada and Gunthunti.

Police said they hid their clothes, helmets, and two firearms under a bush near the canal before heading towards Tangi-Chandpur on National Highway-16 via Purushottampur and Huma. They left the bike by the roadside and took a bus to Bhubaneswar, later traveling to Puri, where they reunited with their associate Uma at a lodge

Chintu later boarded a train from Khurda to Bangalore, while shooter Kurupati and Uma travelled to Jeypore in Koraput, where they stayed at a farmhouse. During interrogation, both confessed that the farmhouse belonged to an acquaintance of Bikram and Malay, with whom they shared close ties

Kurupati and Uma later fled to Ranchi and switched off their mobile phones to evade detection. Police later arrested Chintu from Bangalore and continued the investigation based on the interro-

Poll drubbing motive

Investigations have revealed that one of the key motives behind the murder of Pitabas was the electoral defeat of Bikram. According to police, Bikram reportedly blamed Pitabas for his loss in 2024 general election from



BJD: Bikram's arrest politically motivated

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday strongly condemned the arrest of party's senior leader and Ganjam district president Bikram Panda in connection with the sensational

> murder of BJP leader and lawyer Pitabas Panda, terming the police action as completely politically motivated aimed at defaming the regional party ahead of

> > by election. Addressing a press conference at Sankha Bhawan here, senior

Nuapada

leaders Pramila Mallik, Bhrugu Baxipatra and Lenin Mohanty alleged that a conspiracy was hatched to frame Bikram.

Although police made several claims about Bikram's alleged involvement, no concrete evidence has been presented so far, they said.

Mallik said that during the 16 months of BJP rule, law and order in Odisha has collapsed, with Ganjam district topping the crime chart. She pointed out that 152 rape cases and 128 murders have been registered in Ganjam alone.

She further alleged that illegal sand mining has peaked in the district, resulting in vio-

footage from at least 70 CCT-

Vs installed along the route

taken by Pitabas, between his

chamber and the crime scene.

70 CCTVs scanned

Call records

lent incidents, and claimed that a state minister was involved in the illegal trade.

Mallik said that former BJP zilla parishad member N Damburu Reddy had written to the chief minister accusing the involvement of the BJP minister in Pitabas Panda murder and demanded his dismissal and investigation.

Alleging that Bikram's arrest was carried out in a dramatised manner in order to di vert public attention, she said police has failed to produce any credible evidence.

The BJD leader said the party strongly condemns the arrest and will continue to raise its voice against such 'injustice'. Baxipatra termed the arrest 'politically driven', claiming it was part of the BJP's pattern of targeting Opposition leaders.

He alleged that the police, acting under government pressure, has prepared a false narrative to implicate Bikram while the real cause of the murder lies in internal BJP conflicts and illegal sand trade disputes. Mohanty alleged that the police, under BJP influence, has deliberately made the BJD district president an accused. He said the party would launch statewide protests against the

reach the conclusion. The police collected the Plea for capital punishment

Pitabas' wife Susmita Panda has requested the CM to ensure capital punishment to the culprits.

"He was a noble heart and always open help others. I demand the culprits be hanged," said a grieving Susmita.

BJD leaders' remarks immature: BJP

Bhubaneswar: Reacting to the BJD leaders' allegation following the arrest of Ganjam district unit president of BJD Bikram Panda and 11 others, the BJP termed the remarks immature and inappropriate.

"The BJD leaders' remarks are immature and inappropriate. Everyone should cooperate with the ongoing investigation, and criminals must not be shielded," BJP state vice-president Jatin Mohanty said.

On BJD leaders' allegation against a state minister, Mohanty said, "If they have evidence against the minister, they should go to the court and get justice instead of making fake allega-

Senior BJP leader and Revenue and Disaster

Gopalpur Assembly constituency

In addition, a petition had been filed in the Orissa High Court alleging that current Berhampur MLA K Anil Kumar had submitted a false af-

The legal expenses related to this petition were jointly borne by Bikram and Pintu, investigators said.

Police added that Bikram believed that if the court accepted the petition and ordered a byelection for Berhampur Assembly seat, he could become MLA and Pintu will be the Mayor of BeMC.

Berhampur SP Saravana

Following the direction of

Vivek M said evidence sug-

gests that Bikram and Pintu

had given ₹11 lakh as advance

for murder of Pitabas.

Management Minister Suresh Pujari alleged

by supporting the criminals and crime," the

minister said, adding that the BJD should co-

"The BJD is doing injustice towards Odisha

that the BJD was protecting the criminals.

operate in the ongoing probe.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Berhampur Police formed six teams to investigate the high-profile murder.

The police examined the call detail records (CDRs) of

Pitabas and all the accused to

Rain likely for 4 days mowed down by train

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: A fire broke out at Unit-1 Haat, the largest daily market in the state capital, here Wednesday, destroying around 30 shops and damaging properties worth crores of rupees, officials said.

There were no reports of casualties or injuries in the incident, which took more than two hours to be brought under control, they said.

Chief Fire Officer (Odisha) Ramesh Chandra Majhi said the blaze, which started in one of the grocery shops around 2:20pm, quickly spread to nearby stores due to the presence of inflammable materials. As many as 11 fire tenders and

140 personnel were deployed to contain the blaze, Majhi said. He added that the fire station received information around



2:40pm and firefighters reached the site within five minutes.

He said the exact cause of the fire could not be ascertained.

Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das said unorganised layout of the shops made it difficult for the fire teams to douse the flames. Significantly, fire engulfing Unit 1 market area is nothing new. Two such incidents were reported last year too.

A massive fire broke out at vegetable godowns at the mar-

ket on the night of December 14, 2024. The blaze spread to the entire vegetable market, destroying foods and commodities worth over several lakhs, cash, several documents related to payments and one motorcycle.

Similarly, at least 25 garment shops were reduced to cinders in a massive inferno that broke out in the Unit 1 underground market during Diwali celebrations on the night of November 1, 2024.

Scuffle between two factions

Bhubaneswar: A scuffle broke out between two factions of the Unit 1 Traders' Association, blaming each other for the fire incident. Reports said a meeting for resolution of an ongoing conflict was scheduled for 2pm Wednesday. However, the fire broke out before the meeting could commence. The association's secretary blamed the other group involving president Kabir Swain and his supporters for the mishap. In the meantime, Swain, along with his supporters, reached the spot and thrashed the secretary and others. Soon, the situation turned violent. However, the police and locals present there intervened and brought the situation under control.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Light rain and thunderstorms are likely in Odisha over the next four days under the impact of two back-to-back low-pressure areas, the IMD said Wednesday.

"A well-marked low-pressure area persists over the southwest Bay of Bengal off the Tamil Nadu coast. It is likely to intensify into a depression and move northwestwards across north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and south Andhra Pradesh coasts during the next 24 hours," said IMD Bhubaneswar's Director Manorama Mohanty.

"An upper air cyclonic circulation also lies over the south Andaman Sea and its neighbourhood. The system is expected to intensify into a low-pressure area around

light rainfall, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty wind are expected in several pockets of the state," Mohanty Thunderstorms with light-

ning are likely in Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, and Nabarangpur districts Thursday. Meanwhile, the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment

department issued an advisory for farmers in view of the This year, the state has received 100 per cent rainfall,

and due to this, a good crop yield is expected, officials said. The department advised

farmers not to panic after hearing misleading information about a cyclone hitting the state.

Boy making Insta reel

Bhubaneswar: A 15-year-old boy

died after being hit by a speeding

train while attempting to shoot an Instagram reel near a railway track in Puri district, police said Wednesday. The deceased, identified as Biswajit Sahu of Manglaghat area in Puri town, was trying to capture a moving train in the background of his video when the accident occurred Tuesday evening, they said. A purported video of the incident, recorded on the mobile phone of his friend, has surfaced on social media, police added. "Biswajit and his friend had gone to Janakadeipur railway overbridge near Chandanpur to shoot a short video for social media While filming, he was hit by a train and died on the spot," Puri GRP IIC Santosh Bahinipati said. The other boy, who was recording the video, was also injured, he said. "We have registered an unnatural death case and handed over the body to his family member after conducting a post-mortem," Bahinipati said.

PLUS II: 10,576 **SHORTLISTED** FOR ADMISSION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: A total of 10.576 students have been shortlisted to take admission into various streams of Plus II (Class XI) in the first round of selection under Phase III for the academic year 2025-26, the Directorate of Higher Secondary Education (DHSE) said Wednesday. Of the total students, 8,587 fresh

applicants who had not applied in the earlier phases of the admission, it said.

Arts stream recorded the highest number of selections with 6,584 students, followed by Science (2,439), Sanskrit (946), Commerce (416), and Vocational (191), it added. "Of the selected students, 5,369 are boys and 5.207 girls, reflecting a nearly equal gender representation in the latest round of admissions,' the DHSE said.

The Phase III aims at accommodating students who missed the earlier rounds, ensuring wider access to higher secondary education across Odisha.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Oct 22: In a bid to curb user harm from AI-gener-

ated deepfakes and synthetically produced content, the Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed draft amendments to IT rules that mandate labelling and prominent markers to ensure users can distinguish synthetic and authentic content and mooted greater accountability for major social media platforms.

With the increasing availability of generative AI tools and the resulting proliferation of synthetically generated information (deepfakes), the potential for misuse of such technologies to cause user harm, spread misinformation, manipulate elections, or impersonate individuals has grown significantly, the ministry said.

Taking note of these risks, and after extensive public discussions and parliamentary deliberations, MeitY has prepared the draft amendments to the IT Rules, 2021, it said, adding that the move aims to strengthen due diligence obligations for intermediaries, particularly social media intermediaries (platforms with 50 lakh or more

users like Meta) and significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs), as well as for platforms that enable the creation or modification of synthetically generated content.

It requires significant social media to obtain a user declaration on whether uploaded information is synthetically generated, deploy reasonable and proportionate technical measures to verify such declarations, and ensure that synthetically generated information is clearly labelled or accompanied by a notice indicating the same. The proposed amendments.

as outlined in the draft notification, introduce a clear definition of 'synthetically generated information', as well as labelling and metadata embedding requirements for such information to ensure users can distinguish synthetic from authentic content, according to the draft. The draft introduces a new

clause defining synthetically generated content as information that is artificially or algorithmically created, generated, modified or altered using a computer resource, in a manner that appears reasonably authentic or true.

The proposed tweaks in IT



Govt moots labelling, markers for AI-generated content

Content takedown notices only by sr officials

New Delhi: The IT ministry has stipulated that intimation to social media platforms for removal of 'unlawful information' can only be issued by senior officials and would require precise details and reasons to be specified, as it notified IT Rules amendment to streamline content takedown procedures and bring transparency clarity and precision in actions. Further, all intimations issued under Rule 3(1)(d) will be subject to a monthly review by an officer, not below the rank of secretary of the appropriate government, to ensure that such actions remain "necessary, proportionate, and consistent with law". Under Rule 3(1)(d), intermediaries are required to remove unlawful information upon receiving actual knowledge either through a court order or notification from the appropriate government. "On Rule 3 (1) (d)...accountability of the Government increases with this change and we will be giving a reasoned intimation whenever any such order is passed. The orders will be passed at a fairly senior level, joint secretary and above, DIG and above," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told mediapersons.

rules also introduce visibility and audibility standards, meaning synthetic content will have to be prominently marked, including a minimum 10 per cent

visual or initial audio duration coverage; and enhanced verification and declaration obligations for significant social media platforms, mandating reasonable technical measures to confirm whether uploaded content is synthetically generated and to label it accordingly.

These amendments are intended to promote user awareness, enhance traceability, and ensure accountability while maintaining an enabling environment for innovation in AI-driven technologies, the IT Ministry said.

It has sought feedback/comments on the draft amendment to the IT rules till November 6,

"Recent incidents of deepfake audio, videos and synthetic media going viral on social platforms have demonstrated the potential of generative AI to create convincing falsehoods - depicting individuals in acts or statements they never made. Such content can be weaponised to spread misinformation, damage reputations, manipulate or influence elections, or commit financial fraud," said the accompanying explanatory note on the IT Ministry website.

Globally and domestically, policymakers are increasingly concerned about fabricated or synthetic images, videos, and audio clips (deepfakes) that are indistinguishable from real content, and are being blatantly used to produce non-consensual intimate or obscene imagery; mislead the public with fabricated political or news content; commit fraud or impersonation for financial gain.

The IT Rule changes seek to provide statutory protection to intermediaries, removing or disabling access to synthet ically generated information based on reasonable efforts or user grievances. It mandates that interme-

diaries offering computer resources enabling creation or modification of synthetically generated information must ensure that such information is labelled or embedded with a permanent unique metadata or identifier; stipulates that such label or identifier must be visibly displayed or made audible in a prominent manner on or within the synthetic content, covering at least 10 per cent of the surface area of a visual display or, in the case of audio content, during the initial 10 per cent of its duration. The label or identifier must enable immediate identification of the content as synthetically-generated information.

DURGAPUR SHAME

Accused sent to judicial custody; TI parade Oct 24



Kolkata, Oct 22: A Durgapur court Wednesday rejected the bail pleas of four accused in the alleged gangrape of a second-vear medical student and remanded them to judicial custody. The court also directed that a Test Identification (TI) parade for all the accused be conducted October

Of the six persons arrested in connection with the case, four were produced before the court Wednesday afternoon, and the judge ordered five days of judicial custody for

Tuesday, two other accused in the same case were produced before the court, which had similarly rejected their bail pleas and remanded them to judicial custody. The court has also ordered the Test Identification (TI) parade of all the accused October 24. All six accused will be produced before the court again October 27, when their judicial custody ends.

On the other hand, the court Wednesday examined the WhatsApp chats between the victim and her classmate. Public Prosecutor Bibhas Chatterjee said, "There is no more confusion

truly involved will be punished. The court heard the statements of two persons Tuesday, while the bail applications of the remaining four were heard today. However, the government opposed their bail pleas.'

He further stated that the victim's classmate, who has been arrested, claimed he had no involvement in the crime. "However, we have submitted substantial information to the court. We hope the case will be decided soon," Chatterjee said.

Sources said the police have invoked additional sections against two of the six accused in the case.

Earlier, a case had been registered against the six arrested persons under sections related to gangrape, criminal conspiracy, common intention, and extortion by force of money, property, or benefit through intimidation. According to police sources, in addition to these, sections pertaining to extortion, wrongful confinement, and outraging the modesty of a woman have now been added against two of the accused.

October 10, a second-year medical student from Odisha was allegedly gangraped by five persons in a forested area

Victim in relationship with classmate: lawyer

Kolkata: In a surprising claim, the lawyer of an arrested individual—victim's classmate in the Durgapur gang-rape case—told Durgapur court Wednesday that the accused and the victim are in a relationship.

The statement was made as the classmate was pre sented before the court along with three other accused. Wednesday, the arrested classmate's lawyer, Pragyadipto Roy, filed a bail application in court.

He argued that the victim had gone out of the private medical college and hospital with his client of her own free will, as indicated in her first statement. The lawyer also claimed that his client is in a romantic relationship with the victim and pleaded for bail, stating there is no rape charge against him.

Opposing the bail of the victim's classmate, public prosecutor Bibhas Chatterjee said the victim had given a separate statement, claiming that her classmate took her out to eat 'puchka' (pani puri) and had also molested her.

near a private medical college and hospital in Durgapur, West Burdwan district.

Based on the victim's complaint, the police had earlier arrested all five accused in the case. Authorities stated that only one person was directly involved in the physical sexual assault of the medical student. Later. the victim's male friend was also arrested after investigators found inconsistencies in his statements during

CEO conference kicks off for SIR preparedness

Workshop on safety, quality

in high-pressure welding held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: A twoday conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), organised by

the Election Commission of India (ECI), began Wednesday at the India International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Management

Odisha's Chief Electoral Offi cer RS Gopalan, along with Additional CEO Sushant Mishra and Deputy CEO Laxmi Prasad Sahu, attended the event.

The conference, inaugurated under Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, was also attended by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

The Election Commission reviewed the preparedness of CEO offices across all states and Union Territories (UTs) for the upcoming nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The conference follows a preparatory meeting for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

(LABOUR & ESI DEPARTMENT)

TRACE PROGRAMME ON

During the session, detailed presentations were made on voter numbers from the previous SIR, the qualifying date of the last SIR, and the overall voter list status in each state

The Commission also assessed the progress made by CEOs in mapping current voters against the previous voter base in their respective states and UTs.

Additionally, it reviewed the status of appointment and training of District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Reg istration Officers (EROs), Assis tant EROs (AEROs), Booth Lev el Officers (BLOs), and Booth Level Agents (BLAs).

Police officer arrested for exploiting colleague on pretext of marriage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: A police inspector was arrested here Wednesday for allegedly having sexual relations with a woman sub-inspector by promising to

Mahila Police arrested Yo

shobant Acharya, who is a native of Kandhamal district. He was arrested on the basis

of a case registered at Mahila po lice station here Tuesday after the victim lodged a complaint.

A case was registered against the police officer under Section 69 of BNS and he was forwarded to the court

According to the police, the accused inspector had allegedly established a physical relation ship with the woman police of ficer on the pretext of marriage but later married someone else

Speaking to PTI, Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Mee na said, "We have arrested the police inspector (armed) and registered a case under Section 69 of BNS (sexual intercourse by

Follow IMD advisory: Padhee to farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The farmers should follow the instructions issued by the Indian Meteorological department (IMD), advised Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, while chairing a preparatory meeting on impending rainfall here Wednesday.

The meeting was also attended by Agriculture Director Shubham Saxena, IMD Director Manorama Mohapatra and OUAT Dean Prasaniit Mishra.

According to the IMD, there is no confirmed information on formation of cyclone till now. "However, due to the withdraw al of the south-west monsoon, there is a possibility of scattered rainfall at some places in the state. And especially, there is a possibility of thunderstorms and lightning in coastal Odisha," Mohapatra said.

