



Turning point

Alaya F recalls a childhood memory that deeply inspired her and ignited her enduring love for Hindi cinema

LEISURE | **P2**



Trade talks suspended

Trump ends trade talks with Canada after Ottawa aired an ad featuring Reagan warning that tariffs trigger trade wars

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Gold loses glitter

Gold prices tank to ₹1,25,600 per 10 grams in the national capital amid weak trends in the international markets

BUSINESS | **P11**



Last dance Down Under

All eyes will be on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the third ODI, possibly their last outing in Australia, Saturday

SPORTS | **P12**

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SPLASH IN THE RIVER: Tourists enjoy rafting in the Ganga in Rishikesh, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Ad industry doyen Piyush Pandey dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 24: Piyush Pandey, one of India's most celebrated advertising minds whose works included 2014 election slogan 'Ab ki baar, Modi sarkar', died in Mumbai Friday at the age of 70.

Pandey, who joined Ogilvy India in 1982 and rose to become its global creative chief, transformed Indian advertising by rooting it in local language, humour, and emotion. His work -- including Cadbury's "Kuch Khaas Hai", "Har Khushi Mein Rang Laaye" for Asian Paints, and Fevicol ads (notably the "egg" film) -- became part of the country's cultural lexicon. **P11**



Cyclone brews over Bay

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: A fresh low-pressure area formed over southeast Bay of Bengal Friday is gaining strength and is set to intensify into a cyclonic storm October 27, causing heavy rainfall across Odisha and some parts of West Bengal for three days starting Monday, officials said.

Bhubaneswar Meteorological Department Director Manorama Mohanty said the weather system has moved west-north-westwards and is likely to move in that direction further.

"It will become a depression over southeast and adjoining central Bay of Bengal by October 25, a deep depression by October 26, and a cyclonic storm over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal by the morning of October 27," Mohanty told reporters here.

Asked whether the system will make landfall on the Odisha coast, she said, "It is too early to predict, but wherever it makes landfall, Odisha is likely to experience heavy to extremely heavy rainfall from October 27 to 29. The coastal districts are expected to be most affected."

The IMD has issued a

yellow warning for light to moderate rainfall in 21 districts each Saturday and Sunday, and across the entire state Monday.

Under its impact, Mohanty said that squally weather with wind speed reaching 35-45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph is likely to prevail along and off the Odisha coast from October



26. The wind speed is likely to increase to 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph from October 27 and 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph from October 28 till October 29.

As the sea condition is likely to be moderate to rough along and off Odisha coast from October 26, the IMD advised fishermen not to venture into Bay of Bengal during the period.

Meanwhile, Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the state government was closely monitoring the situation and is prepared to face any eventuality.

"October is gener-

ally considered a cyclone-prone month. There is no need to panic. The government is fully prepared to handle the situation," Pujari said.

The office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) has issued an advisory to coastal districts and the Fisheries Department warning fishermen against venturing into the sea from October 26 onwards.

The SRC has urged coastal residents and fishermen to remain alert to further updates from the IMD and state authorities as the system continues to intensify.

"October is gener-

Doctor ends life; note on palm says cop raped her

Satara, Oct 24: A woman doctor working at a government hospital in Maharashtra's Satara district has died by suicide, leaving a note on her palm, accusing a police sub-inspector of rape and mental harassment, police said Friday.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis spoke to the Satara SP Tushar Doshi and ordered the suspension of the sub-inspector named in the suicide note.

The 28-year-old doctor, who hailed from Beed district and worked at the hospital in Phaltan tehsil, was found hanging in a hotel room at Phaltan late Thursday night, an official said.

In a suicide note written



on her palm, the doctor alleged that she had been raped and mentally harassed by the police sub-inspector and another person over the last five months.

She wrote that sub-inspector Gopal Badane raped and sexually harassed her on multiple occasions, and another man Prashant Ban-

kar, a software engineer, mentally harassed her.

Satara police have registered a case against Badane and Bankar under charges of rape and abetment to suicide, Doshi said.

"The doctor's body has been sent for post-mortem. We are also investigating the allegations mentioned in the suicide note on the victim's palm," he said.

A relative of the doctor claimed that she was under pressure to change a post-mortem report and also to modify medical test reports of arrested accused in some cases. Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said the incident highlights the breakdown of law and order situation in the state.

20 CHARRED AS BUS CATCHES FIRE IN AP

Kurnool, Oct 24: A Bangalore-bound private bus from Hyderabad caught fire in this district Friday after colliding with a two-wheeler, leaving 20 people dead, most of them charred beyond recognition, police said. Among the deceased was the biker.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his Telangana counterpart A Revanth Reddy expressed anguish over the incident.

Some of the bodies were

charred beyond recognition, prompting officials to call forensic teams to collect DNA samples of the deceased.

Several passengers couldn't escape the tragedy because it struck at night while they were sleeping, an official said. PM Modi also announced an ex-gratia.

According to initial reports, the motorcycle collided with the bus near Chinnatekur in Kurnool and got dragged underneath with its fuel cap open, triggering the blaze.

"So far, 19 bodies have been retrieved from the charred bus. Biker's body is in the mortuary," Kurnool Range DIG Koya Praveen told PTI.

Minor raped by relatives

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her two distant relatives in Puri district, police said Friday.

The incident took place under Chandanpur police limits on the night of October 22, when Kali Puja idol immersion procession was going on in the locality, the police said.

According to police, the distant relatives (a brother and an uncle), who live in the same

village as the victim, entered the house of the girl when she was alone and committed the crime.

"We have received a written complaint from the victim and conducted her medical examination. The two accused have been detained and further investigation is in progress," Chandanapur IIC, Bhuban Mohan Samantaray told PTI.

As per preliminary investigation, the two men committed the crime over a past dispute, he said.

More oil to come from Mideast, US

New Delhi, Oct 24: Indian refiners are likely to ramp up crude oil purchases from the Middle East, Latin America and the US to compensate for reduced imports from Russia, following Washington's sanctions on two major Russian producers, sources and analysts said.

The US government, October 22, imposed sanctions on Russia's two largest crude oil producers, Rosneft and Lukoil, barring all American entities and individuals

from conducting business with them. Non-US firms could also face penalties if found dealing with the sanctioned companies or their subsidiaries. The US Treasury Department said all existing transactions involving Rosneft and Lukoil must be wound down by November 21.

Russia currently supplies nearly a third of India's crude imports, averaging around 1.7 million barrels per day (mbd) in 2025, of which approximately 1.2 mbd came directly from Rosneft and Lukoil.