This year, the state has re ceived 100 per cent normal rainfall and due to this, a good crop yield is expected. The department has advised the farmers not to panic after hearing any misleading information. In case of need farmers can contact 155333 or contact the nearest Regional Agricultural Research Centre or Agriculture Officer.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: With the state government giving top priority to ensure safer workplaces and protection of industrial workers, the Directorate of Factories and Boilers, under the Labour and Employees' State Insurance department, conducted a state-level training work shop on 'Safety and Quality in High-Pressure Welding' here at the State Labour Institute's conference hall Wednesday.

The workshop focused on the safe operation, maintenance, and repair of power plant boilers across the state.

Inaugurating the workshop as the chief guest, department's additional secretary Rajesh Agrawal highlighted the significant responsibility of power

plant officers in ensuring operational safety.

ute, Odi

Speaking as a guest of honour, Directorate of Factories and Boilers Deputy Director (Safety) Malay Kumar Pradhan said that there is a strong need for high-quality welders. capable of withstanding high pressure, as their work plays a vital role in safeguarding both life and property. He cautioned that inadequate precautions during welding can reduce pressure resistance, leading to potential accidents.

Assistant Director (Safety) Anil Kumar Nanda and Assistant Director (Dhenkanal Division) Biswajit Panigrahi also attended the workshop, addressed the participants, and played key roles in conducting the training sessions.

employing deceitful means) and The motorcycle used to stop

Preparatory meet for Shree Anna 2025 Symposium held

Olive Ridley surveillance hit

FOR CLASSIFIED AD

nesting season.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Ahead of the International Symposium on Shree Anna 2025 scheduled for November 10–11, the monitoring committee of the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department held a preparatory meeting.

The meeting, chaired by Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, was attended by Agriculture Director Shubham Saxena, OUAT Dean Prasannajit Mishra, additional directors, and senior officers. who shared details regarding the organisation of the upcoming International Symposium.

This year's theme is "International Symposium on Shree Anna & Women's Participation

Kendrapara, Oct 22: Sea sur-

veillance during the upcoming

Olive Ridley turtle nesting sea-

son at the Gahirmatha Marine

Sanctuary is likely to be severe-

ly affected as most of the inter-

ceptor vessels remain defunct

and unrepaired, wildlife activ-

The eco-friendly interceptor

vessels Gahirmatha-I and Ga-

hirmatha-II equipped with ad-

vanced safety and monitoring

systems, were procured from

Mumbai-based Mahindra Ma-

rine Limited to protect endan-

gered Olive Ridley turtles and

ists have alleged.



in Agricultural Heritage." A special session will focus on women farmers, highlighting their equal contribution to ag-

riculture alongside men. The International Symposium on Shree Anna will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, while the Governor will grace the valedictory ceremony. The event will see participation from agriculturists, scientists, women agri-preneurs, NGOs, FPOs, and international organisations such as FAO, MS-SRF, IFPRI, and SEWA.

In 2016, the state government

had provided two high-speed,

er Kalipendra Pradhan said the

Motorcyclist rescues woman from kidnappers in Jajpur dist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 22: In a movie-like turn of events, a 20-year-old woman was rescued from her kidnappers after a motorcyclist, hearing her cries for help, intercepted their car and alerted passersby, police said Wednesday.

The dramatic incident happened in Jajpur district Tuesday night, they said.

The woman was returning home in Muraripur on her scooter, along with a friend, from her workplace in the Jaraka Bazar area. On the Kantamalia-Thanual Road, a motorcycle sped from the rear and blocked the road, stopping them, according to the police

Soon, three men arrived at the spot in a car and forced the woman into the vehicle, it said.

a friend, the woman was blocked on Kantamalia-Thanual Road by a motorcycle, after which three men arrived in a car and forcibly took her

While returning home from work on her scooter with

As the car sped, a motorcy clist coming from the opposite direction suspected something amiss, hearing the woman's cries for help, police said.

He chased the car and man-

aged to intercept it. A few passersby also gathered at the spot, following which a fight broke out with the kidnappers, who fled as the crowd started swelling and the police were alerted.

the woman's scooter was seized from the spot as the kidnappers left it behind. "The owner of the motorcycle, a local youth, was detained Wednesday. He is being interrogated thoroughly We are also working to identify the car used in the crime. All accused involved in the crime will be arrested soon," said RK Majhi, the inspector-in-charge of the Dharmasala police station.

2ND JAYANTA MAHAPATRA MEMORIAL LECTURE

KFT celebrates poet's enduring legacy



ERTISEMENTS

RESHMI YADAV, OP

here Wednesday.

technology-based interceptor vessels to the Gahirmatha Ma-Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The rine Sanctuary. However, both Gahirmatha-I second edition of Javanta Mahapatra Memorial Lecture and Gahirmatha-II have since (JMML), organised by Ketaki developed technical snags and are lying idle. Gahirmatha Ma-Foundation Trust (KFT) was held at Gita Govinda Sadan rine Sanctuary in-charge Rang-

engines of both vessels were The evening brought together eminent writers, poets, manufactured in Japan, and spare parts are not available scholars, and poetry enthulocally or in other states. siasts, who celebrated the re-"A three-member team from markable contribution to Indi-IIT-Kharagpur visited last year an poetry and literary legacy to repair the engines but failed of Javanta Mahapatra—one of

The event featured readings of Mahapatra's poems in Odia and English by Subhashree Lenka, Saqti Mohanty, Swapna Mishra, Suman Das and Bharadwaj Mishra, each adding their unique interpretation

The session was graced by eminent Israeli poet and editor Diti Ronen as speaker, renowned poet and critic Soubhagyakumar Misra as chief guest and KFT trustee Rabindra K Swain who presided over the event.

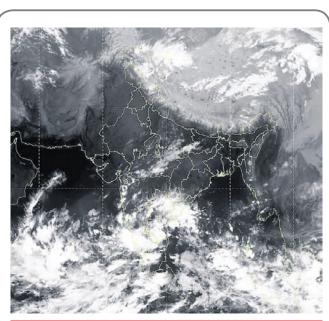
Two publications - Chan-

drabh g, a magazine of Indian writings edited by Swain, and 'Asurakhita Chera', a poetry collection by Diti Ronen, translated into Odia by Basudev Sunani - were also released on the

Delivering the lecture, Ronen said that she is honoured to be invited as the speaker and recited Mahapatra's poems, noting, "Mahapatra was deeply rooted

Speaking on war, peace, and Hebrew poetry, she added, "The history of Hebrew poetry reflects the Jewish struggle for survival," mentioning poets Paul Celan, Primo Levi, and Nelly Sachs. Appreciating the organisers, she said, "Instituting the lecture series is a beautiful tribute to Mahapatra's leg acy." Speaking on the occasion, Misra said, "Jayanta babu's life and writings have profoundly influenced generations of poets and readers.'

OUR



FORECAST BBSR CTC Max Temp 33.5° 31.2° Partly cloudy sky with possibility 23.4° 21.6° Min Temp thundershowers 79% 89% Humidity TRACE Rainfall

curb illegal trawling during the country's foremost poets. to restore them," he added. CONTACT

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.

VIOLATION OF FOREST NORMS

Permission of JSPL Roida mines revoked



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda/Keonjhar, Oct 22: In a jolt to Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL), the working permission for its Iron & Manganese mines at Roida in Keonjhar was revoked for allegedly violating forest norms.

"Due to continued non-compliance and violation of the Forest Conservation Adhiniyam, and the Odisha Forest Act, the working permission granted to JSPL Roida within the mining lease area has been revoked," Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) HD Dhanraj said.

As per reports, JSPL had secured $\,$ the mining lease for the Roida-I iron ore block in July 2025 through a competitive bidding process. The mining lease was previously held by Mideast Integrated Steel Ltd (MISL), Barbil

As per standard procedure, all rights, approvals, and statutory clearances held by the previous lessee were legally vested to JSPL for continuation of operations within the Roida-I lease area. Accordingly, working permission was granted

Two wardens suspended after

UTP escapes from Soro sub-jail

Soro: A day after an under-trial prisoner (UTP)

escaped from Soro sub-jail in Balasore district,

state DG, Prisons Susant Kumar Nath suspended

two wardens of the jail on charge of dereliction

of duty Wednesday. The suspended wardens

were identified Banamali Behera and Bikash

Behera of the sub-jail. Sub-jailer Bailochan Das

said the prisoner Deepak Ray, 30, from Dhanbad

theft October 19. Ray escaped from the sub-jail

in Jharkhand was arrested by police on charge of

Tuesday evening by jumping the prison wall with

the help of a blanket, he said. During the roll call

after dinner by the jail staff, it was detected that

one prisoner was missing, Das said. The sub-jailer

has filed a complaint with the police in this regard,

and a search operation has been launched, the

police said. Earlier, October 2, two UTPs hailing

security Choudwar Circle Jail in Cuttack district.

from Bihar had also escaped from the high-

The company has also failed to obtain forest land diversion approval for its **Deojhar pellet plant despite** multiple reminders from the

department since 2015, officials said

to JSPL Roida, which was limited strictly to the boundaries of the mining lease.

However, Forest department later found that JSPL has been using a forest road that passes through Sidhamath Reserved Forest (RF) for transportation of minerals. This road had earlier been used by the former lessee (MISL) without obtaining forest diversion clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act.

Notably, although a diversion proposal was submitted previously, compliance with conditions was allegedly not fulfilled, and forest clearance was never granted

However, despite refusal, JSPL

Roida allegedly continued using the same road for mineral transport without obtaining prior approval for forest land diversion. It is pertinent to mention here that despite having initiated the diversion process recently, the use of the road without requisite permission amounts to clear violation of the Forest Conservation Act and the Odisha Forest Act.

In response, a show-cause notice was served to JSPL Roida and a physical inspection was conducted by Range officer Barbil and DFO, Keonjhar. However, that didn't deter the lessee to continue to use the road for mineral transportation, including during night hours, in violation of applicable laws.

In an office order dated October 19, the DFO stated, "It is ascertained that JSPL Roida has been using the forest land in Siddhamath Reserve Forest for transportation of minerals obtained from these mines without obtaining the prior approval of the MoEF & CC, Govt of India under the provision of Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980, and in violation of Odisha Forest Act, 1972.

Consequently, it led to registration of a Forest Case No. 5BL of 2025-26 against one Pramod Patra, authorised signatory for JSPL Roida. and two vehicles were seized inside Sidhamath reserve forest for the violation of same law.

Officials said the company has also failed to obtain forest land diversion approval for its Deojhar pellet plant despite multiple reminders from the department since 2015.

"The Keonjhar Forest Division has submitted a comprehensive report on the violations to the integrated regional office, the Director of Mines, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for further action," DFO Dhanraj said.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

(See Section 82 Cr.PC / 84 Bhartiya Nagarik

Suraksha Sanhita)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that (1) Ram Chander

Malik S/o Madhav Malik (2) Karunakar Malik S/o Hagur Malik Both

R/o Bhimein, PS Nilagiri, Dist-Baleshwar, Odisha (3) Harish Rana @

Tikna S/o Ganeshwar Rana R/o Village Bankipoda, PS Nilagiri Dist-

Baleshwar, Odisha have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 243/24 u/s 306/317(2)/

209/61(2), 3(5) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, P.S. Chittaranjan Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the

said accuseds Ram Chander Malik, Karunakar Malik and Harish Rana

@ Tikna cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my

Malik and Harish Rana @ Tikna have absconded (or are concealing

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ram Chander Malik, Karunakar Malik and Harish Rana @ Tikna of FIR No. 243/24

u/s 306/317(2)/209/61(2),3(5) Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, P.S. Chittaranjan Park, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to

DP/14042/SD/2025 Court No.10, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

answer the said complaint on or before 19.12.2025.

atisfaction that the said accuseds Ram Chander Malik, Karunakar

No safe route: 11 girl students drop out over wild animal fears

Bantala, Oct 22: Eleven tribal girls from Krushnachakragarh village under Manikjodi panchayat in Angul block have reportedly dropped out of school, citing fear of wild animals on their way to the classes. The nearest high school is located six kilometres away, and the only connecting road that passes through a dense forest, is known for frequent elephant and bear movements.

According to local sources, Krushnachakragarh is a remote tribal village surrounded by hills and forests. The rough terrain and the constant threat of wild animals have forced eight students from Class VIII and three from Class IX to discontinue their education.



The girls who dropped out are Subhadra Pradhan, Supriya Pradhan, Sarathi Pradhan, Sanchita Behera, Aparajita Behera, Beena Behera, Nina Behera, Ila Behera, Richa Behera, Ranu Pradhan, Shriya Behera, and Mira Pradhan. All the girls belong to tribal families dependent on agriculture and daily labour for their livelihood.

"The path to school goes through thick forest. We are scared to go alone as elephants and bears often roam nearby. Since there is no safe transport or hostel facilities, we had no choice but to stop going to school,' said one of the girls.

Previously, a few students from the village managed to complete up to Class X by staying with relatives in

with no support from the government for transport or residential facilities, the remaining girls were forced to abandon their studies midway

District Education Offi cer Niranjan Sahu said that a campaign to identify outof-school children has been ongoing for the past three months. "Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators have been tasked with locating such students. We will veri fy if the names from Krushnachakragarh are on the list and take necessary steps to

Residents have urged the administration to ensure safe transport or establish a hostel near the school so that their children can continue their education without fear

Sd/- Authorised Officer

address the issue," he said

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E'PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS

Tender Notice No. SDMM/KUR/EP/ 2025-26/E-procurement Tender Notice/10, Dtd : 16.10.2025

SL. NO. 01 : TENDER NO. 81256299 MOUNTED A

(RMPU), QUANTITY: 8 SET. SL. NO. 02 : TENDER NO. 81256293 FOR 3 PHASE, QUANTITY: 24 SET.

SL. NO. 03 : TENDER NO. 81256043 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS COMPLETE PANTOGRAPH ASSEMBLY WITH PNEUMATIC CONTROL UNIT, QUANTITY: 10 NOS. Tender Closing Date & Time: At 150 Sr. Divisional Materials Manag

e-Tender Notice No. SNTPBBS-102025-GPON

NAME OF WORK: PROVISION OF RAILNET THROUGH GPON TECHNOLOGY AT OFFICERS' RESIDENCES AT EAST COAST RAILWAY ZONAL HEADQUARTER AND REPLACEMENT OF OVER AGED ASSETS IN RAILVIHAR 8

Approximate Advertised Value ₹3,78,16,902.46, EMD : ₹3,39,100 Completion Period: 10 Months

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 103 hrs. of 07.11.2025.

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

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen days before the date of closing of tende o note any changes / corrigenda issue

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer PR-140/CI/25-26 T & NW / Bhuban

Piramal

PIRAMAL FINANCE LIMITED

CIN:L65910MH1984PLC032639

Registered Office: Unit No.-601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junctio Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai-400070 -T +91 22 3802 4000

Branch Office: Sahoo Signeture, 2nd floor, 262-Bomikhal, Near Bomikhal Durga Mandap, Cuttack Road, Bhubanes Regional Office: 112A, Rashbehari Avenue, Narayani Building, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700029

For Immovable Property as per Rule 8-(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and Appendix- IV Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Piramal Finance Ltd. (Formerly Known as Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Piramal Finance Ltd.) for an amount as mentioned herein under with

No.	Guarantor(s)	bescription of the decured Assets	and Amount	Possession
1.	Branch - Sambhalpur Borrower : Sushanta Kumar Das	All the Part & Parcel of Property: Khata Nos. 344/4847, 344/4900, Plot Nos. 1321/8411, 1321/8383, Mouza - Sambalpur, Unit - 3, Near Shiv Temple, Sambalur, Orrisa, Pin - 768006	25-07-2024 for Rs. 8,64,316.00 (Rupees Eight Lacs Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Only)	17/10/2025 (Symbolic)
2.	 Loan Code No. BLSA0000EF3E Branch - Ganjam - Berhampur Borrower : Sasanka Behera Co-Borrowers : Jayanti Behera Genjam, Odisha, Pin - 760009 All the Part & Parcel of Property : Khata N 365/1774 Plot No. 207, Tahasil - Brahmap Gangadhareswar Temple, Mouza - Old Berhamp Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 760009 		17-08-2024 for Rs. 10,82,802.48 (Rupees Ten Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Two and Forty Eight Paisas Only)	17/10/2025 (Symbolic)
3.	Loan Code No. 5900001623 Branch - Bhubaneswar Borrower : Sumanta Kumar Pradhan Co-Borrower : Gangadhar Pradhan	All the Part & Parcel of Property: Plot Nos. 824 & 780, Survey / Khata No. 84, Mouza - Alandapada, P. S Satyabadi, Near Maa Mangala Temple, Balanga, Puri, Orissa, Pin - 752045	24-01-2025 for Rs. 15,72,891.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One Only)	22/10/2025 (Symbolic)
4.	Loan Code No. 5900001686 Branch - Bhubaneswar Borrower : Golam Mustafa Saha Co-Borrower : Rihana Begum	All the Part & Parcel of Property: Khata No. 43, Plot No. 98899 Mz. Danogarir Hataahi Pipili, Near Masjid, Pipli Puri Orissa:-752104	24-02-2025 for Rs. 22,72,827.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Seven Only)	22/10/2025 (Symbolic)
5.	Loan Code No. BLSA0001908D Branch - Puri Borrower : Bijaya Kumar Shrichand Co-Borrower : Niranjan Srichandan	All the Part & Parcel of Property: Khata No 580/276, Plot No. 988/2549, Dokanda, Near Hospital, Raidihi Kanas, Puri, Orisa, Pin - 752017	24-02-2025 for Rs. 8,12,035.00 (Rupees Eight Lacs Twelve Thousand Thirty Five Only)	22/10/2025 (Symbolic)
6.	Loan Code No. 27100000192 Branch - Sambalpur Borrower : Rameswar Rout Co-Borrower : Kuni Rout	All the Part & Parcel of Property: Plot No. 1615 (P), Khata No. 621/1091, Mouza - Brajaraj Nagar, Unit No. 2, Near Toll Gate, Brajaraj Nagar, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Orissa, Pin - 768216	27-05-2024 for Rs. 8,53,737.00 (Rupees Eight Lacs Fifty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven Only)	17/10/2025 (Symbolic)
7.	Loan Code No. 27100000182 Branch - Sambalpur Borrower : Vijay Mashi Co-Borrower : Ravi Mashi	All the Part & Parcel of Property: Plot No. 2367, Mouza - Katapali, Khata No. 578, NH - 53, P. S Burla, Tahsil - Sambalpur, Sambalpur, Orissa, Pin - 768006	26-03-2024 for Rs. 3,43,346.00 (Rupees Three Lacs Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty Six Only)	17/10/2025 (Symbolic)

Couple locks panchayat office

over pension snub KORAPUT: In an act of protest, a differently-abled man, Ghenu Bisoi, along with his wife, locked the Lulla Gram Panchavat office under Dashmantpur block expressing outrage over the alleged nonreceipt of his disability allowance for the past five months. The incident occurred, when Ghenu, a resident of Ghantraguda village, reached the Panchayat office and locked it as a mark of protest. Ghenu, who is both speech- and hearingimpaired, had repeatedly approached officials from the Panchayat to the block level, pleading for his pending allowance. However, his grievances were allegedly ignored by the authorities and remain unmet. Villagers said Ghenu and his wife had been struggling to meet basic needs, and the repeated delays in receiving the monthly allowance had pushed them to the brink of frustration. The couple's protest has drawn local attention and sympathy, with many demanding an immediate inquiry into the alleged negligence of the Panchavat Executive Officer (PEO). Ghenu's wife claimed that despite multiple visits and written applications, officials failed to act. She alleged that the PEO had been harassing them for months without any valid reason. Local residents urged the administration to intervene and ensure

timely disbursement

of allowances to all

differently-abled

beneficiaries.

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया **BOI** Bank of India

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

Judicial Magistrate First Class-04, South-East District

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8 (1) & (2)] of Security Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751015

Ms. Devanshi Janmeja

Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia 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 Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the property described herein 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, Tankapani Road 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.

TANKAPANI ROAD BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)	as per Notice	Date of Possession (Symbolic) Notice	Description of Immovable Property/ies
Borrower: Ws Carevantis Medicare Pvt. Ltd. (Through its			All that part and parcel of the
Managing Director: Mr. Soumya Ranjan Pani), Flat No.: 102, Shradha Homes, Plot No.: D-30, BJB Nagar, Bhubaneswar,	charges thereon	22.10.2025	property consisting of Plot No.: 873/3306/3377, Khata No.:
Odisha, PIN-751014, Branch Office: Plot No.: 581, Khata No.:			
Link Road, Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-753012 / Guarantors: 1) Mr.	Soumya Ranjan	Rajarani, PS: Bhub	aneswar No. 65/XXI, Tahasil:
Pani, S/o- Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Pani, At: Jenapada, Jenapadac Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-754029, 2) Mrs. Sasmita Mishra, W/o- M			
Kunditara Patna, Johal, Opp. Utkal Hyundai Showroom, NH-5, E	Balianta, Khordha.	of the guarantor Mrs.	Bijavini Mohapatra. W/o- Mr.
Odisha, PIN-752101 / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Bijayini			
Mr. Diptiranjan Mohapatra, Flat No.: 302, Shradha Homes, Ple	ot No.: D-30, BJB		Kumar Nayak, North: Road,
Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751014.	3)	South: Plot No. 872.	2 P 2 2 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P 2 P
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 22.10.2025		Au	thorized Officer, Bank of India

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA REGIONAL OFFICE: 108-B, 1ST FLOOR, UNIT-VII, SURYA NAGAR,

NEAR GOPABANDHÚ SUARE, BHÚBANESWAR-751003

DEMAND

Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in exercise o the powers conferred u/s 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued Demand Notice on date against the under mentioned Borrower/Mortgagor of **BJB Nagar Branch** calling upon them to discharge their liabilities in full **within 60 days** from the date of the said notice. The said Demand Notice could not be served to the below nentioned parties. By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereoi & other charges in the below mentioned account to us as secured creditor, **within 60 days** from the date of this notice, failing whic we shall be constrained to excercised all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above SAŘFAES Act, 2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec.13(13) of the said SARFAESÌ Áct, you shall not, after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of the injunction/restraint as provided under the said SARFAESI Act-2002 is an offence The notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our Bank under the above SARFAESI Act-2002 and / or any other law in force. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

BJB NAGAR BRANCH / Name & Address | Type of Loan / Loan | Demand Notice of the Account/Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor | Amount / Date of Notice | Amount of the Account/Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor Borrower cum Mortgagor: Mr. Brajabandhu Tripathy, Address-1: Plot No.: 2412, At: Kapila Prasad, PO: Kapila Prasad, Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751002, **Address-2:** Plot No.: 2413, At: Kapila Prasad, O: Kapila Prasad, Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda, PIN-751002 / Guarantor: Mrs. Subhalaxmi Mishra, Plot No.: 2413, At: Kapila Prasad, PO: Kapila Prasad, Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751002.

Place: Bhubaneswar

Date: 22.10.2025

OD Cent Contractor-₹46,00,000/-+ interest.

10.10.2025

46.57.159/-09.10.2025

costs &

expenses

thereon

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Ebaranga, Khata No.: 345/571, Plot No.: 466, Area: Ac.0.055 dec. (2400 sqft.), Tehsil: Bhubaneswar PS: Airfield, Dist.: Khurda, Deed No.: 11082005389 dated 17.07.2020. Bounded by- East: Rest part of th

Description of the property

Sold Plot No. 466, West: Rest part of the Sold Plo No. 466, North: Rev. Plot No. 467, South: Road.

Sd/- Authorised Officer Central Bank of India

Date: 23.10.2025

राष्ट्रीय संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय, तिरुपति. 👢 NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI.

(A Central University established by an Act of Parliament)

भर्ती अधिसूचना / RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Dated: 18-10-2025 National Sanskrit University, Tirupati invites online applications from Indian Nationals for the Direct Recruitment of Teaching and Non-teaching posts.

Non-Teaching Posts (Direct Recruitment)

No. of

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts Vacant	No. of Posts & Reserved categories						Pay Matrix (7th CPC)	
		vacant	SC	ST	OBC	PwBD	EWS	UR		
<u> Fenu</u>	re Posts (Advt.No.NSKTU/Admn./NT/2025	5/01, dated 18	8-10-2025))						
1.	Controller of Examinations	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	14	
2.	Finance Officer	01	-	-	-	-		01	14	
Dire	ct Recruitment (Advt.No.NSKTU/Admn./I	NT/2025/02,	dated 18-1	0-2025) •					
3.	Librarian	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	14	
4.	Assistant Registrar	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	10	
5.	Professional Assistant	01						01	06	
6.	Laboratory Assistant (Education)	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	04	
7.	Laboratory Assistant (Language Lab & Technology Lab)	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	04	
8.	Upper Division Clerk	01	-	-	-	-	-	01.	04	
9.	Library Attendant	02		-	-	-	-	02	01	
10.	Group 'C' MTS	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	01	
	Teachin	g Posts (I	Direct R	ecru	itment)	*************************************			

(Advt.No.NSKTU/Admn./T/2025/03, dated 18-10-2025)

S.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	No. of Posts & Reserved categories					es	Academic Pay Level	
No.		Vacant	SC	ST	OBC	PwBD	EWS	UR	(7th CPC)	
1.	Associate Professor in Yoga Vijnana	01	-	-	01*	-	-	-	13A	
2.	Associate Professor in Agama	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	13A	
3.	Assistant Professor in Dharmasastra	01	-	-	01*	-	-	-	10	
4.	Assistant Professor in Visistadvaita Vedanta	01	-	-	01*	-	-	-	10	
5.	Assistant Professor in Sahitya	02	-	-	01*	-	-	01	10	
6.	Assistant Professor in Jyotisha & Vastu	02	-	-	01	-	-	01	10	
7.	Assistant Professor in Research & Publications	01	-	-	01	-	-	-	10	
8.	Assistant Professor in Vyakarana	01	-	-	-	-	_	01	10	
9.	Assistant Professor in Education	01	-	-	-	-	01	-	10	
10.	Assistant Professor in Sabdabodha Systems & Computational Linguistics	01	-	-	01	-	-	-	10	

Backlog vacanciesThe last date for submission of online applications for teaching and non-teaching positions is 30th November, 2025.

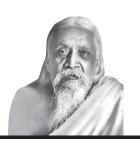
For details of posts, educational qualification, experience and other criteria, please visit the University website http://www.nsktu.ac.in. cbc 21364/12/0001/2526 कुलसचिव / REGISTRAR





Peace is the first condition, without which nothing else can be stable

SRI AUROBINDO



Brahma Chellaney

Mao's purges

culminated

in chaos and

Xi's methods

sophisticated,

underlying logic

is the same - as

could be the

are more

but the

results

Xi's Purges

uring his 13 years in power, Xi Jinping has steadily tightened his grip on all levers of authority in China – the Communist Party of China (CPC), the state apparatus, and the military while expanding surveillance into virtually every aspect of society. Yet his recent purge of nine top-ranking generals, like those before it, shows that he still sees enemies everywhere.

After taking power in 2012, Xi launched a crackdown on corruption within the CPC and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The campaign was initially popular, because China's one-party system is rife with graft and abuse of power. But it soon became clear that enforcement was highly selective – a tool not for building a more transparent or effective system, but for consolidating power in Xi's hands. In Xi's China, advancement depends less on competence or integrity than on earning the leader's personal trust.

But even after more than a decade of promoting only loyalists, Xi continues to dismiss officials regularly, including top military commanders. According to the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence, nearly five million officials at all levels of government have been indicted for corruption under Xi. And this is to say nothing of those who simply disappear without explanation.

True to form, Xi's regime claims that the military leaders swept up by his latest purge - including General He Weidong, a member of the Politburo, Vice Chair of the Central Military Commission, and the third-highest-ranking figure in China's military hierarchy - committed "disciplinary violations" and "duty-related crimes." But a more plausible explanation is that Xi is playing an interminable game of Whac-a-Rival, desperately trying to preserve his grip on power.

Xi's fears are not entirely misplaced: each new purge deepens mistrust among China's elite and risks turning former loyalists into enemies. From Mao Zedong to Joseph Stalin. there is ample evidence that one-man rule breeds paranoia. By now, Xi may well have national trauma. lost the ability to distinguish allies from foes. At 72, Xi remains so insecure in his position that, unlike even Mao, he has refused to designate a successor, fearing that a visible heir could hasten his own downfall.

None of this bodes well for China. By refusing to lay the groundwork for an eventual leadership transition. Xi sharply increases the risk that the end of his rule – however that comes – will usher in political instability. In the meantime, Xi's emphasis on personal fealty over ideological conformity is weakening institutional cohesion in a system once grounded in collective leadership. Coupled

with his arbitrary firings and prosecutions, Chinese governance is now increasingly defined by sycophancy and anxiety, rather than competence and consistency.

China's military is paying a particularly steep price for Xi's insecurity. In recent years, the PLA has undergone sweeping structural reforms aimed at transforming it into a modern fighting force capable of "winning informationized wars." But Xi's purges risk undermining this effort by disrupting military planning and leadership. For example, his abrupt removal in 2023 of the leaders of the PLA's Rocket Force, which oversees China's arsenal of nuclear and conventional missiles, may have jeopardized China's strategic deterrent.

Replacing experienced commanders with untested loyalists might ensure Xi's political survival – and Chinese leaders have often used the military to safeguard their own power - but it does nothing for national security. And when generals are preoccupied primarily with political survival, both morale and operational readiness suffer. Can the PLA fight and win a war against a major adversary like the United States or India while operating under the political constraints Xi has imposed on it?

So far, Xi has advanced his expansionist agenda through stealth and coercion rather than open warfare. But a paranoid leader surrounded by sycophants unwilling or unable to challenge him is always at risk of strategic miscalculation. Recall that Stalin decimated the Red Army's leadership on the eve of the Nazi invasion – with disastrous results. In Xi's case, it might be China that does the invading, if he orders an amphibious assault on Taiwan.

For all the pomp surrounding China's rise, the country is beset by structural problems, including a slowing economy, rising youth unemployment, and an aging and declining population. Popular discontent may well be growing, but it is masked by repression, just as any potential challenge to Xi's leadership is preempted by purges. and prosecutions. Ultimately, Xi seems able to rule only through fear.

But fear is not a foundation for long-term stability. A leader consumed by fear of disloyalty may command obedience but not genuine fidelity. Obedience is not merely a poor substitute for strength; it can become a source of fragility, as it leaves little room for creativity, competency, or collaboration. The great irony of Xi's approach is that the more he seeks to consolidate power in his own hands, the more vulnerable his rule becomes.

Mao's purges culminated in chaos and national trauma. Xi's methods are more sophisticated, but the underlying logic is the same – as could be the results.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

WISDOM CORNER

The snow goose need not bathe to make itself white. Neither need you do anything but be yourself

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- 1956: The International Atomic Energy Agency was created with the purpose of increasing the contribution of atomic energy to world peace.
- 1956: The Hungarian Revolution began with a massive demonstration in
- 1983: Beirut barracks bombing took place. Two bombs exploded in front

of American and French barracks during the Lebanese Civil War, killing about 300 French and American military personnel. Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the bombings.

INDIA-UK FTA

PLUNDERING BY OTHER MEANS

dia under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the British government led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer have claimed that the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, also known as the India-UK Free Trade Agreement will usher in a new era of mutually beneficial partnership. However, Starmer's two-day

trade mission to Mumbai on 8 and 9 October followed by 10 Downing Street's press release on 9 October reveals that cooking fish in its own oil is the British trade strategy in India. The neocolonial trade strategy is more about plundering wealth from the people of India and transfering it to British capitalist corporates to sustain their crumbling economy. The UK-India joint statement reveals nothing but the Downing Street's press release claims that there are 29 investment proposals in India worth over £3.6 billion. The dissection of these investments reveals how this trade deal benefits British corporations more than India and the investment figures can be questioned as well. The UK is using HSBC India, which has committed \$1 billion to launch its innovation bank and invest in India by lending to startups at various stages of their operations. As part of this non-dilutive debt capital financing, HSBC India's initiative allows Britain to retain ownership without spending a penny from the British Treasury. While Indian capital flows freely into Britain, Indian workers are not afforded the same freedom. The British Prime Minister has stated that the UK will not relax visa rules for Indian workers. The so-called "cultural ties" between the two nations appear to revolve more around business interests than genuine people-to-people connections. Similarly, Graphcore, in partnership with the Japanese investment firm SoftBank Group, plans to invest up to £1



The much-celebrated idea of 'cultural exchange' is largely a façade; business interests remain the real driving force, consistent with Britain's historical image as a nation of shopkeepers

tor industry. This investment includes establishing a new AI engineering campus in Bangalore. Once again, Britain is not contributing any funds from its

treasury toward this initiative. Tide, the UK's digital-only financial platform, has pledged to invest £500 million over five years starting in 2026 to expand its operations in India. However, it offers little in terms of new technology transfer or operational expertise that does not already exist in the Indian market. Instead, its entry may dilute market share and weaken existing Indian financial and banking platforms through increased competition. Similarly, the investment plans of Revolut, Paysecure, and Prudential are no different from Tide's strategy, as all seek to enter the Indian market under similar terms and objectives.

GEDU Global Education plans to invest £200 million in India. However, the goal is not to expand access to education but rather to further deepen the privatisation of the education sector-from schools to universities—by creating a platform for British educational institutions to enter the Indian market and pursue education as a business for profit. Similarly, the National Open College Network and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) offer little of genuine educational value beyond selling qualifications and certificates, primarily to generate substantial profits from India's education sector.

Acron Aviation, Rapiscan UK, and ICF Projects are investing in the Indian aviation market in ways that primarily benefit British manufacturing and service sectors. However, these ventures neither involve significant technology transfer nor establish production facilities in India that could generate local employment. Acron Aviation expects to earn £68 million, while Rapiscan UK projects £60 million in revenue over five years from the Indian aviation market. ICF Projects anticipates generating £4.2 million in revenue from India within three years.

Clinisupplies plans to invest £36 million to enter the Indian market under the pretext of establishing a new medical device plant and a Global Capability Centre in Madhya Pradesh. Consultancy firms such as Mace, Croftz, and Lloyd's Register are also investing in India, but they are expected to recover their investments primarily through management consultancy fees, without contributing meaningful value to the Indian market in terms of knowledge and skills. Similarly, FIDO AI and Microbira's AI platforms are entering the Indian market solely to generate

of new skills, knowledge, or technological innovation.

Allenwest, Snorkel, Arup, and Rail Vision UK could make meaningful contributions if they were to share technology, skills, and knowledge while developing genuine partnerships with their Indian counterparts. However, these companies are making only minimal investments while aiming to generate substantial profits from the Indian market.

Turntide Technologies and

Oxford Nanopore Technologies

are investing in India but offer little that is new to the Indian market in terms of technology or services already available locally. Similarly, Sintali Limited and Wavesight Limited appear to view the Indian market solely as a source of profit, with no meaningful contribution in innovation or capability building. Such companies risk undermining the Government of India's Make in India initiative by prioritising profit extraction over genuine partnership and development. Likewise, Frugalpac, ITC, Rhea Distilleries, Rutland Square Spirits Forecast, and A.G. Barr PLC are expected to weaken India's domestic distillery and brewery industries through their market entry and competitive practices.