Corn, soybean at heart of Indo-US trade talks

New Delhi, Oct 24: US President Donald Trump said this week he spoke with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi mainly about trade, and that Modi had assured him India would limit its oil purchases from Russia.

After the United States sanctioned Russia's top oil producers Wednesday, Indian refiners - major buyers of cheap Russian oil - said they are set to sharply cut imports, potentially clearing a key hurdle to a US-India trade deal.

India faces steep 50% tariffs on its exports to the US - with half of the duties aimed at punishing Russian oil purchases - putting pressure on key industries including textiles, jewel-



lery, seafood, leather, and engineering goods that employ millions of people.

Some reports say the US could cut tariffs on Indian imports to 15-16% from 50%, with the deal likely to hinge on energy and agriculture.

Corn and soybeans have figured prominently in the negotiations, with the US eager to sell these two agricultural products to India.

India has increasingly turned to corn to boost ethanol output, but its rules bar ethanol made from imported grains and prohibit genetically modified (GM) food crops. The US mostly grows GM corn, though some US farmers also produce non-GM varieties.

The United States is pressing India to allow corn imports, arguing that ethanol made from US

corn would be used solely for blending with gasoline and not enter Indian agriculture.

Tit-for-tat tariffs imposed by Washington and Beijing have made US soybeans too expensive for buyers in China, which has long been the world's largest soybean importer.

To help US soybean farmers saddled with surplus stocks, Washington is keen to sell the oilseed to India. The Trump administration is also pressing India - home to the world's largest cattle herd - to buy American soymeal, a protein-rich animal feed.

New Delhi has balked at suggestions to allow market access for American grains and dairy, citing the need to protect the livelihoods of small farmers.

But, India could consider allowing some corn and soymeal imports, trade and industry sources say.

India's soybean industry has opposed imports of both American soybeans and soymeal, saying such imports would hurt the country's oilseed producers and that India already has surplus stocks of the animal feed.

Resisting corn imports, ethanol producers say any shipments of the grain would disrupt the entire ethanol supply chain, especially as India's ethanol production capacity exceeds consumption.

With Assembly elections nearing in the eastern state of Bihar, a big producer of corn, US imports could anger farmers, an influential voting bloc.

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ARIES
Do something really exciting today – perhaps you could put on your trekking boots and explore unknown territories. Ganesha advises you to keep busy but not to go overboard. In group activities today, everybody will focus their attention on you.

TAURUS

This day you are going to be particularly conscious of your beliefs and principles. You will be very proud and sensitive, and are not likely to brook any adverse comment or criticism. Anyone who dares to question or deride them will get a fitting response from you. Ganesha, however warns you to be more tolerant of others' views and beliefs.

GEMINI

You will be surrounded by conflicts today. However, you will come to realise within a short while the solutions required to troubles shoot your way out of your difficult circumstances. You will desire solitude and peace so much so that you will not find even your family members welcome company, says Ganesha.

CANCER

What good is life if it doesn't involve great fun and merry-making. Keeping this in mind, you will set about planning your day. There may be no stopping you as you go about your day having a blast at every possible moment. There will be no limit to your gregarious behaviour, says Ganesha.

LEO

You will give importance to your work and your style of functioning to get a promotion in the office. You will also increase the amount of work you put in. While the fruits of your labour may not be immediately available to you, in a very short time you can expect to make more gains than you expected to.

VIRGO

Ganesha advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work. Ganesha says today you will garner the support of people by uniting them under you for achieving greater success.

LIBRA

You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesha. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot of interesting discussions. You will want to expand upon your knowledge of the world today and will be successful in your efforts.

SCORPIO

Keep your eyes and ears open and believe in only what you see. Remember, believing in rumours may lead to ugly situations. Your efforts to be different and stand out would pay off well, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

The day is bright and the seas are calm today. For a change, you shall spend time with your life partner and help them in household chores. Even routine jobs like cooking and cleaning will weave an intricate bond between you two.

CAPRICORN

You will be a live wire, today. With amazing exuberance you have completed mammoth tasks and have spread the energy around. It will give you tremendous job-satisfaction, foresees Ganesha. Everything seems well and good the personal front, too. Spending some quality time your spouse will relax your mind and keep you in an upbeat mood.

AQUARIUS

You are a strong-willed person, and during the toughest of times you remain focused. A constant smile on your face and positive attitude will help you win the hearts and minds of people at work as well as at home. Such a feeling of contentment and happiness motivate you to do your best. Keep spreading the joy, says Ganesha.

PISCES

You will bump into an old friend or a distant relative today. This rendezvous may be with a person who you were close to long ago and it will warm your heart with nostalgia. You might contemplate taking a break from your daily grind to spend sometime to rekindle your childhood memories or visit your hometown.



STRANGER THINGS FINALE TO RELEASE IN THEATRES

The two-hour series finale of *Stranger Things* is set to release in theatres, also marking the first time for the Netflix show to be exhibited theatrically. Created by Matt and Ross Duffer, known as The Duffer Brothers, the fifth and final season of the series is set to stream on Netflix.

REASON KNIGHTLEY BANS SOCIAL MEDIA AT HOME

Hollywood actress Keira Knightley shared that she wanted to protect her young children from the 'terrifying' world online, and hence she has banned social media at home. The 40-year-old actress is a mother to kids Edie, nine and Delilah, five, with her husband James Righton.



Truth behind DP's 'sad' tweet

Mumbai: After the makers of *Spirit* unveiled an explosive audio teaser in five languages, troll accounts targeting Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone jumped on the bandwagon, attempting to capitalise on the hype by posting misleading comments online.

A fake social media profile pretending to be Deepika shared a reaction to Prabhas' first look from *Spirit*. The post claimed that Deepika was 'sad' but found the teaser 'wonderful'.

The viral post came from a fake account impersonating her, misleading fans online after Vanga unveiled the first audio teaser of *Spirit*, which was released in five Indian languages such as Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

"I am sad but wonderful video Sandeep Reddy and happy birthday #Prabhas sir," the tweet read.

For those who do not know, Deepika was replaced by Triptii Dimri in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's next.

Although the exact reason for her exit is not known, if the reports are to be believed, the director was discouraged by the long list of demands from Deepika, which reportedly included limited working hours, a significant paycheck, and a share in the film's profits.

Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga wished Prabhas on his birthday by dropping the first 'sound story' from *Spirit*.

Alaya's candid confession

Mumbai: Alaya F recently shared how Hrithik Roshan's 2006 blockbuster *Krrish* played a defining role in sparking her love for Bollywood. The actress, who will soon be seen in *Storm* — Hrithik's first production venture in the web series space — recalled how the film changed her perception of Hindi cinema. "I was never really a big Bollywood fan growing up. But then I saw *Krrish*, and it became a childhood-defining moment for me," Alaya said, adding that she became "obsessed" with Hrithik Roshan and Priyanka Chopra after watching it. "That's when I really started enjoying the industry. *Krrish* was my initiation into Bollywood in a big way. I remember being completely in awe of him."

She also fondly remembered her first meeting with Hrithik when her grandfather, veteran actor Kabir Bedi, was shooting *Kites*. "I was so excited to meet him, but when my Nana introduced us, I went completely silent. I didn't say a word despite all my excitement," she laughed.

Now, years later, Alaya is set to collaborate with Hrithik in *Storm*, directed by Ajitpal Singh of *Tabbar* fame. Featuring Parvathy Thiruvothu, Srishti Shrivastava, and Saba Azad, the series marks a full-circle moment for Alaya — from admiring Hrithik on screen to working alongside him.



No expectations, just relief for Rashmika

New Delhi: Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who is fondly called the 'National Crush', is happy with the response to her latest horror comedy *Thamma*, and said that she prefers not to keep too many expectations from her films.

Asked if she had anticipated the film's success, Rashmika told this news agency: "Honestly,

when you're doing a film, you're just hoping that at the end of the day it does well."

Thamma on Day One opened with Rs. 25.11 crore nett in India and in four days it has raked in Rs. 57.63 crore as per *sacnilk.com*.

The actress added: "Expectations? I'm not very good with expectations. I tend to not keep too much expectation. It's just, you know, it's more of a relief once the film is out and people are enjoying it. It's more of a relief than, you know, it's like, yes, I did it."

Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, *Thamma*, which also stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Ayushmann Khurrana, is set in a fictional world. The film also sees a crossover with Varun Dhawan's *Bhediya*.

Talking about the genre of horror comedy being loved across all age groups, Rashmika feels that *Thamma* and other movies in the Maddock universe is "rooted in Indian folklore."

Sonam on missed opportunities

Mumbai: Sonam Bajwa has been a prominent name in Punjabi cinema for over a decade, delivering several hits, working with leading stars, and headlining strong women-centric films. After years of speculation about her Bollywood debut, she has now stepped into Hindi cinema with three films — *Housefull 5* with Akshay Kumar, *Baaghi 4* with Tiger Shroff, and *Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat* opposite Harshvardhan Rane. In an earlier interview, Sonam talked about the missed opportunities and how those experiences shaped her as an artist.

The actress reflected on her journey, saying, "We all learn, right? And I think I'm somebody who's learned so much from my mistakes, from the decisions that I've made." She shared that missed opportunities

only made her stronger and wiser. Having received several offers from Bollywood and the South, Sonam said she often turned them down for various reasons, trusting that "when God has something for you, it will happen."

Her focus, she added, was never on chasing fame or big-budget projects but on growing as an actor and doing meaningful work. "My fans expect the best from me, so I can't do just any-

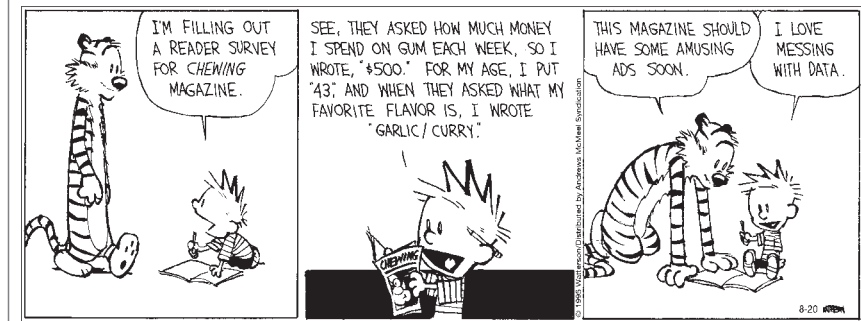
thing," she said. Indeed, her belief that "God was preparing her for something big and awesome" now feels prophetic as she steps into Bollywood with confidence and grace.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBES



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

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Across

- 1 Devilfish
- 5 Gofers
- 8 Enact a law
- 9 Knight's title
- 10 Postpone
- 12 Physiatic care
- 14 Looked like
- 16 Prophets
- 18 Kind of wave
- 20 Ornamental carp

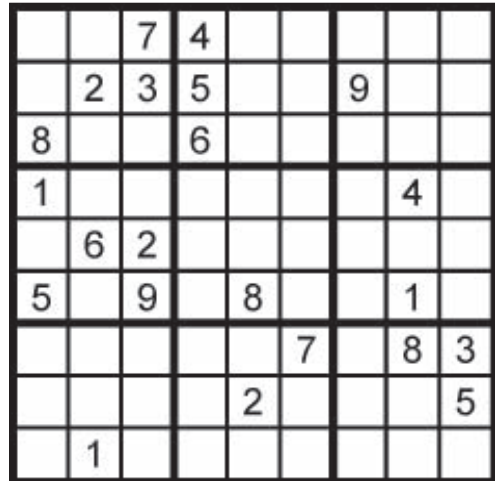
Down

- 1 Young hooter
- 2 Children's game
- 3 Soft colours
- 4 Hot springs
- 5 Sharp narrow ridge

- 6 Threw out
- 7 Digressed
- 11 Attila the Hun
- 12 Weighty books
- 13 Scandalised
- 15 Exactly as written
- 17 Zoo denizens
- 19 Rodeo rope
- 22 Tolkien beast
- 23 Sixth sense

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Mangrove resembling sandalwood seized; nine smugglers held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Oct 24: Forest department personnel in Kendrapara district Friday seized around 15 quintals of mangrove roots that bore resemblance to sandalwood in Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) and arrested nine people, including five women, for trespassing into the protected forest and felling trees, officials said.

Ten quintals of Salacia prioides roots and stems, locally called 'Batarā', an important mangrove species, packed in 20 sacks and five quintals of Ceriops decandra roots, locally called 'Garani', packed in 10 sacks, were seized from Kalibhanjadia forest block of the national park. The tools used for cutting down the standing mangrove trees were seized from their possession, they said.

The arrested persons, all from villages within the park area, were later remanded to judicial custody under relevant sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, said Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division Assistant Conservator Forest (ACF) Manas Das.

The roots of mangrove trees, which have medicinal values, are of yellow colour, and the accused persons used to apply scented artificial colour, to give this look of sandalwood. The refurbished roots are later smuggled to various destinations, where the roots bearing resemblance to sandalwood fetch hefty sums for the smugglers, said the official.