The rent-seeking nature of British trade and investment strategies reveals that the majority of UK investments in India are concentrated in the service sector, whereas most of India's 64 investments in Britain-worth approximately £1.3 billion—focus on infrastructure development. The India-UK FTA primarily creates opportunities for British corporations operating in India, offering little benefit to the working people of either country. The much-celebrated idea of "cultural exchange" is largely a façade; business interests remain the real driving force, consistent with Britain's historical image as a nation of shopkeepers.

> The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan

SPECTRUM

Shankar Nayak

CREATES

THE INDIA-UK

FTA PRIMARILY

OPPORTUNITIES

CORPORATIONS

FOR BRITISH

OPERATING

IN INDIA,

OFFERING

BENEFIT TO

THE WORKING

LITTLE

PEOPLE

OF EITHER

COUNTRY

SUSTAINABILITY

billion in India's semiconduc-

Creative destruction for growth



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

CREATIVE DESTRUCTION ALWAYS PRODUCES WINNERS AND LOSERS -- WHERE NEW **INNOVATIONS MAKE OLDER ONES OBSOLETE**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

crammed with evidence of what economists call creative destruction—the process of innovation that propels economic growth. The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025 has been awarded to Joel Mokyr, a professor at Northwestern University in the US; French economist Philippe Aghion of Collège de France, and Peter Howitt of Brown University for explaining how innovation leads to sustained economic growth and the process of "creative destruction"a concept widely regarded by economists as a central feature of capitalist economies.

According to The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Prize was split, with half going to Mokyr for explaining the role of technological innovation and the other half to Aghion and Howitt for identifying technology as a crucial driver of long-term economic growth and developing the mathematical model of creative destruction. The word "creative" refers to the new innovations brought to market and "destruction" to the fate of those antiquated products and processes that are replaced by the new innovation. Creative destruction always produces winners and losers - where new innovations make older ones obsolete. For example, smartphones have displaced landlines and payphones (as well as alarm clocks and cameras). The evolution of transportation itself, from the use of animals to the invention of the wheel, railways, and finally the aeroplane, has been a long process of inventing newer, more efficient ways of travelling, often dismantling outmoded ones. In Indian mythology, "cre-

ative destruction" refers to the cosmological realm occupied by the King of Dancers, Shiva-Nataraj, whose continuous dance of creation and destruction governs the universe. While German economist and sociologist Werner Sombart introduced the term creative destruction. it was first coined by Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter in 1942. Sombart first used creative destruction in 1913 to describe how destruction fuels creation, using the example of how wood scarcity forced the invention of substitutes and new heating methods.

Both Karl Marx and Joseph Schumpeter used the idea of "creative destruction" to describe capitalism's inherent instability, but they differed in their conclusions. In Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy (1942), Schumpeter described the process where new innovations replace outdated systems and technologies. This was in contrast with Marx who argued that the creative-destructive forces unleashed by capitalism would eventually lead to its ultimate collapse as a system.

Mokyr, Aghion, and Howitt's work reminds us that real progress includes qualitative improvements, new medicines, safer transport, cleaner energy, better food, and faster communication, all of which enhance human well-being. But it is widely recognised that many countries, including India, have historically prioritised GDP growth as the primary metric of national progress, often without giving equal weight to qualitative improvements in citizens' lives.

It is important to note here that sustained growth is not synonymous with sustainable growth. Sustained growth that focuses on a consistent increase in metrics like GDP can have significant negative side effects such as higher pollution, increasing inequality, and the unsustainable use of natural resources. Mokyr believes technology can sometimes help solve these issues, but only when guided by strong well-designed public policies.

The Nobel laureates' work shows that we must be aware of, and thwart threats to continued growth. These threats may come from a few companies being allowed to dominate the market, restrictions on academic freedom, expanding knowledge at regional rather than global levels, and obstructions from potentially disadvantaged groups. If we fail to respond to these threats, the machine that has given us sustained growth. creative destruction, may cease working – and we would once again need to become accustomed to stagnation. Through his research in economic history. Mokyr has demonstrated that a continual flow of useful

There is a growing global movement to move beyond a narrow focus on economic output toward a more holistic view of well-being. It is imperative to have sustainable growth that integrates economic viability with environmental protection and social equity.

knowledge is necessary.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

Major reprieve

Sir, This refers to "H-1B fee: US issues fresh guidelines," Orissa POST, Oct 22. In a major reprieve for Indian professionals and students in the United States, the Trump administration has decided to withdraw the proposed \$100,000 H-1B visa application fee, which had stirred widespread anxiety across the global technology and education communities. The move comes as a relief for thousands of Indian engineers, IT specialists, and students pursuing higher education on F-1 visas, who feared the exorbitant cost would block their access to opportunities in the US. The proposal faced fierce opposition both within America and internationally. US business groups, educational institutions, and legal experts argued that such a steep fee would discourage global talent, harm innovation, and weaken the country's competitive edge. The decision to exempt the fee reflects Washington's recognition of the vital contribution Indian professionals make to the American technology and research ecosystem. It also underscores the influence of trade diplomacy and economic pragmatism in shaping immigration policy. By reversing the measure, the US signals a renewed commitment to openness, global collaboration, and fair access, reinforcing the strength of Indo-US relations and the shared goal of nurturing innovation-driven growth in an increasingly interconnected world... N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Pragmatic neutrality

Sir, Over 460 prominent Jewish figures, including former Israeli officials, authors, and Oscar winners, have urged the United Nations and world leaders to impose sanctions on Israel for alleged genocide in Gaza, calling silence a betrayal of Jewish ethics and global justice. They demand halting arms transfers, enforcing international court rulings, and ensuring humanitarian aid. Their appeal reflects mounting outrage over the civilian suffering in Gaza. India, however, maintains a cautious stance—balancing deep defense ties with Israel and strong relations with Arab nations. While advocating restraint, dialogue, and adherence to international law, New Delhi avoids direct condemnation to protect strategic and economic interests. This pragmatic neutrality, though diplomatically sound, has drawn criticism for ignoring moral accountability amid escalating humanitarian distress in Gaza

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES



'Nihang Sikh' warriors ride horses as they show skills during the 'Fateh Diwas', Victory Day, celebration a day after 'Bandi Chhor Divas', in Amritsar



Homebound reaches Oscars, skips hometown screening

travel. It is also not known if

the movie, produced by Karan

Johar's Dharma Productions, is

father, said he hopes the mak-

ers arrange a screening of the

son's life. The filmmakers

should arrange for a screening

here and ensure that our family

receives a share of what

this success brings,

Pintu, a local

resident who

helped with

photography

during the

film's shoot,

agreed with

Yunus, sav-

ing, We are

proud that a film

representative

based on Sayyub

and Amrit's friendship

has reached the Oscars. But we

hope some part of the money earned from this film goes to

Amrit's family and for the de-

Surendra Patel said the people

of Devari were proud that the

story of their sons had taken

the village's name to the world.

help Amrit's family and sup-

port our village's growth.

There should also be a centre

here that promotes literature

and stories that inspire hu-

manity, like this one, he added.

his parents Ramcharan and

Subhawati, vounger brother

Amrit's family, including

The film's earnings should

velopment of our village.

The story is based on our

Mohammad Yunus, Sayyub's

playing in the theatre.

film in the village.



While the film has received critical-acclaim in international festivals, residents of Devari say they are yet to see the movie

there were reports

of 'Homebound' paid

₹10,000 to the family

of Amrit for the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Basti (UP), Oct 22: Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound has brought Mohammad Sayyub and Amrit Kumar's heartbreaking story to the global stage but the people of the village in Uttar Pradesh's Basti district are still waiting for a screening of the film.

The movie, which had its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May **Earlier** and has been chosen this month,

as India's official selection for the 2026 Academy claiming that the team Awards, is inspired by journalist Basharat Peer's The New York Times article "Taking Amrit

story rights Home" (A Friendship, a Pandemic and a Death Beside the Highway). It was released in theatres last month.

The article narrated the true story of Amrit Kumar, a migrant worker from Devari village in Basti's Bankati block, who collapsed from heat stroke on a highway while returning home from Surat during the Covid-19 pandemic, and his friend Mohammad Saiyub refused to leave his side.

While the film has received critical-acclaim in international festivals, residents of Devari say they are yet to see the movie.

The nearest cinema hall is about 25 kilometres away, a distance few villagers can afford to and Shivani are happy with the recognition but hoped the film's success would help fund the children's education and Earlier this month, there

Shivam, and sisters Suman

were reports claiming that the team of "Homebound" paid Rs 10,000 to the family of Amrit for the story rights.

Ghaywan dismissed these reports, saying the sum cited was merely a small token he personally gave to Amrit's father Ram Charan during his initial research as a parting

Some of you have expressed concerns about reports claiming that the family whose life inspired Homebound was compensated with mere Rs 10,000-a shamefully low amount.

"I want to clarify that this sum was a small token I personally gave to Ram Charan ji (Amrit's father) many years ago during my initial research, simply as a parting gesture. Please do not mistake this for the full extent of the compensation provided," he wrote on X earlier this month.

Ghaywan added that the family had expressed their happiness regarding the support they received. "Neither I, nor the producers would ever reduce such a deeply personal story to such a pittance. The families' contributions are invaluable and deeply meaningful to me.

"We have honoured their trust and stories with sincere respect and significant support... I personally don't want to mention the number because that would disrespect the bond I share with Amrit and Saiyub-the original heroes of 'Homebound'." the filmmaker said in the same post.

Starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor in the lead roles, "Homebound" had its world premiere at the 78th Cannes Film Festival as part of the Un Certain Regard segment.

The official synopsis of the film reads "Two childhood friends -- Shoaib and Chandan -- from a small North Indian village chase a police job that promises them the dignity they've long been denied. But as they inch closer to their dream, mounting desperation threatens the bond that holds them together."

Homebound is executive produced by Hollywood great Martin Scorsese.



UP sends wheat seeds for flood-hit Punjab

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 22: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the dispatch of 1,000 quintals of wheat seeds to flood-hit Punjab to ensure that foodgrain production in that state does not dip drastically due to the natural

Speaking at an event in the state capital, he said, "In this time of crisis, we stand with the farmers of Punjab. With this commitment, the Uttar Pradesh government, through the Agriculture Department and the Uttar Pradesh Seed Development Corporation, is dispatching 2,500 bags, equivalent to 1,000 quintals of wheat seeds, for Punjab.

He said due to heavy rainfall in Punjab this year, all aspects of public life were severely affected. "Even the seeds stored there were damaged by the flood. It is feared that this may impact the agriculture in the region and affect the yields of hardworking farmers," he said, showing solidarity with floodhit peasants in Punjab.

In a post on X, CM Adityanath said, "Participated in a



programme organised today in Lucknow for the flag-off of vehicles for seed assistance to flood-affected farmers of Punjab by the Uttar Pradesh government. In the adverse situation arising from excessive rainfall and floods, the Uttar Pradesh government stands in solidarity with farmer brothers of Punjab."

Earlier, addressing a gathering on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, the Chief Minister cautioned citizens to guard against cybercrimes.

"In the current environment, the digital revolution has made our lives easier, while challenges like cybercrime have also emerged before us. The police force has taken concrete steps for effective action against cybercrime," said CM Adityanath.

Diwali smog: AQI in Punjab drops

Chandigarh: After Diwali, the air quality in most parts of Punjab and Haryana dropped to the 'severe' and 'hazardous' categories Tuesday. According to AQI.in, a platform monitoring air quality index (AQI), Chandigarh recorded poor air quality at 146. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400



'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'. In Punjab, the AQI was registered at 209 in Ludhiana, 225 in Amritsar, 198 in Jalandhar, 242 in Bathinda and 233 in Patiala. In another agrarian state, the AQI in Faridabad was 247 and 343 in Sonipat, 201 in Karnal, 328 in Bhiwani, 247 ir Jind and 279 in Charkhi Dadri. Both Punjab and Haryana have been blamed for the rise in air pollution levels owing to farm fires. However, this year both Punjab and Haryana recorded much fewer farm fires compared to the previous years. Punjab reported 45 incidents of stubble burning Monday, a slight decrease from the record 67 farm fires reported on October 19, the highest so far this season. Tarn Taran and Amritsar districts accounted for the majority of such cases, according to the Punjab Pollution Control Board data. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR. A pollution expert blamed the spike in AQI in Chandigarh to winds circulating over Punjab and Haryana, carrying pollution from nearby areas, that passed through Chandigarh.

DHARANIDHAR UNIVERSITY, KEONJHAR

Mail Id- registrar@dduniversity.ac.in

No.3117/ Dt.18.10.2025 No.CAD-2077: Online applications on the prescribed format

invited from the eligible candidates as per UGC Regulation 18th July, 2018 for engagement of Assistant Professor (Guest faculties) and retired Professor(s)/retired Associate Professor(s) to fill up the vacant post purely on temporary basis apropos of notification of Govt. of Odisha HE-UE-POLICY-2020-2023/4477/HE Dt.01.02.2024. Candidates are advised to visit the website of the University https:// dduniversity.ac.in for details. The last date for receiving online application is 20th November 2025 and print copy of the submitted online application through Speed Post/ Registered Post by 25th November, 2025 (5.00 PM) to the Registrar, Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar. The online application will

The authority reserves the right to cancel the advertisement at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Registrar

OIPR-11126/11/0024/2526 Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar

Nature's pause lowers Punjab fires

The state saw 415 farm fires from Sept 15 to Oct 21, down from 1,510 YoY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patiala, Oct 22: Punjab recorded 415 farm fire incidents between September 15 and October 21 this year, down from 1,510 incidents during the same period last year, data showed.

The number of farm fires recorded in 2023 during this period stood at 1,764, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) data showed.

The sharp drop comes amid delayed paddy harvest as rains lashed the state until the first week of Octoher. Damage caused by the floods in Punjab also delayed crop harvest at some places.

Officials say stricter field monitoring and awareness campaigns telling farmers about the ill effects of stubble burning have also had an impact.

According to the PPCB data, the total area under paddy cultivation in Punjab this year is 31.72 lakh hectares. Till October 21, 32.84 per cent of this had been harvested.



GRADUAL DECLINE

YEAR	FARM FIRES
2024	10,909
2023	36,663
2022	49,922
2021	71,304
2020	76,590

In Tarn Taran district, 67.95 per cent of the area under paddy cultivation has been harvested. In Amritsar, the figure stands at 70 per cent. These two districts have reported the majority of the

In Barnala, 8.10 per cent of the area under paddy cultivation has

been harvested, followed by 8 per cent in Moga and 17 per cent in Sangrur.

Of the total farm fires, Tarn Taran reported 136, Amritsar 120, Ferozepur 41, Patiala 27, Gurdaspur 16 and Sangrur 14, according

The number of stubble burning incidents in the state stood at 116 October 11 and went up to 415 over the last 12 days.

As crop harvest picks up pace in most districts and farmers get their fields ready for sowing wheat in the days to come, it remains to be seen if this number will increase further.

According to the PPCB, fines worth Rs 9.40 lakh in the form of environmental compensation have been imposed in 189 cases of stubble burning so far. Of the total amount, Rs 6.25 lakh has been

recovered. Additionally, 170 FIRs, including 61 in Tarn Taran and 50 in Amritsar, have been registered over stubble burning incidents.



Name of the Work

02. Estimated Cost

Plot No. 493(P), Palaspalli, Pokhariput Road,

Bhubaneswar - 751020, Odisha Chilika Phone: 91-674-2591544, Fax: 91-674-2590485 Email: chilika@chilika.com No. CAD-2074

e-PROCUREMENT Re-Tender Call Notice No. 1524/CDA/2025 Dtd.18.10.2025

		-	Treatment (Externally 551)
03.	Period of Completion	:	3 (Three) Calendar Months
00.00	Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:	23.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 07.11.2025 upto 5 P.M.
05.	Last date/time for submission of Bids in the portal		07.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
06.	Date & time of opening of Bids	:	On 10.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M. in the O/o. the Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority, Plot No. 493(P), Palaspalli, Bhubaneswar - 751020
07.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Tender (O.I.T.)		Addl. Chief Executive Chilika Development Authority, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Plot No. 493(P), Pallaspalli, Pokhariput Road. Bhubaneswar - 751020

Further information and other details are available for downloading from the e-procurement portal "https:// tendersodisha.gov.in". Addendum/Corrigendum if required will be available only in the website e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

OIPR-08138/11/0008/2526 Chilika Development Authority

Sd./- Addl. Chief Executive

Repairing of Self Propelled Barge

Rs.24.89 Lakhs (Excluding GST

(M.V. Kalijugeswar)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER R.W.DIVISION, BALASORE

e-Procurement Notice for Road and Building Works Identification No.

05 SERW BLS 2025-26 Name of the work: Roads and Buildings, 2. Total No. of Works: 16 Nos, 3. Estimated Cost: Eastimated Cost Rs.12.712 to Rs 86.902 lakh, 4. Class of Contractor : 'D', 'C' & 'B' Class, 5. Time of Completion : 3 Month (Three

Calendar Month), 6, Other Details Availability of tender On Last date Date & time of opening of tender in the Office of the Bid Identification Procurement & time of line for bidding Superintending Engineer, R.W. Officer eeking tender clarification Division, Balasore Superintending 24.10.2025 03.11.2025 Engineer, Rural 05 SERW BLS 03.11.2025 2025-26 Works Division up to 1.00 P.M at 11.00 A.M.

Balasore Further details can be seen from the website - www.tendersodisha.gov.ir

OIPR-25108/11/0018/2526

Sd./- Superintending Enginee R.W.Division, Balasore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.i-349 OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BEGUNIA "e" Procurement Notice

at Govt. Up School, Sarua. 2. Construction of Multipurpose Community-cum-Cultural Centre at Begunia GP. Total Number of Works: 02 No.