Bhitarkanika, which is one of the richest storehouses of man-



grove genes, is home to 55 species along the wetland sites of the national park. Researchers have also come across 11 mangrove species, which are at an elevated threat of extinction in the world.

Mangroves are regarded as natural barriers against the tidal surge and cyclones. Because of its rich mangrove cover, cyclonic storms from time to time have failed to make inroads into the wetland sites, officials said.

The coastal state is endowed with rich reserve of a mangrove forest area of 231 square kilometres, with a major chunk lying in Bhitarkanika. It stands second only to the Sundarbans in West Bengal in terms of density.

Besides Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara, the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur and Puri are also home to mangrove, otherwise known as coastal woodland.

While 82 square km area in Bhitarkanika has dense mangrove cover, 95 square km area has moderate mangrove forest. 54 square km patches are sparsely covered under mangrove forest.

Odisha Urban Conclave concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: The two-day Odisha Urban Conclave – 2025, organised by Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department concluded here Friday with a vision for the state's urban future, placing Bhubaneswar and Rourkela firmly on the path to become top 100 global cities. The conclave brought together officials, urban planners, and stakeholders to chart a roadmap for vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable cities.

Delivering the valedictory address, H&UD Principal Secretary Usha Padhee said, "Odisha aims to harness private investment, smart city experiences, and technological innovation to realise its long-term goals of 'Viksit Odisha 2036' and 'Viksit Bharat 2047'." She urged urban officers to work in a spirit of co-operation to ensure that projects reach citizens efficiently and cities grow in a people-centric way.

Highlighting key initiatives, Municipal Administration Director Arindam Dakua spoke about flagship programmes such as Mukhyamantri Saharika Basera Yojana (MSBY), AMRUT, Pothole-Free Urban Odisha, Pedestrian Path Development, and measures to strengthen Urban Local Bodies' revenue—all aimed at improving infrastructure, mobility, and financial sustainability.

The conclave also featured discussions on housing, water supply, sanitation, and infrastructure, with best practices from PMAY-U, SUJAL Mission, SBM(U), and GARIMA showcased. Outstanding urban local bodies and officers were felicitated for innovative initiatives that make cities cleaner, greener, and more inclusive.

Concluding the event, officials reiterated their commitment to turning Odisha's urban vision into reality.



FOR A CAUSE: Dignitaries address a gathering during 'Varta', a regional media workshop on Tobacco Free Youth Campaign, organised by Bhubaneswar Press Information Bureau at Cuttack Club in Silver City, Friday

RABI CAMPAIGN 2025-26

State targets 23.26 LMT foodgrain production

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: The state has set ambitious target of 23.26 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of foodgrain production by 2026, said Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo during the inauguration of state-level conference on Rabi Campaign 2025-26 here at Krushi Bhavan Auditorium Friday.

Delivering the keynote address, Singh Deo, who also holds the portfolio of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, emphasised proactive co-ordination among departments to ensure timely input supply, inter-departmental convergence, and continuous field-level monitoring. He highlighted that unused agricultural farms could be utilised for storage, calling for strong leadership and focused implementation to make Odisha's Rabi season productive, prosperous, and climate-resilient.

The campaign, approved by



Chief Secretary, aims to cover around 29.30 lakh hectares (LHA) production under various crops, including 15.13 LHA under pulses, 3.70 LHA under oilseeds, 4.97 LHA under vegetables, 1.15 LHA under condiments and 0.21 LHA under sugarcane. The state has also set ambitious production targets of 8.20 LMT of pulses and 4.21 LMT of oilseeds.

Joining the event, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg noted that Odisha has now achieved surplus water levels in state reservoirs, setting a goal to provide irrigation

to 90 per cent of cultivable land.

A&FE Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee said that the programme has been designed with a strategic focus on expanding the area and productivity of pulses and oilseeds, with the long-term goal of achieving 'Atmanirbharata' in these crops.

He stressed the importance of focused, coordinated efforts for successful implementation of flagship schemes such as PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), National Pulse Mission, NMEO-Oilseed, NFSM, National Horticulture Mission, Jackfruit Mission,

NMSA, RKVY, PMKSY and PMFBY. State initiatives like Shree Anna Abhiyan, Rice Fallow Management, Balabhadra Jaivik Chasa Mission, and Farm Mechanisation must be vigorously implemented to ensure inclusive agricultural growth, he added.

The horticulture sector continues to show promising growth, with farmers adopting modern technologies and high-value crops for enhanced income. Programmes like MIDH, PMKSY, NMEO-Oil Palm, and state schemes on potato, vegetables, spices, and fruit-specific missions will be closely monitored for effective results.

Additionally, soil conservation and watershed development programmes, including Coffee Mission, MGNREGS, Rainfed Area Development, and OMBADC, will continue to strengthen sustainable agriculture and climate resilience in rainfed areas.

TRAIN SERVICE EXTENDED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: Indian Railways has announced extension of the Hyderabad-Bhubaneswar New weekly special

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Astaranga, dated 18.10.2025 I, **Suryanarayan Khatua**, Address : Village - Nagamatha, Post - Junei, P.S - Konark, Dist - Puri, Pin Code -752111, Odisha, declare that I have changed the name of my son from **BISHNUN PRASAD KHATUA** to **BISHNU PRASAD KHATUA**. Henceforth, he shall be known as **BISHNU PRASAD KHATUA** for all purposes. Suryanarayan Khatua

LOST

I, Jyotsnarani Dhanee declare that the original sale deed no. - 5902, Dt - 01/06/2006. The ROR Khata No. - 270/1869, Plot No. - 602/2706, Area 0.044 decs has been lost any where, I lodged a FIR in Tamando Police Station, Case No. : 2065 & Date - 16.10.2025. If any one found then please contact on this number 7008645554.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: Ekamra MLA Babu Singh Friday laid the foundation stones for redevelopment of two crematoriums at Kaligadia and Garabadu in the Old Town area. The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) will carry out the project to improve facilities and ensure a more dignified space for last rites.

Kaligadia crematorium will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹2.21 crore, while the Garabadu crematorium will be redeveloped at a cost of ₹1.85 crore. The BDA's plan includes the construction

of parking areas, boundary walls, and security kiosks at both sites. Each crematorium will also have a staff room, caretaker room, separate changing rooms for men and women, waiting halls, pyre wood storage areas, and cremation platforms.

To enhance the surroundings, the BDA will also develop water bodies, internal pathways, peripheral drains, and landscaped areas to create a clean, green, and peaceful environment. The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by local corporators, BDA Secretary Manas Ranjan Padhi, and other senior officials.

City AIIMS hosts hand fracture fixation workshop



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery at AIIMS Bhubaneswar successfully organised a Hand Fracture Fixation Workshop under the aegis of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) and Association of Plastic Reconstructive Aesthetic Surgeons of Odisha (APRASO).

The workshop underscored the pivotal role of plastic surgeons in the comprehensive management of hand fractures — extending beyond skeletal

stabilisation to the restoration of function and aesthetics.

Addressing the participants, AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr Ashutosh Biswas said, "Plastic surgeons play a crucial role in the management and fixation of hand fractures, combining expertise in microsurgery, soft tissue reconstruction, and bony fixation to restore both form and function of the injured hand."

He further emphasised that their role extends to the reconstruction of soft tissue, tendons,

nerves, and blood vessels to ensure optimal recovery and functional outcomes.

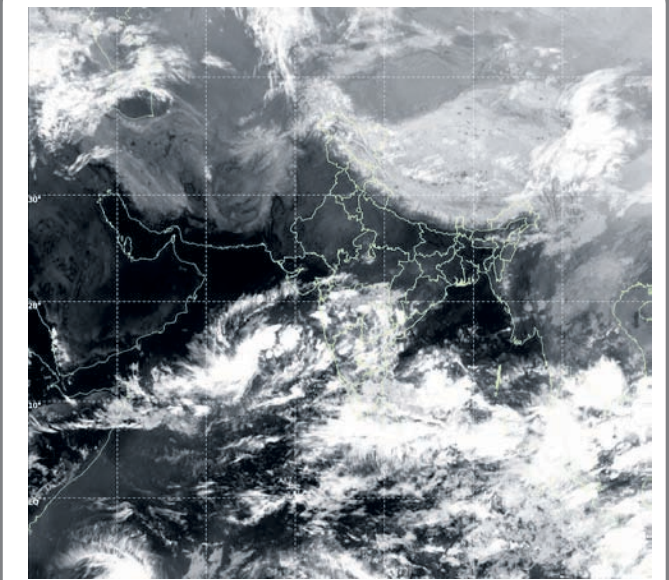
Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery head Dr Sanjay Kumar Giri elaborated on various fixation methods — including pins, plates, screws, and wires — used by plastic surgeons to achieve stable bone alignment. He highlighted that in complex cases involving bone loss or non-union, advanced techniques such as bone grafting and microsurgical repair of vascular and nerve structures are employed to re-

store circulation, sensation, and mobility.

The workshop, conducted under the mentorship of Dr Giri, brought together experts from across the country, including Apollo Hospitals senior consultant in Orthopaedics Dr Ravi Ganesh Bharadwaj and AIIMS New Delhi department of Orthopaedics professor Dr Md Tahir Ansari.

Around 35 resident trainees participated in the training sessions using bone models and implants, focusing on surgical approaches, fixation techniques, and complication management.

Experts highlighted the need for multidisciplinary collaboration among plastic surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, trauma specialists, and rehabilitation teams in both emergency and elective settings. The dual focus on functionality and form restoration, they noted, makes plastic surgeons integral to the holistic management of hand trauma and complex fracture cases.



WEATHER

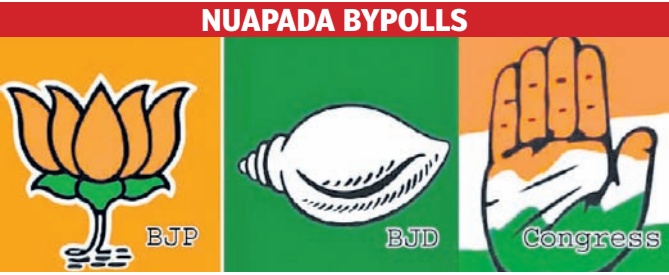
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.2°	31.8°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of Rain or Thunderstorm
Min Temp	23.4°	21.4°	
Humidity	75%	89%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	



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Parties on tribal voter wooing spree



AGENCIES

Nuapada, Oct 24: With the by-polls in the Nuapada Assembly Constituency just round the corner, all the three major political parties— BJP, BJD and Congress— are trying to woo the tribal voters in the area. Tribals constitute more than 33 per cent of the total electorate of the constituency.

The Congress has fielded Ghasiram Majhi, a local tribal man from Nuapada, while the BJD candidate Snehangini Chhuria hails from the SC community. The BJP nominee Jay Dholakia is from the general category.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, BJD candidate Rajendra Dholakia had won the seat, defeating Ghasiram Majhi, who had contested as an Independent after he was denied a ticket by the Congress. The BJP candidate had finished third.

Keeping in view the key role of tribals in Nuapada, all the parties have prepared separate strategies to woo the tribals, who constitute 33.80 per cent of the 2.53-lakh electorate.

Targeting the tribal voters, the BJD held a Tribal Convention at Adivasi Samaj Bhawan, Tanuat, Nuapada, Thursday. “A large number of tribal leaders and tribal community

members participated in the meeting and openly expressed their support for the BJD candidate,” BJD senior leader and vice president Debi Prasad Mishra said.

He claimed that it was Naveen Patnaik who always prioritised education, health, livelihood, and social justice for the tribal population.

In her address at the tribal convention, BJD candidate Snehangini Chhuria voiced serious concerns over the deteriorating condition of tribals under the present BJP government.

“The tribal community feels unsafe under the BJP regime, with increasing incidents of violence, exploitation, and atrocities, including cases of sexual assault in tribal school hostels. The BJD will continue to fight for the dignity, safety, and rights of tribal people,” Chhuria said.

The BJD has revoked the expulsion order of prominent tribal leader of Nuapada, Bhanu Pratap Singh Majhi, a Zilla Parishad member. He was expelled from the regional party in 2024 for opposing the official candidate the last time.

The ruling BJP, which has fielded late BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia’s son Jay, has also taken several measures to

CPI(M) supports Cong candidate

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha unit of the CPI(M) Friday extended its support to Congress candidate Ghasiram Majhi for the November 11 bypoll in Nuapada Assembly seat. The Left party gave a call for defeating those indulging in politics over religion and creating division among communities. The CPI(M) said the bypoll is not merely a contest between candidates; but in essence, it is a referendum on the future of the Constitution, secularism, and the democratic rights of all communities. “Therefore, the CPI(M) Odisha state committee calls upon the people of Nuapada -- all democratic and secular forces, workers, peasants, youth, women, Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, and all conscious citizens -- to unite and vote for the Congress candidate to isolate and defeat the communal and Hindutva politics of the BJP. Politically, this by-election holds great significance,” the party’s state unit secretary Suresh Chandra Panigrahy said in a statement. He accused the BJP and its allied organisations of trying to disrupt the social harmony and unity of the people to further their political agenda. The CPI(M) believes it is imperative to defeat these forces and protect communal harmony and democratic rights, he said.

woo the tribals. The party has been highlighting how the tribals are promoted by the BJP and cited the example of tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi becoming the Chief Minister of Odisha and Droupadi Murmu being the President of India.