1. Name of the Work: 1. Construction of Additional Class Room

3. Estimated Cost: Rs.14,26,461.00 & Rs.21,24,056.67 Class of Contractor : D & C Equivalent

5. Period of Completion: 6 Month Each

6. Availability of Tender Online for bidding: Dt.22.10.2025 at

11.00 AM to Dt. 03.11.2025 at 5.00 P.M. 7. Last date & time of seeking Tender Clarification: Dt.29.10.2025 at 5.00 P.M.

8. Date & Time of Opening of Tender: Dt.04.11.2025 at 11 AM Further details can be seen from the website www.

tenderodisha.gov.in. Sd./- Block Development Officer Begunia OIPR-19302/11/0015/2526



At/PS - Jatani, Dist. - Khordha (Odisha), Pin - 752050 E-mail : municipalityjatni@gmail.com, Phone No. 0674-2490826 No.5664 Dtd - 17.10.2025

"E" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.: EO/JMC/085/2025-2026

Name of the work for which tender invited - Supply of Sanitation workers and drivers for Sweeping of roads, cleaning of drains & Bush Cutting in both sides, of roads, Door to Door Collection of Waste in a segregated manner (Wet & Dry Waste) and transportation of Municipal Solid waste separately Wet & Dry Waste including other waste to the identify Micro Composting Centre(MCC)/MRFC located at SandhapurJatni including cost of supervisor and sanitation equipment like Ramboo hasket Coccount broom Crowbar Knife Shovel Snade Sloves shoes Bamboo basket, Coconut broom, Crowbar, Knife, Shovel, Spade, Gloves, shoes Uniform and Helmet for the Ward No- 2, 3, 4,5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 19(Part), 20(Part), 21,22 & 23 for the year 2025-2026 & 2026-2027

Approximately Monthly cost:Rs.57,75,630/-

Applicational way withing users and a second and a companies of the Eligible class of Bidder — Company registered under Companies Act, Partnership Firm LLP/Proprietorship Firm registered with the State Government/ Centre Government thos are experienced in similar nature of work at least Three years and other criteria given the D.T.C.N.

The Bid documents will be available in the website as mentioned below from

10.30AM of Dt. 18.10.2025 to 17.11.2025 up to 5.30 P.M. for online bidding

Last date & time of receipt of Bid through online, date 17.11.2025 up to 5.30 P.M. Opening of Bid documents Date 18.11.2025 at 11.00A.M.

The Authority reserves the right to cancel any or all the Bids without assigning any reas

Sd./- Executive Office

DIPR-13041/11/0055/2526

the protest erupted late October 19 when the staff ex-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agra (UP), Oct 22:

Toll employees at the

Fatehabad plaza on the

Agra-Lucknow Express-

way went on strike over

a Diwali bonus dispute,

allowing thousands of

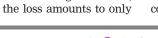
vehicles to pass without

paying the required fee,

officials said Wednesday.

According to officials.





Diwali bonus dispute makes road toll free

pressed anger over receiv-

ing a lower-than-expected

festive bonus. The agitated

employees removed the toll

barriers, allowing around

3,000 vehicles to pass from

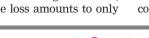
Jurel said that while ve-

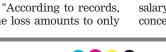
hicles crossed without

Toll Manager Krishna

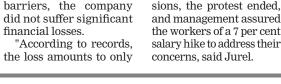
night to morning.

financial losses.









around Rs 20,000. All vehi-

cle FASTag scanners were

active, and toll charges

have been deducted auto-

matically," he said. Around

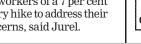
90 employees work at the

toll plaza. They were given

a 10 per cent Diwali bonus.

but they had demanded

50 per cent. After discus-





















national



For many years, permission was not granted to perform Chhath Puja on the Yamuna banks. But this time, the government has allowed it and made preparations for the same. What could not be done in the last 25 years has been achieved within six months of our government

India has donated 81 school buses to various educational institutions in Nepal, including in disasteraffected districts of Koshi province, an official statement said Wednesday. The donations were part of the "long-standing development partnership and friendship" between India and Nepal, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said in a statement

INDIA DONATES 81 SCHOOL BUSES TO VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN NEPAL





is still far away. I will continue as Maharashtra CM



DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM



and boundless happiness and prosperity for all of you AMIT SHAH I UNION HOME MINISTER

In the coming session of Assam Assembly, we will introduce some important and historic bills



land rights to tea tribes HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

Heavy rain batters TN; schools, colleges shut

Chennai: Rain continued to batter Tamil Nadu causing a sharp rise in the water levels of the reservoirs and in Chennai, tree branches fell due to overnight downpour. The Mettur Dam, the largest reservoir in the state, reached its Full Reservoir Level (FRL). The widespread rain forced the administration in several districts to declare a holiday for schools and colleges Wednesday. Apart from the intermittent spells of heavy rain in Chennai, widespread showers thrashed the coastal districts.

Car plunges into gorge: two dead

Shimla: Two people died on the spot when the Maruti vehicle they were in fell into a gorge in the Sainj area of Kullu district, police said Wednesday. The accident took place near Sharan village, with the car plunging into a 150-200 feet gorge. The deceased were identified as Teja Singh and Rajkumar, aged 38 and 25, and natives of Matla and Kartha villages of Ropa in Kullu. Police retrieved their bodies and handed them over to their families after the postmortem.

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of HP

Shimla: The higher reaches of Lahaul and Spiti district and Manali in Himachal Pradesh received fresh snowfall, leading to a dip in the minimum temperature, officials said Wednesday. Koksar in Lahaul and Spiti received 11.4 cm of snow. The snowfall has brought smiles to tourism stakeholders in Manali and Lahaul and Spiti as they are expecting an increase in the tourist footfall.

Andhra CM Naidu begins UAE visit

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Wednesday began the first day of his UAE visit with one-on-one meetings with several industry leaders to promote the state, attract investments, and invite industrialists to the CII Partnership Summit in November. Naidu first met Sobha Group founder PNC Menon and briefed him on the development of the greenfield capital city, Amaravati. "Naidu participated in one-

to-one meetings with several industry giants on the first day of his three-day UAE tour to promote investments in Andhra Pradesh," a release said. The group expressed interest in partnering in a shipbuilding unit at Dugarajapatnam Port.

Modi will buy less Russian oil, spoke to him: Trump

New Delhi/Washington, Oct 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump discussed trade issues during a phone conversation amid efforts by the two sides to repair bilateral ties that remain under strain after Washington slapped a whopping 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods.

In his remarks following the call Tuesday, Trump described the India-US relationship as "great" and said, without elaborating, that the two sides are working on some "great deals".

"I spoke to Prime Minister Modi.... We just have a very good relationship, and he's not gonna buy much oil from Russia. He wants to see that war end as much as I do," Trump said. In a social media post, Prime

Minister Modi thanked Trump for the phone call and his Diwali greetings and hoped that both India and the US would continue to "illuminate" the world with hope and stand united against terrorism.

"He wants to see the war end with Russia-Ukraine and, as you know, they're not going to be buying too much oil. So they've cut it way back and they're continuing to cut it way back," Trump said.

Trump told reporters at the White House that he and Modi discussed trade, and repeated his claim that India will not buy "much oil from Russia".

It was the third publicly known phone call between Modi and Trump since September 16. An Indian readout said Mo-

di emphasised the enduring strength of the India-US partnership and reiterated India's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism and fostering international cooperation.



TRUMP TOLD REPORTERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE THAT HE AND MODI DISCUSSED TRADE, AND REPEATED HIS CLAIM THAT INDIA WILL NOT BUY "MUCH OIL FROM RUSSIA"

It said the prime minister expressed his "heartfelt appreciation" to Trump for "his warm Diwali greetings and a personal phone call marking the occasion of the festival of lights"

"We talked about trade, we talked about a lot of things, but mostly the world of trade. He's very interested in that. Although we did talk a little while ago about let's have no wars with Pakistan," Trump told reporters.

"I think the fact that trade was involved, I was able to talk about it then, and we have no war with Pakistan and India and that was a very, very good thing but he's a great person and he's become a great friend of mine over the years," he said. Official sources in New Delhi

said Pakistan was not discussed during the phone conversation The US president also repeat-

ed his claim that India will stop procuring Russian crude oil. There was no immediate

reaction from New Delhi on

Last week, Trump claimed that PM Modi told him that India would stop buying Russian crude oil. Following Trump's comments, India suggested that there was no such conversation between the two leaders. On Tuesday night, Trump

purchase of Russian crude oil

hosted a Diwali celebration that was attended by Indian ambassador to the US Vinav Kwatra and several prominent Indian-origin business leaders.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including an additional 25 per cent levies for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable"

Two weeks back, US Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor met PM Modi in New Delhi. Following the meeting, Gor said the US "values" its relationship with India.

The Ambassador-designate also held talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Aiit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri before meeting

Veteran space scientist Eknath **Vasant Chitnis dies**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 22: Eknath Vasant Chitnis, who along with Vikram Sarabhai laid the foundation of India's space programme, breathed his last here Wednesday, family mem-

Chitnis had turned 100 in July. He was unwell for the past few days and suffered a heart attack Wednesday morning, they said. A visionary scientist and an institution builder, Chitnis played a crucial role in selecting the site for India's first rocket launch at Thumba in Kerala Chitnis also served as chair

man of the Press Trust of India (PTI) and was an independent director on the Board of Directors for over two decades. A meeting attended by the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarabhai and Chitnis in February 1962 at the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad laid the foundation of India's space programme. The Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCO-SPAR) was established on February 13, 1962, a few days after the meeting.

A Padma Bhushan recipient. Chitnis played a key role in the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE), a collaborative effort between NASA and ISRO, that took educational programmes to 2,400 villages across six states using NASA's ATS-6 satellite, which was considered a precursor to the direct-to-home television broadcast.



DELHI POLLUTION

Air quality sparks blame game between AAP, BJP



AIR QUALITY DETERIORATED

New Delhi, Oct 22: Two days after Diwali, the national capital remained blanketed by haze Wednesday with air quality in the "very poor" category, which has sparked a war of words between AAP and the ruling BJP over who to blame for the situation. Delhi's air quality

Wednesday as wind speeds dropped again. Its 24-hour AQI stood at 353 at 4 pm, according to the daily national bulletin released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

deteriorated slight-

This marks the highest AQI recorded so far this season, up from 351 Tuesday and 345 Monday.

A visible haze shrouded the city during the day, with winds failing to exceed 7 kmph. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that suitable dispersion of pollutants is unlikely in the coming days. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta asserted that data on air pollution before and after Diwali showed

improvement as compared to last year. "The pre- and post-Diwali gap (between average AQI) this year is less compared to the previous year, even though firecrackers were allowed this time," Gupta said at a press conference. On the other hand, AAF leaders accused the BJP govern ment in Delhi of shutting down pollution monitoring stations

> in the city, while Envi ronment Minister Manjinder Singh blamed Sirsa stubble burning

in Punjab for de teriorating air quality. Punjab Pollution Control Board data showed the state recording 415 farm fire incidents between September 15 and

October 21 this year, down from 1,510 during the same period last year. The sharp drop comes amid a delayed paddy harvest as rains lashed the state until the first week of October.

AAP's Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj, in a statement, alleged that the BJP gov ernment "committed data theft at a government level" by show ing AQI readings of around 350 when actual levels had crossed 1700, an official statement said

Sabarimala helipad sinks as Prez's helicopter lands



Pathanamthitta (Kerala), Oct 22: The wheels of the helicopter carrying President Droupadi Murmu for her Sabarimala visit got stuck in a depression on the newly concreted helipad at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Pramadam when it landed Wednesday morning.

After the President left for Pamba by road, visuals on TV channels showed several policemen and fire personnel pushing the helicopter's wheels out of the small depressions created when it landed on the concrete. Pathanamthitta District

Collector Prem Krishnan said that there were no security concerns regarding the helipad, as otherwise the President's cavalcade would have returned to Thiruvananthapuram by road. He said that the helicopter

had landed a few feet back from the 'H' on the helipad, but admitted that where the wheels touched the concrete there was a slight -- half-aninch -- of "sinking". "We cannot even term it as a depression, he added. The incident led to the Congress and BJP alleging lapses on the part of the state government in the security arrangements. Former Union minister of state V Muraleedharan termed it a "security lapse" and demanded action against those responsible. He also claimed that it showed the Kerala government's "carelessness" in handling the President's security.



Naga people wave flags during a public reception of NSCN (IM) supremo Th Muivah upon his arrival, in Ukhrul, Manipur. Muivah Wednesday arrived in Manipur to visit his native village Somdal after more than 50

India rises to 9th spot globally in forest area: Report

THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY SAID THIS REFLECTS THE SUCCESS OF INDIA'S LARGE-SCALE AFFORESTATION AND COMMUNITY-LED FOREST PROTECTION EFFORTS UNDER PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S LEADERSHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: India has climbed to the ninth spot globally in total forest area and retained its third rank in annual forest area gain, according to a new report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The Environment Ministry said this reflects the success of India's large-scale afforestation and community-led forest protection efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said India's rise from the 10th to the ninth position marks a "major achievement" in sustainable forest management and ecological conservation.

The minister said that growing public participation



in tree plantation campaigns, particularly under the 'Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam' initiative, and large-scale state government drives have contributed to this progress.

"Here is a reason to rejoice for all Indians. We have achieved 9th rank in terms of forest area at the global level as compared to 10th spot in the previous assessment. We have also maintained our 3rd position globally in terms of annual gain. Global Forest Resource Assessment (GFRA) 2025

has been launched by FAO in Bali," Yadav posted on X.

The FAO report said the world's total forest area stands at 4.14 billion hectares, covering 32 per cent of the planet's land. More than half (54 per cent) of this is concentrated in just five countries i.e. Russia, Brazil, Canada, the United States and China.

India follows Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia, placing it among the world's top 10 for est-rich nations.

China recorded the highest annual net gain in forest area between 2015 and 2025 at 1.69 million hectares per year, followed by the Russian Federation with 9,42,000 hectares and India with 1,91,000 hectares.

Other countries with significant forest expansion include Turkiye (1,18,000 ha), Australia (1,05,000 ha), France (95,900 ha). Indonesia (94,100 ha), South Africa (87,600 ha), Canada (82,500 ha) and Vietnam (72,800 ha).

The assessment showed that

Asia is the only region to record an increase in forest area between 1990 and 2025, led by gains in China and India. Globally, the annual rate

of net forest loss has been cut by more than half, from 10.7 million hectares in the 1990s to 4.12 million hectares during 2015-2025.

The FAO said Asia's forest expansion played a key role in slowing global deforestation, which remains the highest in South America and Africa.

According to the report, 20 per cent of the world's forests are now in legally established protected areas, while 55 per cent are managed under longterm plans.

Belgian court rules Choksi faces no risk of unfair trial in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: A Belgian court has ruled that fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi, main accused in a Rs 13,000 crore PNB scam, faces "no risk of being denied a fair trial or subjected to ill-treatment if he is extradited to India.

A four-member indictment chamber at the Court of Appeals in Antwerp has found no infirmity in the orders issued by the pre-trial chamber of the Antwerp district court on November 29, 2024, which had termed the arrest warrants is sued by a Mumbai special court in May 2018 and June 2021 as "enforceable", allowing Choksi's extradition.

Dismissing the appeal filed by Choksi against the district court, the Court of Appeals held that the 66-year-old businessman, wanted in connection with the Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam, failed to provide "concretely plausible" evidence of a "genuine risk" of torture or denial of justice.

The order has come as a strong validation for India's case seeking his extradition, with Choksi having the option of appealing against the decision in Belgium's Supreme Court, officials said. The Court of Appeals has

held that the documents Choksi submitted do not substantiate his claims that he is the subject of a political trial. It said that it is up to the subject to pro vide evidence demonstrating substantial grounds to believe that there is a genuine risk of ill-treatment upon extradition

Rejecting the arguments put forth by Choksi that he may not get a fair trial if extradited to India, the Belgian court held that the documentation pro vided by him is insufficient to make it "concretely plausible" that he personally faces a real present and serious risk of be ing subjected to flagrant denial of justice, torture or inhuman and degrading treatment in India.

national



Rashtriya Swayamsevak **Sangh is a staunchly** patriotic and nationalist organisation. The RSS always steps forward to help when the country

GEHLOT MEETS LALU

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot Wednesday met RJD president Lalu Prasad, apparently with the mandate to defuse tensions with the ally, which has plunged the INDIA bloc into turmoil in poll-bound Bihar





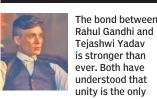
The coastal state has taken pioneering steps in integrative oncology by combining Ayurveda, yoga



It is Diwali. On this auspicious occasion, this is the best gift to in their education and studies. As we talk about ease of business and ease of living, this is about ease of education and preparation for competitive examinations. These girls are from far-flung areas JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER







way to defeat NDA. The small differences on seat sharing are being resolved smoothly. Both parties now agree on a common goal to save Bihar and bring a government that truly cares for people. Rahul Gandhi has built deep trust among youth and the poor through his Voter Adhikar Yatra. Teiashwi Yadav has earned massive respect as a young and energetic leader. People still remember his tenure as Deputy CM when thousands got jobs and Bihar saw hope again. He will become the next Chief Minister. No one can

SHORT **TAKES**

3 killed as bike hits

unmarked divider

two cousins, were killed after

their motorcycle rammed into an

unmarked jersey barrier on the Libaspur flyover on the GT Road

while they were returning from

official said Wednesday. Police

said they received information

Delhi at around 1.33 AM.

Post Diwali, over

390 held in Kolkata

Kolkata: The Kolkata Police

arrested over 390 people for

various legal violations, including

disorderly conduct and bursting banned fireworks, during post-Diwali celebrations, an officer said Wednesday. Over

180 kg of banned fireworks and more than 30 litres of illicit liquor were also seized during raids conducted Tuesday, he said.