Saffron party campaigners are telling the people that Odisha’s Sundargarh MP Jual Oram, a tribal man, is the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs. “It was former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who opened a separate Tribal Affairs ministry for the welfare of the community and present PM Narendra Modi has unveiled several welfare schemes for tribals,” said BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal.

He claimed that the tribals have now understood who their real friend is. They have rejected both Congress and BJD, Biswal claimed.

Prominent tribal leader Bhujabal Adabang, who had secured 5,655 votes as an Inde-

pendent candidate in the Nuapada constituency in the 2024 Assembly elections, joined the BJP Wednesday, giving a boost to the saffron party ahead of the bypolls.

On the other hand, Congress candidate Ghasiram Majhi, who hailed from the tribal community, claimed that he has got the blessings of tribal people in each election he contested in the past and is optimistic of the continuance of the similar love and affection from the community.

“Making a tribal the candidate in the bypoll proves that Congress was the real friend of the community. Both the BJD and the BJP have done damage to tribals and kept them backwards for decades,” Majhi said.

To woo the tribal voters, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das participated in Giri Govardhan Puja at Tarbod village, Nuapada, along with party candidate Ghasiram Majhi.

Man, woman assaulted, paraded with shoe garlands; 4 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 24: A 26-year-old man and a 22-year-old married woman have allegedly been physically assaulted, forced to wear footwear garlands and paraded on the streets of a village in Keonjhar district on the suspicion of having an extra-marital relationship, police said Friday.

Keonjhar police have arrested four people, including the woman’s husband and two women in this connection, in Sadangi village under the Anandapur police station limits of this district.

The accused have been identified as Minati Ho, 35, Lambora Ho, 35, Mani Purty, 20, and Damodara Ho, 31, all residents of Sadangi village. Police arrested them Thursday produced them in court after a video of the alleged assault and public humiliation went viral on social media.

According to sources, the incident occurred around 1pm Tuesday, when the man went to the woman’s house to have a glass of handia (a local rice



beer) after returning from harvest work.

Police said Minati suspected the two of having an illicit relationship. She allegedly locked them inside the house and informed the woman’s husband and other villagers. A crowd soon gathered, and the mob reportedly assaulted the man and woman, threw chili powder at them, and later paraded them through the village with garlands made of shoes. Some locals recorded the incident and shared the videos on social media.

The woman lodged a complaint at the Anandapur police station

the next day, following which police launched an investigation and arrested the four accused.

Recalling the incident, the male victim said he had gone to buy handia and was waiting on the verandah when the villagers attacked and harassed them. “We were terrified and could not resist,” he said.

Anandapur police station Inspector-In-Charge Phanindra Bhusan Nayak confirmed the arrests and said further investigation is underway. “During investigation, we found the suspicion of the locals to be baseless,” the officer said.

PITABAS MURDER

Accused ex-mayor to be shifted from Berhampur jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 24: Former Berhampur mayor Shibashankar Dash, alias Pintu, arrested in connection with the murder of advocate Pitabas Panda, will be shifted from Berhampur Circle Jail to Phulbani Jail for security reasons.

Jail authorities had sought permission from the SDJM Court of Judge Kumar Spanandan to transfer Dash, citing security concerns. The court has granted permission, public prosecutor Rajendra Sabat said. Dash will be moved to Phulbani Jail October 27.

However, his wife has petitioned the court to shift him to a jail closer to Berhampur instead. The plea will be heard Saturday.

Police have arrested total 13 people in the case, including former MLA Bikram Panda, BJD leader Madan Mohan Dalai, and corporator Malay Bisoyi. All are lodged in Berhampur Circle Jail, which also houses accused in the Shanti Mishra murder case.

Authorities fear Dash’s presence there could spark tension, as he reportedly had enmity with some of Mishra’s murder accused. Meanwhile, 53 lawyers have filed vakalatnamas to represent the co-accused in court.

Ulaka, Kadam allege corruption by NBCC



228 roads under scrutiny as MP, MLA demand accountability

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Oct 24: Lok Sabha MP Saptagiri Ulaka Friday alleged massive corruption in the construction of 228 roads executed by National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) Limited in Koraput and Rayagada districts. He raised serious concerns over poor construction quality and misuse of government funds, asserting that the condition of most roads has deteriorated shortly after completion.

MP Ulaka expressed strong dissatisfaction with NBCC’s performance, saying, “Public money is not meant to fill the pockets of contractors and companies. If the damaged roads are not repaired immediately, strict action will be taken against those responsible,” he warned.

He further added that villagers in remote tribal belts still

lack proper transportation because of such negligence, resulting in hardships during medical emergencies and affecting local economic activities.

Supporting his stand, Pottangi MLA Ramachandra Kadam emphasised that substandard infrastructure directly impacts the future of tribal communities. “Roads are the backbone of development. If the foundation itself is corrupted, how will our people progress? We will not tolerate injustice to the tribals of Koraput and Rayagada. Every single road must be rebuilt with strong quality standards,” said the MLA.

Both the MP and MLA urged the administration to conduct a thorough investigation into NBCC’s road projects and ensure accountability. They also demanded immediate field inspections and transparent action reports.

The issue triggered widespread public anger in Koraput and Rayagada, with people expecting quick reforms to restore trust in government’s development works.

Gopalpur port workers’ unions threaten strike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 24: Adani Gopalpur Port workers’ unions Friday presented a 10-point demand charter to the port management and sought interference of the Ganjam district administration in the matter. They have given a seven-day ultimatum to the management to fulfill their demands, failing which they have warned to sit on dharna in front of the port’s main entrance.

As per reports, leaders of two labour unions, registered as Gopalpur Port Dock Workers’ Union and Gopalpur Port Karmachari Sangh, met the Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan to submit their demand letter and sought government’s role in resolving their issues.

Their demands included ₹10 lakh group term insurance policy, job rehabilitation to at least one family member of a deceased labourer, 70 per cent increment in wages, allotment of minimum 60 racks per worker, jobs to unemployed youths and other financial assistances. It is worth mentioning that these workers are responsible for track cleaning and wagon unloading of goods received at the port’s dockyard.

Union leaders alleged that prior to this, during the last three meetings, talks with the management failed to reach any satisfactory response. Anti-worker policies and repeated ignorance of requests of the labourers have forced them to this point, they added.

Hatadihi, Oct 24: Resentment has been mounting among residents in Keonjhar district’s Hatadihi block against illegal sand mining as villagers of Karagola under Ambo panchayat Friday staged a ‘satyagraha’ against illegal sand mining from the Baitarani riverbed.

Villagers sat on the sandy riverbed under the scorching sun Friday opposing unauthorised sand lifting from the Karagola sand ghat. Determined to stop the sand mafia, the villagers vowed not to allow sand extraction from the area.

Meanwhile, concerned citizens have intensified their “sand satyagraha” movement, which has now become a major concern for the local administration.

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NIT Rourkela’s smart hybrid microgrid to ensure green energy supply in rural areas

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Rourkela, Oct 24: Researchers from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela have developed a smart control system that can automatically manage the electricity flow from solar, wind, and battery sources.

This innovative “hybrid microgrid” can deliver a clean and continuous power supply to areas in the countryside that have no access to the main electric power grid, and even during fluctuating solar radiation, changing wind speeds, and varying electrical loads.

The research, published in the journal IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications, aims to reduce the potential use of fossil fuel reserves and provide power to remote regions that are not covered by the main electricity grid.



“This work focuses on power management among different sources, loads, and storage systems. Energy management techniques in renewables-integrated microgrids provide social benefits by ensuring reliable electricity access, especially in remote communities. They promote sustainable development, create local employment opportunities, and improve living standards,” said Arnab Ghosh and Krishna Roy, Assistant Professors, Department of Electrical Engineering, NIT Rourkela.

“Additionally, they reduce dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy security, and support community resilience through cleaner, affordable, and more equitable energy solutions,” the team added.

To address the issue of fluctuations, researchers developed a dynamic Power Management Scheme (PMS) that enables all energy producers and storage units to coordinate seamlessly. This controlling technique allows the batteries to store energy safely and efficiently, enabling greater storage capacity and longer battery life, while reducing overall expenditures. By automatically switching converters according to the most readily available resources, solar in the morning, and wind, Biomass Gasifier (BMG), and Pico Hydropower (PH) during the rest of the day, the system ensures that the active power flow is balanced across different loads.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

CORPORATE OFFICE : “CHOLA CREST”, C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India

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Loan Amount : Rs. 20,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Lakh only)

Date of Demand Notice : 08.10.2025

NPA Date : 03.10.2025

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 20,85,399.00 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Nine only) as on 08/10/2025

Date : 25.10.2025

Place : Cuttack (Odisha)

Authorised Officer

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Electric three-wheeler op begins under zonal system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 24: The zonal regulation system for electric three-wheeler — rickshaws, autos and carts — came into effect in Jammu district Thursday, even as operators and commuters expressed strong resentment over the move, calling it “impractical” and “anti-people.”

Traffic Police Jammu issued a public notice informing citizens and vehicle operators that the operation and regulation of e-rickshaws, autos and carts shall be in accordance with the colour-coded zonal scheme.

“Each vehicle is required to operate only within its allotted zone and display colour-coded identification plates and painted strips on the front and rear,” it said.

“Inter-zonal movement shall not be permitted under any circumstances. Vehicles found plying without proper colour coding shall be seized and penalised accordingly,” said Farooq Qaiser, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Jammu.



He said the operation of such vehicles on flyovers, national highways and state highways within the district is prohibited in the interest of public safety and to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Under the new system, seven crossings on highways have been designated for safe and controlled movement between operational areas.

The SSP added that electric three-wheeler registered outside Jammu district are not permitted to operate within city limits, and strict enforcement action will be taken against violators under relevant laws.

However, the decision drew sharp criticism from three-wheeler operators and passengers, who called it “unjustified and inconvenient.”

“This decision is neither good for us nor for passengers. For example, from Jewel Chowk to the Railway Station — a stretch of just three km — a passenger will have to change autos mid-way. It makes no sense,” said Sohan Lal, an e-rickshaw driver from north Jammu.



A man walks past a mural of ‘Kathakali’ artistes during rainfall, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Friday

Actor Mohanlal faces setback in ivory case

Kerala HC declares ownership certificates issued to ivories held by actor Mohanlal void

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Kochi, Oct 24: The Kerala High Court Friday held that the Forest Department’s ownership certificates for ivory items in the possession of actor Mohanlal were void and legally unenforceable.

A Division Bench comprising Justices A K Jayasankaran Nambiar and Jobin Sebastian, however, clarified that the state government may issue a fresh notification under Section 40(4) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, if it wishes to allow the actor to retain the ivory articles.

The ruling came on a petition filed by Paulose KA of Eloor, Kochi, challenging the state government’s notifications issued under Section 40(4) of the Act that had allowed Mohanlal to declare two pairs of ivory tusks and 13 ivory artefacts before the Chief Wildlife Warden and subsequently obtain ownership certificates under Section 42 of the Act.

The petitioner argued that the Forest Department had issued the certificates even though criminal proceedings related to the ivories were already pending before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Perumbavoor.

After hearing both sides, the court noted that while the government had issued notifications requiring Mohanlal to declare the ivory items and the actor had complied, the core question was whether those notifications met the statutory

requirements.

The Bench pointed out that the state had admitted that the notifications were not published in the official gazette, a mandatory step under the Act.

The government’s contention that adequate publicity through other means was sufficient was rejected by the court.

“We are afraid we cannot accept the said contention of the State Government,” the Bench observed.

“The provisions of Section 40(4) are special provisions that empower a State Government to confer immunity on persons otherwise in unlawful possession of animal articles or trophies. Such power must be exercised strictly in the manner prescribed under the Act.”

The court held that failure to publish the notification in the official gazette rendered the orders invalid, ruling that “when a statutory power is not exercised in the manner prescribed under the Act, then that power cannot be seen as having been exercised at all.”

It further stated that publication through electronic media could not substitute the statutory requirement of gazette publication.

International artist decries ‘violence against expression’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 24: Algerian-French artist Hanan Benammar, based in Oslo, Thursday expressed concern over the vandalisation of her artwork by Kerala artist PH Hochiman here, describing it as an attack on artistic freedom and free expression.