T'gana govt scraps

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief

transport check posts

Haryana's Murthal after dinner, an

about the accident in Outer North

New Delhi: Three men, including

stop this wave now. @Politicx2029

Row erupts over UP CM's 'halal certification' remarks



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 22: A political row erupted Wednesday after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urged people to check for "halal certification" on products before purchasing them, reiterating his government's stand against such certifications in the state.

Adityanath Tuesday said that his government had banned halal-certified items in Uttar Pradesh as the profits from such sales were being used for conversion, love jihad and terrorism. The CM urged people to buy indigenous products instead. "You will be surprised that

even soaps, clothes, and matchsticks have halal certification," the chief minister said, while speaking at the 'Vichar-Parivar Kutumb Sneh Milan' and 'Deepotsav Se Rashtrotsav' programmes organised in Gorakhpur. Reacting sharply to Aditvanath's remarks. UP Congress president Ajay Rai accused the BJP government of diverting public attention from key economic and employment issues. "This government is quite brilliant in diverting attention from real issues. Why is the CM so focused on such

Adityanath Tuesday said that his government had banned halal-certified items in Uttar Pradesh as the profits from such sales were being used

matters?" Rai told PTI. "We demand that the government release data on the investments that have come to UP since 2017 and the kind of employment generated. Instead of addressing these, the CM prefers to talk about halal certification," he added.

for conversion. love

jihad and terrorism

Meanwhile, All India Muslim Jamaat president Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi backed CM Adityanath's remarks, saying that the practice of issuing halal certificates "is completely wrong in the light of Sharia. "Religion is being used as a cover to make money," he said. However, Razvi added that he did not agree with the suggestion that the funds collected through halal certification were

being used to finance terrorism.

Hari Shankar, Joint Commissioner, FSDA (Food Safety and Drug Administration), told PTI, "In November 2023, the UP government had made it clear that there is one authorised certification agency for food products. and that is FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India). The same certification was being used for clothing, etc. So to ensure streamlining of this food certification, the government took some steps.

The official, however, added that the matter was currently

Halal certification on an item means that the product has been manufactured in accordance with Islamic laws.

The recent CM's remarks have reignited debate over the state's decision to prohibit halal-certified food products.

On November 18, 2023, the Office of the Commissioner, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Uttar Pradesh, issued a notification "prohibiting the manufacturing, storage, sale, and distribution of food products with halal certification within the State of Uttar Pradesh," while allowing an exception for export products.

The notification, issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, led to several petitions being filed in the Supreme Court challenging the order. In January this year, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court that halal certification was being extended to non-meat products like cement, iron bars, wheat and 'besan' or gram flour, questioning why non-believers should bear higher costs for such products.



Camel traders ahead of the 'Pushkar Camel Fair', at Pushkar, in Ajmer district of Rajasthan. The Pushkar Fair in 2025 is scheduled to take place from October 30 to November 5

Opposition slams Lokpal

New Delhi, Oct 22: Top anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal drew sharp criticism from the opposition Wednesday after floating a tender to procure seven luxurious BMW cars, with leaders accusing the "guardians of integrity" of "chasing luxury over legitimacy".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh took a sharp dig at the Lokpal, saying the institution is now a "Shauq pal", a play on the Urdu word that loosely translates to pursuing personal interests or indulgences.

Ramesh also questioned the Lokpal's investigative track record, asking what significant arrests or probes it has accomplished. Speaking with PTI. the Congress leader said a false narrative was created

Lokpal and Lokayuktas against the Manmohan Singh government with Anna Haz-

are, Arvind Kejriwal, "India

Against Corruption" and the

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

(RSS) indulging in propaganda, and added that now, the reality of the Lokpal is before the people of the country. It needs to be asked what investigations has the Lokpal

carried out and whose arrests it

has succeeded in, Ramesh said. He said the Lokpal is now more of a "shock pal", "shok (mourn) pal" and "shauq (indulgence) pal". Senior Congress

leader and former home minis-

ter P Chidambaram wondered that when Supreme Court judges are given modest sedans, why do the chairman and six members of the Lokpal require BMW cars.

"Why spend public money to acquire these cars? I hope that at least one or two members of the Lokpal have refused, or will refuse, to accept these cars,' Chidambaram said in a post on X. Senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi also criticised the move and took a swipe at the Lokpal.

In a post on X, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Saket Gokhale said, "Lokpal's luxury. Annual budget of India's Lokpal is ₹44.32 crore. Now, Lokpal is purchasing 7 luxury BMW cars at approx ₹5 crore for all members. This equals 10 per cent of the entire annual budget."

IndiGo plane makes emergency landing after 'fuel leak' scare

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

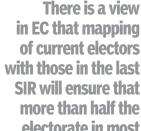
New Delhi, Oct 22: An IndiGo plane enroute to Srinagar from Kolkata landed at the Varanasi airport Wednesday evening following a reported fuel leak, officials said.

Sources said malfunctioning of a sensor in the aircraft led to a false alarm of fuel leakage, following which the plane landed in Varanasi. However, according to the Gomti Zone Police, the IndiGo flight 6E-6961 was diverted to Varanasi after the pilot detected a fuel leakage

Assessing the gravity of the situation, the pilot immediately contacted Air Traffic Control (ATC) at Varanasi and sought permission for an emergency landing, they said.

The aircraft safely landed the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at 4.10 pm, police said. All 166 passengers on board were reported to be safe and were escorted to the arrival hall soon after landing, they said. A technical team is inspecting the aircraft to identify and fix the fault.

Authorities said the situation is "completely normal and un-



electorate in most states may not give any documents in SIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Ramping up its preparations for special intensive revision of voter lists across India, the Election Commission top brass Wednesday assessed the progress made on mapping the current electors with the voters as per the last SIR in different states.

The exercise will help state poll machinery find out the number of electors who were in the electoral roll after the last intensive revision and continue to be in the latest voter list. As was the case in Bihar, the voters will not have to submit any documents but only semi-filled enumeration forms.

There is a view in EC that mapping of current electors



Voter list revision likely to begin in phases: EC

with those in the last SIR will ensure that more than half the electorate in most states may not give any documents in SIR.

The commission, a statement said, also reviewed the status of appointment and training of district election officers, electoral registration officers, and booth-level officers, and booth-level agents who are appointed by a political party.

The two-day meet is the second since September to decide on the massive exercise. Chief **Election Commissioner Gyanesh** Kumar and Election Commissioners S S Sandhu and Vivek Joshi met all state chief electoral officers here to review preparedness. One strong opinion within the top EC brass is to hold SIR in phases, beginning with the states going for assembly elections next year. More states may be included in the first phase. At the same time, it will not hold the electoral roll cleanup exercise in states where local body elections are taking place or are due, as the grassroots poll machinery is busy with it and may not be able to focus on SIR, officials said. Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are due in 2026. Besides these five states, SIR could be held in a few other states in the first phase. A voter list cleanup exercise has concluded in Bihar. where the final list with nearly 7.42 crore names was published September 30.

The CEC had earlier this month said work is in progress to launch the SIR of electoral rolls in all states, and a final decision on its rollout will be taken by the Election Commission. Earlier, responding to a question at a press conference

to announce the Bihar assembly polls, the CEC said that a pan-India SIR was announced June 24, while a roll-out of the Bihar SIR was still underway. The work is on, and the three commissioners will meet to decide on dates for the states to launch their SIRs, he said.

According to officials, the EC last month asked the state chief electoral officers (CEOs) at a conference here to be ready for SIR rollout in the next 10 to 15 days. But for the sake of greater clarity, a September 30 deadline was set for the comprehensive cleanup exercise.

The CEOs have been told to keep ready the electoral rolls of their states published after the last SIR. Several CEOs have already put the voter list published after their last SIR on their websites. The website of the Delhi CEO has the voter list from 2008, when the last intensive revision took place in the national capital. In Uttarakhand, the last SIR took place in 2006, and that year's electoral roll is now on the state CEO website.

The last SIR in states will serve as the cut-off date, just as the 2003 voter list of Bihar was used by the EC for intensive revision. Most states had the last SIR of the voter list

Meeting between MHA representatives. Ladakh leaders begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: In the first sign of a thaw, leaders of Ladakh, where four people died in police firing during the recent pro-statehood protests, met with Home Ministry representatives here Wednesday for sub-committee level talks.

During the meeting, the Ladakh representatives demanded an immediate release of all arrested leaders, including climate activist Sonam Wang chuck, the widely recognised

face of the agitation. The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Al liance (KDA) said that the next of kin of those killed should be given adequate compensation.

Talks between the Centre, LAB and KDA had broken down after four protesters were killed and several were injured during widespread violence in Leh September 24.

Both the Ladakh organisations stayed away from the dialogue with the high-powered committee of the MHA slated for October 6.

The invitation for the talks had been made by the Centre September 20.

Sidda's son names successor amid K'taka CM row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belagavi (Karnataka), Oct 22: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra Siddaramaiah's statement Wednesday that his father was at the fag end of his political life and Minister Satish Jarkiholi is a leader with similar progressive ideological thinking, has led to speculation, amid talks about leadership change.

However, later speaking to reporters, the Congress MLC ruled out any talks about lead-

ership change. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is seen as the prime contender

for CM post, in case of change of guard, not wanting to comment on Yathindra's statement, said he is committed to his earlier statement that he and Siddaramaiah will work together, abiding by the party's direction.

There have been speculation about the CM change in the state when the Congress government reaches the halfway mark of its five-vear term in November. which is being referred to by some as "November revolution". "He (Siddaramaiah) is at the

fag end of his political life. At such a time, a leader is needed to guide and lead those who have progressive thinking, ideologically," Yathindra said.



Addressing a gathering at will be a role model to all those Chikkodi here, he expressed politicians and young leaders hope that Jarkiholi will take who believe in Congress party's over such a responsibility, and ideology, and lead them.

Siddaramaiah camp were trying to project Jarkiholi, a senior leader from the ST community, as a possible contender for the CM post, in case of leadership Later speaking to reporters, Yathindra said the leadership

This statement by Yathin-

dra, had led to speculation in

the media, whether he and the

change issue has not come up for discussion.

AICC general secretary incharge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala too has clarified on this. "Remaining every-

thing is speculation.' He did not wish to comment on a question on the Cabinet reshuf-

fle. Responding to a question on Yathindra's comments, Shivakumar, who was on a visit to Raghavendra Swamy math in Andhra Pradesh's Mantralaya, speaking to reporters in Raichur, said. "You (media) ask him (Yathindra) about what he has said. What can I say, if you ask me.' On talks about the CM change involving his name,

he said, "I don't want anvone to discuss me. What Siddaramaiah and I have said -- we will abide by the party direction and work together. I'm committed to it." Amid talks about CM change, Siddaramaiah has constantly reiterated that he will complete a full five years term.

Minister A Revanth Reddy Wednesday ordered officials to close all transport check posts effect. Following the chief transport department issued

across the state with immediate minister's instructions, the state orders to implement the decision. Officials were asked to submit a detailed report on the closure by 5 pm, an official release said. The state transport department directed that all check-post activities be immediately stopped.

international



hostages are buried under thousands of pounds of rubble. Some of the hostages, nobody even knows where

INDIA-SINGAPORE **TIES IN FULL BLOOM**

A sunflower exhibition commemorating 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore was launched at an urban park here Wednesday. The Indian High Commissioner to Singapore Dr Shilpak Ambule presented 20 sunflower varieties at the 105-hectare Gardens by the Bay, adjacent to the Marina Reservoir



Netanyahu opposes Turkish forces in Gaza

addressing the legitimate voices of Gen Z in line with the

The government will create an environment where Nepalis can vote without fear, strengthening democracy, advancing prosperity, and safeguarding citizens' rights

SUSHILA KARKI | PRIME MINISTER, NEPAL

We are firmly preparing for President Trump's visit. I hope Trump's first meeting with Takaichi during



TOSHIMITSU MOTEGI FOREIGN MINISTER, JAPAN



they are giving some unscrupulous politicians the opportunity to appropriate their grief

KYRIAKOS MITSOTAKIS

SHORT **TAKES**

Imprisoned scribes win **EU human rights award**

Brussels: Two journalists, one imprisoned in Belarus and the other in Georgia, have won the European Union's top human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize, **European Parliament President** Roberta Metsola announced Wednesday. Andrzej Poczobut is a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. He was convicted of "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal colony. Mzia Amaghlobeli, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's independent media outlets, was in August convicted of slapping a police chief during an anti-government protest. She was sentenced to two years in prison in a case that was condemned by rights groups as an attempt to curb media freedom.

■ 15 army officers sent to jail in Bangladesh

Dhaka: Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) Wednesday sent 15 serving army officers to iail after their court appearances from military custody to face trial on charges of enforced disappearances, murders and custodial tortures during the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government. The Bangladesh Army Oct 11 took into custody the 15 officers after the special tribunal ordered their arrest to stand trial for alleged crimes against humanity. "The tribunal has ordered the 15 army officers produced today in connection with the enforced disappearances and murders. and tortures in custody to be sent to jail," ICT-BD Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told

Guatemala City: Guatemala passed a new anti-gang law Tuesday aimed at giving the government more resources to fight the groups, which are now considered terrorist organisations. The law designates the Barrio 18 and Mara Salvatrucha gangs as terrorist groups, increases prison sentences for gang members convicted of crimes, and orders the construction of a new prison for gang members. The legislation, which had been in limbo for years, gained momentum following the escape of 20 members of Barrio 18 from a prison earlier this month.

Russia holds nuclear drills

Ukraine seeks Swedish fighter jets

Moscow/Kyiv/Linkoping, Sweden, Oct 22: Russia said Wednesday it had carried out a major training exercise involving nuclear weapons, a day after the United States announced a delay in plans for a second summit between presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump on the Ukraine war.

The Kremlin released video showing General Valery Gerasimov, head of the General Staff, reporting to Putin on the drills. Russia said it fired missiles from ground launchers, submarines and aircraft, including intercontinental ballistic weapons that are capable of striking the United States. At key moments in the war

in Ukraine, Putin has issued reminders of Russia's nuclear might as a warning signal to Kyiv and its allies in the West. NATO has also been conducting nuclear deterrence exercises this month.

In a separate development, Sweden said it had signed a letter of intent to export Gripen

Seoul, Oct 22: North Korea

fired what appeared to be multi-

ple short-range ballistic missiles

Wednesday, South Korea's mil-

itary said, a week before a key

Asia-Pacific leaders' meeting in

It was the first launch of ballis-

tic missiles since May by Pyong

yang, which has defied a United

Nations Security Council ban on

It was also the first such

launch since Lee Jae Myung

was elected president in South

Korea, with a platform of engage-

Lee and US President Donald

Trump are expected to meet in

South Korea next week at a sum-

mit of the Asia-Pacific Econom-

ic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Trump is also expected to meet

South Korea detected sev-

eral projectiles believed to be

short-range ballistic missiles

fired from an area near North

Korea's capital, Pyongyang, in

a northeasterly direction early

Chinese President Xi Jinping.

ment with North Korea.

the weapons.



fighter jets to Ukraine, as Eu-

ropean governments move to boost Kviv's defences in a war that has ground on for three years and eight months, and shows no sign of ending soon.

Ukrainian pilots have been in Sweden to test the Gripen, a rugged and relatively low-cost option compared to aircraft such as the $\bar{\text{US}}$ F-35. 'We have started the work

to obtain Gripens and expect the future contract to allow us to acquire no less than 100 such jets," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said during a visit to Swedish defence manufacturer Saab. Kviv aims to receive and start using them next year,

North Korea fires ballistic missiles

Wednesday, its Joint Chiefs of

In a separate statement, the

Pentagon said the launches did

not pose an immediate threat to

"The United States condemns

these actions and calls on the

DPRK to refrain from further

unlawful and destabilizing acts,'

TRUMP TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA

Lee and Trump have dis-

cussed the idea of trying to meet

North Korean leader Kim Jong

Un when the American presi-

dent visits the South, but Pyong-

yang has not publicly responded

never confirmed, a trip to the

demilitarized zone (DMZ) sepa-

rating the two Koreas, according

to a person familiar with the dis-

tours of the Joint Security Ar-

ea (JSA) at the inter-Korean

border village of Panmunjom

until early November, but has

not confirmed any plans for a

South Korea has suspended

US officials considered, but

Staff said in a statement.

US personnel.

the Pentagon said.

to the idea.

TRUMP DOESN'T WANT WASTED

Russia and Ukraine pounded each other with heavy overnight missile attacks as renewed uncertainty surrounded the US-led peace effort.

After months of stalled diplomacy, Putin and Trump spoke last week and unexpectedly announced they would hold a summit in Hungary that the Kremlin said could take place within a couple of weeks.

But following a phone call Monday between the two countries' top diplomats, the White House said the next day that Trump had no plans to meet Putin "in the immediate future". Trump said he did not want to have a wasted meeting - some-

rump to visit South Korea ahead of

meeting with North

Korea's Kim Jong Un

but nothing confirmed

Asia-Pacific forum

rump floated

meeting with Kim.

MULTIPLE MISSILES LAUNCHED

has steadily upgraded its mis-

sile capabilities over the past

decade defying multiple United

Nations sanctions, having test-

launched long-range ballistic

missiles with potential ranges to

strike the US mainland if fired at

a trajectory calibrated for that

South Korea's military said it

had detected movements ahead

of the launch, then tracked

the projectiles after they were

fired and flew about 350 km (217

fallen inland, a military official

Japan's new Prime Minister

Sanae Takaichi said there was

no impact on Japan's security

from the North Korean missile

launch and Tokyo was sharing

real-time information with the

US. North Korea last launched

ballistic missiles May 8 when it

fired multiple short-range mis-

siles from its east coast.

The missiles appeared to have

miles), the military said.

separately said

Nuclear-armed North Korea

with strategic nuclear weapons

- Ukraine's Zelenskiy plans to buy Gripen fighter jets from
- Russia and Ukraine carry
- US says Putin-Trump
- summit plans on hold Russia says summit takes

time to prepare

thing the Kremlin said Putin also wanted to avoid. Russian officials said, howev-

er, that preparations continued for a summit.

"The dates haven't been set yet, but thorough preparation is needed before then, and that takes time," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told re porters. A US official said the summit had not been cancelled, but the US side was focusing for now on Trump's upcoming visit to Asia.

The delay came after Russia reiterated to the US its previous terms for reaching a peace deal, including that Ukraine cede control of the whole of the southeastern Donbas region. three sources told Reuters

Peru declares 30-day state of emergency to tackle rising crime

Lima, Oct 22: Peru's President Jose Jeri declared Tuesday a 30-day state of emergency in the capital Lima and the neighboring province of Callao, saying the move was to battle rising crime.

The announcement follows protests last week that left one person dead and more than 100 injured. Jeri said the measure, starting just after midnight and approved by the Council of Ministers, authorizes the deployment of the armed forces alongside the police to maintain public order. He did not provide further details.

'We are moving from defense to offense in the fight against crime, a fight that will allow us to regain peace, tranquility, and the trust of millions of Peruvians," he said in a televised address

Jeri was sworn in earlier this month following the ouster of former President Dina Boluarte. He unveiled a new cabinet last week, vowing to make tack ling crime a top priority.

The president also faced his first major protest called by civil society groups and young people from the so-called Generation Z demanding measures against rising crime.

This is not the first time Peru has enacted a state of emergency to address security concerns. Although former President Boluarte imposed the same 30-day measure in March, analysts and security experts say repeated emergency declarations have done little to reduce crime.

at his opposition to any role for Turkish security forces in the Gaza Strip as part of a mission to monitor a US-backed ceasefire with the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

REUTERS

Speaking in Jerusalem alongside visiting US Vice President JD Vance, Net-

With a fragile

ceasefire in place for

12 days, focus has

switched to the

second phase of

Trump's Gaza plan

Jerusalem/Cairo, Oct 22: Is-

raeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu hinted Wednesday

anyahu said they had discussed "day-after" the for Gaza, including who could provide security in the territory shattered by two years of war. Vance,

said Tuesday US President Donald Trump's ceasefire plan was going better than expected, reiterated his optimism. "I never said it was easy. But what I am optimistic

that the ceasefire is going to hold and that we can actually build a better future in the entire Middle East," he said. With a fragile ceasefire in

place for 12 days, focus has switched to the second phase of Trump's Gaza plan.

This requires Hamas to disarm and foresees the establishment of an internationally-supervised Palestinian committee to run Gaza with an international force supporting vetted Palestinian police.

NETANYAHU HAS 'STRONG OPINIONS' ON TURKISH ROLE IN GAZA

Responding to a question about the idea of Turkish security forces in Gaza, Netanyahu said, "I have very strong opinions about that. Want to guess what they are?

Turkey's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment, while the Defence Ministry declined to comment on the issue.

Vance said Tuesday there would be a "constructive role" for Turkey to play but that Washington wouldn't force any thing on Israel when it came to foreign troops "on their soil". Once warm relations be

tween NATO member Turkey and Israel hit new lows during the Gaza war, with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan sharply criticising Israel's attacks on the enclave and elsewhere in the region, and Syr ia - which borders both states -emerging as an arena of intensifying rivalry.

Turkey, which helped persuade Hamas to accept Trump's plan, has said it would take part in the international task force

Netanyahu meets

Vance on second day

of visit to Israel

Hints at opposition to

any Turkish security

forces in Gaza

is optimistic that

ceasefire will hold

Rubio also due to

visit Israel, Israeli

government says

More than 50 bodies

handed over by Israel

to monitor the ceasefire implementation, and that its armed forces could serve in a military or civilian capacity as needed.

Hamas has resisted pressure to disarm, saying that it is ready to hand its weapons to a future Pales-

tinian state. Vance said, "We have a very very tough task ahead of us,

buried in Gaza which is to disarm Hamas, but rebuild Gaza to make life bet-

ter for the people of Gaza, but also to ensure that Hamas is no longer a threat to our friends

Gazan authorities buried the bodies of 54 unidentified people handed over by Israel, the Gaza government media office said Medics said 30 more bodies arrived at Nasser Hospital in

Khan Younis after being re leased by Israel. Israeli authorities have said the 54 bodies belong to militants who invaded Israel in the

October 7 attacks or were killed in battle with Israeli forces in Gaza during the war. Hamas has released the

bodies of 15 out of 28 deceased hostages seized in 2023. Vance Tuesday said some of the remaining bodies were buried deep under rubble, saying it would take "a little bit of time" to recover them and urged patience.

Paris' Louvre reopens after heist, as backlash grows over security flaws

Visitors queued to enter through the Louvre's glass pyramid for the first time since Sunday's brazen robbery, in which hooded assailants broke through a second-floor window using a stolen movers' lift before making off with jewels from the royal collection

REUTERS

Paris, Oct 22: The Louvre in Paris reopened Wednesday, three days after thieves made off with historic jewellery worth an estimated 88 million euros (\$102 million) in a spectacular heist that has raised urgent questions over security lapses at the museum.

Visitors queued to enter through the Louvre's glass pyramid for the first time since Sunday's brazen robbery, in which hooded assailants broke through a second-floor window using a stolen movers' lift before making off with jewels

from the royal collection. Later Wednesday the museum's director will appear before the French Senate to

robbed, remains closed.

Amid rising frustration trative inquiry. "There was a burglary at

the Louvre, some of the most 1 radio.

system worked perfectly, as soon as the window was attacked, it was activated. Police were notified, and within



three minutes they were on happened has happened.'

He declined to comment on

was confident the perpetrators would be found

Dati came under fire after saying in parliament Tuesday

MUSEUM DIRECTOR TO BE HEARD IN SENATE

Louvre director Laurence des Cars will be questioned by senators later Wednes day. Des Cars warned in January that the minister centuries-old building was in a dire state.

Interior

failure

senate

President Emmanuel Macron has announced a six-year renovation of the Louvre, which will include money for security upgrades. Asked on RTL radio whether state budget cuts had led to security lapses in French museums, the head of France's national audit office Pierre Moscovici said that was not the case for the Louvre.

"It is richly endowed, there are sponsorships, really, the Louvre is not without resources. Built in the late 12th cen-

tury, the Louvre Palace used to be the official residence of the kings admits security of France, until Louis XIV abandoned it for Versailles. It was Museum director turned into a muse to be auizzed in um for the royal art collection in 1793, four

years after the French Revolution. It is now the world's most-visited museum, with

8.7 million visitors last year. It hosts the Mona Lisa, the world's most famous painting, and the Venus de Milo statue, as well as countless old masters.

reporters after the proceedings. Guatemala passes anti-gang law

answer lawmakers' questions.

The Galerie d'Apollon, the ornate gilded hall that was

in France that no senior official has taken responsibility, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said there had clearly been security failures and Culture Minister Rachida Dati had launched an adminis-

precious jewels in France were stolen. So obviously it's a failure, there is nothing else I can say," Nunez told Europe But he added that "the alarm

the scene. The whole system worked, it didn't fail, but what

the police manhunt, but said he

there had not been any security lapses

business



India ranks highly against other Indeed markets. Apart from India, only Singapore has a higher share of postings mentioning artificial intelligence. It's clear that many employers across India have gone all-in on artificial intelligence

CALLAM PICKERING SENIOR ECONOMIST, INDEED (APAC)

ZUPEE STUDIO HITS 10MN DOWNLOADS

Zupee Studio, a short-format content platform, Wednesday said it has crossed 10 million downloads on the Google Play Store. Primarily an online gaming platform, Zupee had last month forayed into the entertainment space post the enactment of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which puts a blanket ban on all forms of online money games while promoting e-sports and other online games. Zupee Studio features a range of 1-3 minute episodes spanning genres such as romance, thriller, comedy, and action, designed for vertical viewing





each and every supply chain sectorally to see we need to expand capacity, and we are willing to pay that extra buck to be able to have resilience

in our supply chains PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

India's renew-

able growth remains among the fastest in the world, driven by multi-pathway expansion. Over 40 GW of awarded renewable projects

are presently in advanced stages of securing PPAs. PSAs. or transmission connectivity PRALHAD JOSHI I UNION MINISTER, MNRE



investors pivot toward cleaner, smarter mobility solutions

SAKET MEHRA NDUSTRY LEADER, GRANT THORNTON LLP

SHORT TAKES

Reckitt's revenue report New Delhi: British FMCG maior Reckitt Wednesday said implementation of new GST slabs in India impacted its net revenue growth in the September quarter. However, the company reported volume-led growth in its germ protection brand Dettol in markets, including India, which helped it grow by double digits in the quarter. Besides, in the Intimate Well ness category, its brand Durex continued to gain market share in India, Reckitt said in its earnings statement. However, this short-term disruption, Reckitt said, its "like-for-like (LFL) net revenue growth in India remains high single digit through 2025 YTD. Reckitt operates in the Indian market with power brands, which include Lysol, Vanish, Strepsils, Veet, Dettol, Harpic, and Durex. Leading FMCG makers in India reported disruptions in trade channels in September due to the implementation of new GST slabs, which reduced prices and had a transitory impact on their quarterly revenue, along with a moderation in their

Infosys buyback

operating profits.

New Delhi: Infosys promoters and promoter group, including Nandan M Nilekani and Sudha Murty, have decided not to participate in the company's Rs 18,000 crore share buyback, according to a regulatory filing Wednesday. The promoters collectively hold 13.05 per cent of the company's equity as on the buyback announcement date. Infosys promoters include company co-founder N R Narayana Murthy's wife Sudha N Murty, daughter Akshata Murty, and son Rohan Murty. It also includes company co-founder Nandan Nilekani, his wife Rohini Nilekani, and children Nihar and Janhavi Nilekani. Other co-founders and their families are also promoters of the company.

Tobacco Board extends registration renewal

New Delhi: The Tobacco Board has directed manufacturers, exporters, processors, dealers and packers to register or renew their registration for 2026, with the last date for renewal applications being November 30. According to a notice issued by the Tobacco Board, stakeholders engaged in the tobacco business are required to register themselves annually as per Section 12 of the Tobacco

Meta expands safety tools to combat online fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Meta has announced new anti-scam features and awareness initiatives, including safety tools and tips to protect users, particularly senior citizens from cyber fraud and online scams, as the social media giant stepped up efforts to help people stay safe online.

Meta said on WhatsApp, it is launching warnings when users attempt to share their screens with an unknown contact during a video call.

Meta cautioned that scammers may pressure their targets to share their screen to trick people into giving away sensitive information, including bank details or verification codes, and added, "With this new tool we're giving users more context to spot and avoid scams.' On Messenger, Meta said it is

testing more advanced scam detection in chats that will warn users on receipt of a "potentially scammy message

"When this is enabled and a new contact sends a potentially scammy message, users will be warned and given an option to send recent chat messages for AI scam review," it said. If a potential scam is de-

tected, users will get more information on common scams, and actions will be suggested, including blocking or reporting the suspicious account. On Facebook, Messenger,

and WhatsApp, users can set up 'Passkeys' to make it safer to sign in with the same fingerprint, face, or PIN they already use on their mobile device to verify their identity, it advised. On Instagram, users can use

Security Checkup to review their security settings and get recommendations on security actions like updating their password.

On WhatsApp, 'Privacy Checkup' guides users through important privacy settings, such as deciding who can add them to groups. This helps them choose the right level of protection, all in one place.

WEF, Centre for Al adoption Debt MFs see outflow

The playbooks highlight AI's potential to improve productivity, unlock finance, enhance market access, site visits, field workshops, and analysing a multitude of on-ground pilot projects with entrepreneurs, policymakers, and industry leaders



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: The World Economic Forum, in collaboration with the Government of India. Wednesday launched Al playbooks for SMEs and agriculture as well as an AI sandbox white paper to accelerate responsible AI adoption in the country.

Developed with support from professional services partner BCG X, these publications offer actionable frameworks, sectoral roadmaps, and ecosystem models to harness AI responsibly, inclusively, and at scale in India, the WEF said.

The playbooks highlight AI's potential to improve productivity, unlock finance, and enhance market access and have been designed through extensive consultations, site visits, field workshops and analysing a multitude of on-ground pilot projects with entrepreneurs. policymakers, industry leaders, technology providers, and academic institutions.

The World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) India collaborated with the Of fice of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA to GOI) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for these publications under the AI for India 2030 initiative.

'Future Farming in India', the AI playbook for agriculture, provides an actionable road map to bridge the gap between AI's potential and real-world impact for millions of farmers.

It introduces a comprehensive strategy for scaling artificial intelligence to enhance crop yields, mitigate climate and pest risks, and improve market access

'Transforming Small Businesses', the AI playbook for SMEs in India, provides a strategic roadmap to address key challenges of productivity, access to formal credit, and market reach by democratising AI.

It introduces a structured, cluster-based approach to adoption, featuring real-world case studies and a clear framework for implementation.

Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) form the backbone of India's economy, contributing 30 per cent to GDP, employing over 23 crore people, and accounting for nearly half of the country's exports.

The AI Sandbox White Paper presents a two-part framework strategic and operational to be actioned through a collaborative structure of the government, industry and startup ecosystem to establish secure, controlled environments for developing and testing AI solu-

Sandboxes address critical gaps in data access, compute infrastructure, model validation, and market pathways de-risking adoption for both developers and end users.

Together, the three publications lay out practical roadmaps and frameworks that can help India harness AI responsibly and inclusively in key sectors, while driving innovation at speed and scale, the WEF said.

Ajay Sood said India's AI journey must be defined by how deeply it transforms lives at the last mile. Sood said the AI Playbooks

Principal Scientific Advisor

highlight how the government, industry, and academia can work together to ensure that every breakthrough delivers real impact for our economy, our communities, and our citizens. WEF Managing Director Jer-

emy Jurgens said India's drive to integrate AI into agriculture and small business is a significant opportunity for economic transformation.

"These playbooks provide the crucial framework to turn potential into action, uniting government, industry, and innovators. Together, we can ensure AI becomes a tool for empowerment, closing divides and creating a future where technology serves humanity at scale." he added.

The initiative aims to delve into the strategic implications of AI across various industries and sectors and co-design es sential blueprints, and anticipatory governance mechanisms to contribute to a globally harmonised understanding of responsible AI.

of ₹1 lakh crore in Sept



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Fixed-income mutual funds witnessed a massive net outflow of Rs 1.02 lakh crore in September following modest redemptions of Rs 7,980 crore in the preceding month, primarily driven by large institutional withdrawals from liquid and money market funds.

Out of 16 debt categories, 12 of them witnessed net outflows during the month under review. The major quantum of net outflows was witnessed by categories such as liquid. money market and ultra short duration funds.

According to data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), debt mutual funds (MFs) witnessed an outflow of Rs 1.02 lakh crore in September. way higher than a net outflow of Rs 7,980 crore in the preceding month.

In July, debt MFs saw a significant inflow of Rs 1.07 lakh

Nehal Meshram, Senior Analyst – Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said the higher outflow in September was primarily led by "large institutional withdrawals from liquid and money market funds, reflecting quarter-end liquidity adjustments and advance tax-related outflows. These categories often used by corporates and institutions for short-term cash management remain

highly sensitive to seasonal liquidity cycles."

The huge outflow has pulled down the assets under management (AUM) of fixed income funds or debt funds by nearly 5 per cent to Rs 17.8 lakh crore at the end of September from Rs 18.71 lakh crore in the preceding month-end.

Of the debt categories, liquid fund category witnessed the steepest outflow of Rs 66,042 crore and similarly, money market funds saw significant redemptions of Rs 17,900 crore Further, ultra-short duration funds witnessed outflow of Rs 13,606 crore, while low-duration funds also saw net redemptions of Rs 1.253 crore.

In comparison, short-duration funds experienced modest outflows of Rs 2,173 crore, indicating a more measured re sponse within accrual-oriented categories. "These modest outflows suggest that investors remained broadly anchored to shorter-tenor accrual-ori ented products, even as over all liquidity tightened toward quarter-end," Meshram added

In contrast, overnight funds registered modest positive in flows of Rs 4,279 crore, as few investors temporarily parked money in these instruments amid broader redemptions

Also, the dynamic bond category saw modest inflows of Rs 519 crore, followed by medium to long duration fund (Rs 103 crore) and long duration fund (Rs 61 crore).

Smartphone market rings 3% growth in July-Sept



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 22: India's smartphone market grew 3 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the third quarter of the calendar year 2025, reaching 48.4 million units shipped, as per the latest research from Omdia, which cautioned that despite early momentum, gains are unlikely to sustain into a strong year-end.

The modest growth was driven by a wave of new launches in July and August, retail incentivisation and an earlier festive season that pulled forward inventory flows, Omdia said.

Vendors filled the channels with new stocks in expectation of a high-demand festive period.

India's smartphone market rose 3 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in Q3 2025, touching 48.4 million units shipped, Omdia said in a release.

Put simply, shipped units refer to devices that have left the factory premises and been sent to channel or distributors, for sale in the market.

"With limited organic demand, Q3's momentum was largely sustained through incentive-led channel push rather than pure consumer recovery, Sanyam Chaurasia, Principal Analyst at Omdia, noted.

According to Omdia, vivo (excluding iQOO) extended its lead in the market with 9.7 million units shipped (20 per cent market share), while Samsung ranked second with 6.8 million units (14 per cent market share) followed by Xiaomi in the third spot, narrowly overtaking OPPO (excluding OnePlus), with both vendors shipping 6.5 million units.

Coal India, IIT Madras to establish Centre for Sustainable Energy

MADRAS: Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to establish a Centre for Sustainable Energy at the



and V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, in the presence of PM Prasad, Chairman, CIL, along with senior officials from both organisations. The Centre will serve as i, and capacity-building energy technologies. Supported by CIL's funding and aligned with its diversifica-tion strategy, it aims to develop low-carbon technologies, repurpose coal mines, and explore the use of coal as a feedstock in India's clean energy transition. Speaking on the occasion, PM Prasad said, "Coal India is evolving from being the nation's primary energy provider to a key enabler of India's clean energy transition. This collaboration with IIT Madras marks a historic step in our journey toward sustainable growth and energy security." Kamakoti highlighted that industry-academia partnerships are vital for achieving India's low-carbon goals.

Aditya Aluminium unveils ZLD Plant in Odisha



SAMBALPUR: Aditva Aluminium, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited at Sambalpur, has achieved a significant sustainability milestone with the commissioning of a state-of-the-art 200 KLD Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)
Plant featuring advanced Mechanical Vapour Recompression (MVR) technology. The facil ity ensures complete recycling and reuse of

industrial effluents, marking a major stride toward sustainable water management and environmental stewardship. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Uma Nanduri, PCCF (Kenduleaves), Odisha & Member Secretary, OSPCB; Su darsan Behera, Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur Kendu Leaf Circle; S N Nanda Regional Officer, SPCB; and Hiranya Kumar Nayak, Regional Officer, Jharsuguda. Senior officials from the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and the Aditya Aluminium management team, including JP Nayak (Unit Head), Gulshan Tiwari (Head – CPP), Sandeep Singh (Head, Smelter), Vinoda Thakur (Head – HR), Ranjan Jena (Cluster Environment Head), and Lalit Charan (DH, Environment).

BIZ BUZZ

AIET Bhubaneswar hosts AICTE-ATAL FDP

BHUBANESWAR: The Arvan Institute of Engineering and Technology (AIET), Bhu baneswar, successfully hosted a six-day AICTE-ATAL-sponsored Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Next-Gen Aerial Communication: Integrating Al and Drone Technologies" from October 13 to 18, 2025. Organised by the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), the e-FDP witnessed an overwhelming response, drawing participation from more than 275 faculty members and research scholars from across India, including Assistant and Associate Professors. The programme was inaugurated by MadhumitaParida, Chairperson, AIET, in the presence of Dillip Kumar Biswal, Principal. The event featured 13 expert sessions led by eminent speakers from premier institutions and industries.

Cochlear implant program at Apollo

BHUBANESWAR: achieved remarkable

success in restoring hearing and speech its Cochlear Implant Program, which has been operational since of ENT and Head-Neck Surgery has been

performing bilateral



cochlear implant surgeries for children with severe to profound hearing loss many under Ayushman Bharat and other government-supported schemes offer ing free treatment. Alok Srivastava, Chief Operating Officer & Director-Medical Services, said, "Our hospital has invested in modern operating rooms, advanced implant technology, and dedicated rehabilitation facilities. The teamwork between pediatric, anesthesia, audiology, and surgical units ensures every child's safety and best possible outcome." Sanjeev Gupta, Senior Consultant, ENT (Head & Neck Surgery), highlighted the program's inclusivity: "We began with a mission to restore hearing to every child in need, regardless of financial background. With government support, we've made hearing restoration accessible to all.

Cheap imports, dumping hurt India's steel sector: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: India's steel sector faced significant headwinds due to cheap imports and dumping from major global steel producers during 2023-24 and 2024-25, RBI's latest Bulletin said, as it called for policy support to boost the competitiveness of domestic steel pro-

An article published in the Reserve Bank's October Bulletin noted that steel imports have seen a surge, largely driven by lower import prices. This has adversely impacted the domestic steel production.

"The dumping of cheap steel

from global producers may

pose a risk to the domestic steel

production, which can be mit-

igated through suitable policy

measures. The recent initiative to impose the safeguard duty provides insulation against the import dumping," said the article titled 'Steel Under Siege: Understanding the Impact of Dumping on India'. India imported steel products

to supplement its consumption demand. The country's iron and steel imports expanded by 10.7 per cent in the first half of 2024-25 and recorded a contraction in the second half of 2024-25, mainly due to safeguard duties.

growth in its steel imports in 2023-24, fuelled by softer steel prices in the international India imports nearly 45 per

cent of steel from the top five

destinations -- South Korea (im-

port share 14.6 per cent), China

India recorded a 22 per cent (9.8 per cent), the US (7.8 per the UK (6.2 per cent).

> China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Vietnam during 2024-25, the article said. Further, it said India's steel

consumption grew by 12.9 per cent on average (average of cent), Japan (7.1 per cent) and monthly growth rates) from Steel imports increased from April 2022 to November 2024. The gap between domestic consumption and production

It also noted that steel pric-

has widened since 2022

both on the domestic and global "In recent times, India's steel sector has encountered

es have eased since April 2022,

challenges due to increased imports and competitive pricing from major steel-producing countries," said the article authored by Anirban Sanyal and Sanjay Singh, officials in the **RBI's Department of Statistics** and Information Management.

These factors have affected domestic market share, lowered capacity utilisation, and added pressure on domestic producers, it said, adding that the pricing strategies of exporting nations remain a concern for the steel industry.

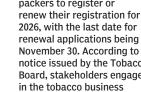
"Addressing these challenges calls for a balanced approach, including policy support and

competitiveness of India's steel production through innovation, cost efficiency, and sustainable practices," it said.

initiatives to enhance the

According to the authors, the surge in imports has been primarily fuelled by lower import prices of steel, which in turn has adversely impacted domestic steel production. The central bank said the views ex pressed in the article are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of the Reserve Bank of India.

With sluggish economic growth anticipated in China and other major steel-producing and consuming regions, the article added that cross-border trade in steel is being increasingly redirected to high-growth markets, including India.



Board Act, 1975.

Comeback clock ticks for Ro-Ko

Time for India to revisit playing combination as 'Ro-Ko' continue to grab eyeballs in 2nd ODI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Oct 22: The Indian team's heavy reliance on all-rounders will be tested by a plucky Australia in the second ODI but the spotlight will continue to stay firmly on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, both of whom would look to turn back the clock with series-saving knocks here Thursday.

The opening ODI of the threematch rubber was a forgettable affair for India with multiple stoppages at Perth that affected the momentum of their batting unit, eventually leading to a seven-wicket loss.

The second ODI against Australia Thursday offers not just a chance for India to level the series, but for two icons to remind the world that class never fades - even after time away from the game.

In the rain-hit first ODI, India's batting rust was evident. Returning to 50-over cricket after more than seven months, Rohit and Kohli struggled to find their rhythm — the Mumbaikar falling for 8, while India's fittest cricketer perished for a duck.

In Perth, India limped to 136/9 in 26 overs — a target Australia chased down comfortably in just 22 overs — to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. It was a comeback that promised much but delivered little. Having last played an ODI during the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this year, both Rohit and Kohli looked short of match sharpness. For fans, it was an



After a faltering comeback in Perth, **Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli head into Adelaide with both** form and future under the spotlight

unfamiliar sight — watching two stalwarts who have defined India's batting for over a decade fall without a fight.

As the caravan moves to Adelaide, the stakes are higher than ever. Both players, having already stepped away from T20Is and Tests, are believed to be under evaluation for their ODI roles. A big innings could change the narrative; another failure might deepen the uncertainty surrounding their future in the format. Both Rohit and Virat have already retired from Test and T20 formats to prolong their ODI careers.

For India, this contest is about more than just a series scoreline — it's about pride, belief, and timing a comeback right. And for Rohit and Virat. Thursday's clash could well determine how the next chapter of their storied careers is written.

The bowling unit also failed to impress but to be fair to the likes Mohammed Siraj and Axar Patel, the batters gave them only 136 to defend.

The challenges at the Adelaide Oval won't be any different with Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood once again set to ask probing questions down that "corridor of uncertainty". relentlessly. With the Australian summer just about starting, there would be bounce and lateral movement on the country's fresh tracks, combining for conditions that can deflate the best in the business.

For the home team, last match's hero left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann has been released and seasoned leg-break bowler Adam Zampa is back after attending the birth of his child along with a fit-again Alex Carey, who was playing a Sheffield Shield game.

With a talent like Yashasvi Jaiswal warming the bench, there is enormous pressure on Rohit Sharma to perform and the former skipper arrived at the Adelaide Oval practice arena at least 45 minutes before some of the members joined him for an optional net session.

Fallible eves desperate for NZ scalp

With three defeats in a row against each of this World Cup's semifinalists -- Australia, South Africa and England -- India have repeatedly cracked under pressure, often after being in complete control

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Oct 22: A fallible India will look to be in control of their fate and seal the last semifinal berth in what would effectively be a virtual quarterfinal against a sprightly New Zealand, in the Women's World Cup here Thursday.

Harmanpreet Kaur's side would become the fourth team to book the semifinal berth if they get the better of the White Ferns here on the familiar mat of the DY Patil Stadium.

But any more errors like in each of their previous three outings will leave India dependent on other scenarios.

If India lose to New Zealand, they will need England to beat the White Ferns and then must also win their final group league match against Bangladesh to make the cut.

New Zealand, who need to win both their remaining matches to make the final four, find themselves heading into another contest under rain threat as there are predictions of "rain or thundershowers" towards the evening or night here

In the event of a washout, India will be in an advantageous position courtesy more wins and better net run-rate equation, when stocks are taken to identify the fourth semifinalist.

While both Australia and South Africa exposed India's bowling skills and depth with spirited chases, the biggest shocker came in Indore which captain Harmanpreet described as a "heartbreak" when her side failed to make 56 from 54 balls with seven wickets intact on a belter of a track. India's problems go beyond

the sixth bowling option in mind, as the camp grapples to handle the pressure of a home World Cup. The margins of those defeats

playing combinations with

notwithstanding, India's fallibility under pressure and lack of specific skillsets remain the biggest concern for skipper Harmanpreet and head coach Amol Muzumdar, who had overseen a near-perfect buildup to this mega event.

So far, none of India's top batters have lasted long enough to finish games, and none of the bowlers have stepped up consistently, leaving the team heavily reliant on Richa Ghosh for big hits.

In such a scenario, the lead ership duo of Harmanpreet and in-form Smriti Mandhana, who have been Indian batting mainstays, will need to take responsibility as the team enters the 'now-or-never' zone.

India left out Jemimah Rodrigues to accommodate the sixth bowler and brought in Renuka Thakur, an exponent of swing bowling, but pressure will firmly be on No 3 Harleen Deol who has not been able to convert her starts.

The venerable duo of Sophie Devine and Suzie Bates would present a tough challenge for India as New Zealand would be keen on getting a full match after their two matches were washed out in the rain-hit Colombo.

It's been more than two decades since New Zealand were last seen in the Women's Test circuit and with white-ball cricket being their only plat form to showcase their mettle, the likes of Devine and Bates would be keen on adding one more title to last year's T20 World Cup win.

Even there, New Zealand had outplayed India across departments to serve a realitv check.

Devine had explicitly made her emotions clear about getting limited opportunities in World Cup events after the last washed out game against Pakistan.

With this being a 'do-or-die match for New Zealand, skipper Devine, who is also third highest run-getter with 260 runs in five matches including a century and two fifties would present a tough chal lenge to India in particular.

Olympic champion Neeraj conferred rank of Lt Colonel

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh conferred the insignia of honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel to the star javelin thrower, serving in the Territorial Army

New Delhi, Oct 22: Olympic Neeraj Chopra was Wednesday conferred with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh describing him as an "epitome" of perseverance, and national

Singh conferred the insignia of honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel to the star javelin thrower, serving in the Territorial Army, at a pipping ceremony in New Delhi that was also graced by Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi and many other senior officials of the force

ASIA CUP TROPHY FIASCO

BCCI, PCB head for

showdown in next

month's ICC meet

Karachi, Oct 22: The BCCI

and Pakistan Cricket Board

are headed for a showdown at

next month's ICC meeting as

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi

is not budging from his stance

of personally handing over the

Asia Cup trophy to India in his

capacity as head of the Asian

In the reply sent to the BCCI

and other ACC member nations,

Nagyi has insisted that he is

willing to organise a ceremony

November 10 in Dubai, where a

representative of the BCCI and

any available Indian team play-

er can take the trophy from him.

longs to the Indian cricket team

and is being held in trust till such

time that a BCCI office holder

along with any available par-

ticipating player can collect the

same from the ACC President."

Nagyi wrote in his reply.

"The ACC trophy rightly be-

Cricket Council (ACC)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chopra joined the Indian Army as a Naib Subedar August 26, 2016 and was promoted to Subedar in 2021 and Subedar Major in 2022.

Born December 24, 1997 in Khandra village in Haryana's Panipat, he created history by winning India's first-ever Olympic gold medal in athletics in the men's javelin throw competition at the Tokyo Olym-Chopra continued his stellar

performance by winning a silver medal at the Paris Olympics in 2024 and a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships in 2023.

He has also secured multiple



gold medals at the Asian Games. Commonwealth Games, and Di amond League events. His personal best throw of 90.23 metres Indian sporting history.

Interacting with Chopra and his family members, Defence Minister Singh described him patriotism and the Indian spirit of striving for excellence".

"Lt Col (Hony) Neeraj Chopra embodies the highest ideals of discipline, dedication and national pride, serving as an inspiration to generations within the sporting fraternity and the Armed Forces alike," Singh said.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and exemplary service to the nation, Lt Col (Hony) Chopra was granted an honorary commission in the Territorial Army by President Droupadi Murmu on April 16, the defence minis-

Chopra is also a recipient of many coveted awards, including Padma Shri, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Ariuna Award, Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva

Vishvajit clinches bronze again, opens India's medal account

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Novi Sad (Serbia), Oct 22: Indian Greco Roman wrestler Vishvajit More won the bronze medal after getting the better of Kazakhstan's Yerassyl Mmayrbekov 5-4 in the U23 Wrestling World Championship here Wednesday

More won the medal in the 55kg category. However, three Indian women wrestlers in action lost their respective first rounds on the day.

With this victory, Vishvajit not only became a two-time U23 World bronze medalist, but also opened India's medal tally for the second year in a row an impressive reflection of his steady rise in a discipline where Indian success has historically been limited.

Hanny Kumari (50kg) lost her



bout by fall after a close fight against Sviatlana Katenka, who is competing under UWW (global wrestling body) flag The score was 4-6 in favour of Katenka when she found the pin move against the Indian.

Diksha Malik (72kg) could not cross the qualification round, losing 3-9 to China's Yuqi Liu, who later lost her bout by fall to shut the door on

Haaland just can't stop scoring right now. chester United, now has four

The Norway international's opener at Villarreal was his 24th in 14 games this season and extended his current scoring streak to 12 games in a row. He now has 53 goals in the Champions League in just 51 appearances. The only game he didn't score in this term was City's 2-0 defeat to Tottenham in August.

Bernardo Silva was also on target as City moved up to fifth

Napoli stunned in Eindhoven

The biggest shock of the night was Napoli's defeat at PSV. That's back-to-back losses for Antonio Conte's team, following Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Torino. And such a heavy loss in Europe will be particularly humbling for the Italian cham pion, with three goals conced ed in the last 10 minutes after going down to 10 men when Lorenzo Lucca was sent off in

Napoli has just one win from three games in Europe so far.

AL-FILLED NIGHT IN CHAMPIONS LEA ASSOCIATED PRESS In all, there were 43 goals in nine games, with six teams scoring four or more

Manchester, Oct 22: Paris Saint-Germain scored seven, Barcelona hit six and Erling Haaland struck his 24th goal of the season on an action-packed night in the Champions League.

PSV Eindhoven routed Italian champion Napoli 6-2, while Arsenal and Inter Milan also had big wins to maintain their perfect starts in Europe.

But it is defending champion PSG that leads the way at the top of the standings after a wild 7-2 win against Bayer Leverkusen in a match that saw both teams reduced to 10 men in the

Barcelona's 6-1 win against Olympiakos saw it bounce back from a loss to PSG at the start of the month.

Premier League leader Arsenal beat Atletico Madrid 4-0, with Viktor Gyokeres scoring twice, and last season's Champions League runner-up Inter beat Union Saint-Gilloise by the same score. Haaland's goal helped Manchester City

to a 2-0 win at Villarreal.

PSG runs wild in Leverkusen

By halftime at the BayArena PSG was 4-1 up - but that didn't come close to telling the full story of a chaotic first period, which included a red card for each team and two penalties for Leverkusen.

Two goals for Desire Doue put the French champion well in control and the action continued after the break with Nuno Mendes extending the lead within five minutes of the restart. Ousmane Dembele also came off the bench to make a scoring return after injury.

"That's three games, three wins, and crucially we're at the top of the UEFA Champions League table," Dembele said. "We've started this campaign really well, especially considering how difficult it was last season.

Lopez treble

Fermin Lopez scored a hat trick and Marcus Rashford hit two goals as Barcelona blew



away 10-man Olympiakos.

Barca took full advantage when Santiago Hezze was shown a contentious red card in the second half — scoring

four goals to complete the rout. It was Lopez's first hat trick of his career, with Lamine Yamal also on the scoresheet from

the penalty spot.

Olympiakos had no answer when Hezze was shown a second yellow card in the 57th minute, despite replays appearing to show he did not make contact with Marc Casado, who was trying to pull him back.

Rashford, on loan from Man-

Champions League this season. **Arsenal powers past Atletico**

goals in three games in the

Top of the Premier League and perfect in Europe, Arsenal is flying high.

A powerful second half at the Emirates saw Mikel Arteta's team brush aside Atletico with summer signing Gyokeres sealing the victory with two goals in three minutes. Those goals ended the striker's seven-game scoring drought for Arsenal. "I am delighted as he fully

deserves it. The workrate he brings to the team is outstanding. We value a lot of things that he does for the team and it was the biggest smile on his face today," Arteta said. Gabriel

Goals from Magalhaes and Gabriel Martinelli had given Arsenal a 2-0 lead before Gyokeres struck.

Arsenal is third in the standings — behind PSG and Inter on goal difference.

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