Six printed linocut works titled “Go Eat Your Dad”, which were part of the ongoing exhibition “Estranged Geographies” at Durbar Hall Art Gallery, were torn down by Hochiman Wednesday. He live-streamed the act on Facebook, claiming the works were obscene.

Speaking to reporters, Benammar said she felt relieved that no one was physically harmed during the incident but stressed that violence in art spaces was unacceptable.

“I am relieved that only the artwork was attacked. I condemn any act of violence in an art space. It is very important to preserve spaces for free expression, especially in these complicated and difficult times,” she said. Benammar said her work itself was a response to “acts of silencing, moral policing and censorship” she had experienced as an artist.

“It was a way to release anger and reflect humorously on language, class, and gender in colloquial speech. So it is iron-



ic to see the work attacked for the very issues it explores,” she said. The artist said she appreciated the support she received from curators, fellow artists, and the Ministry of Culture.

Benammar said she was aware that another artist had vandalised her work. “Artists should think twice before attacking another artist’s work. The piece carried strong language, and we had already warned viewers who did not wish to engage with it,” she said. She said that she totally understands and respects differing opinions. “I was never contacted for discussion or criticism before this act,” she added.

Cheeroth said Benammar wanted the torn pieces of her artwork to remain on the gallery floor as a symbol of resistance. Later, Cheeroth lodged a complaint at the Ernakulam Central Police Station, and a

case was registered against Hochimin and his associate Sudhamshu.

The case was registered under Sections 329(3) (criminal trespass) and 324(4) (committing mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

According to the FIR, the accused trespassed into the Darbar Hall and destroyed the artworks, claiming they were obscene. The total loss is estimated to be around Rs 10 lakh, the FIR said. Meanwhile, Hochiman told a television channel that he had no regrets over his action.

“It was not art but abusive language. We have fought for freedom of expression, but this work was anti-Dalit and anti-women, which I cannot accept as an artist,” he said, adding that he was ready to face the consequences if legal action was taken.

BioNEST Incubator to be launched at Biotech Park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 24: The Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) is setting up a BioNEST Incubator at the Industrial Biotech Park in Kathua district Monday to provide incubation and skill support to innovators, agri-entrepreneurs, startups, progressive farmers, and scholars.

“Union Minister Jitendra Singh will be the chief guest at the BioInnovation Connect and will formally launch the BioNEST Incubator at the Industrial Biotechnology Park, Kathua, October 27,” CSIR-IIIM Director Zabeer Ahmed told reporters Friday.

The incubator is funded by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), he added.

Several dignitaries, stakeholders, academicians, scientists, policymakers, students, startups, early-stage entrepreneurs, industry representatives, and members of civil society have been invited to participate in the event, he added.

Giving details about the event and the main objectives of the BioNEST Incubation Centre, Ahmed said the centre at Biotech Park will serve as a

platform to provide incubation and skill support to innovators, youth, agri-entrepreneurs, startups, progressive farmers, and scholars not only from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, but also from neighbouring states like Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

“The incubator will focus on thematic areas, including agri-aroma products, phytopharmaceuticals, natural products, and similar bio-based innovations, along with job-oriented skill development courses,” he said.

The event is being organised by CSIR-IIIM and IIIM-TBI, in association with the Science, Technology & Innovation Council, J&K. It will feature a startup meet, skill development initiatives, and expert talks on the BioE3 Policy and entrepreneurship development in J&K.

The Industrial Biotech Park (IBTP) at Ghatti, Kathua, is North India’s first biotech park and a flagship programme of the Union Ministry of Science & Technology, which was closely mentored by Singh, who is also the Vice President of CSIR-IIIM.

“It is aimed at nurturing bio-innovation and entrepreneurship development in the region,” Ahmed said.

The incubator is funded by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

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

DISTRICT HEALTH MISSION

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

Adv. No. 25/2025 Date: 23.10.2025

Ref.: RFP No. Nirmal/Mechanised Laundry/Bhadrak/24/2025 Dated: 13.10.2025

CORRIGENDUM

No. E-463: It is for information of all concerned that the last date for submission of RFP regarding outsourcing of Mechanised Laundry Services for Bhadrak District under NIRMAL is hereby extended upto 27.11.25 (05.00 P.M.). Bidders who have already applied need not apply further. All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. The technical bid will be opened on 29.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. at O/o. the CDM & PHO, Bhadrak.

OIPR-10123/11/0029/2526 Sd./- CDM & PHO, Bhadrak

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B)

NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR

E-mail seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com

Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 16/2025-26

No.3803/Date 16.10.2025

No.B-The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from dt.29.10 at 05.00 P.M. to dt.13.11.2025 upto 05.00 P.M. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened dt.14.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer

OIPR-34006/11/0055/2526 Electrical Circle (R&B), Odisha, BBSR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, GANJAM-II, BERNAMPUR

E-mail: m12_exe.engr@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No.: 0680-2290475

No. A-754

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. GMID-II/07/2025-26

Ltr. No. 4575 Date: 22.10.2025

Name of Work : Civil Construction Works

No. of Works : 21 (Twenty One) Nos.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 4.58 lakh to 30.89 lakh

Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 6000.00 (for estimated cost above 10.00 lakh)

Rs. 4000.00 (for estimated cost below 10.00 lakh)

Rs. 2000.00 (for estimated cost below 5.00 lakh)

Period of Completion : 02 (Two) to 03 (Three) Calendar Months

Class of Contractor : 'D', 'C' & 'B'

Availability of bid documents : From 27.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 06.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Period of Receipt of bid through Online : From 27.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 06.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. through Online.

Mode of Payment : Online

Date of Opening of Bid documents : Dtd. 07.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M.

Date of Lottery (if required) : Shall be intimated through website and E-mail specified for the purpose in e-tendering process

Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder : The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III be seen in the DOWR website: <http://dowr.orissa.gov.in>

The detail tender call notice can also be seen from the E-Procurement market place

Name & Address of the OIT : Superintendent Engineer, M.I. Division, Ganjam-II, Infront of Depaul School, Engineering School Road, Bernampur, Dist.: Ganjam, PIN - 760010

Further details can be seen from the E-Procurement market place

OIPR-32043/11/0036/2526 Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I. Division, Ganjam-II, Bernampur

Hobbled by US tariffs, carpet weavers struggle to stay afloat

Indian carpet and handicraft exports fell more than 16% in September from a year earlier, according to data from the trade ministry, forcing small manufacturers to cut jobs and shelve expansion plans

REUTERS

Srinagar, Oct 24: Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, a former carpet weaver in Jammu and Kashmir region, now sells tea on the shores of the scenic Dal Lake, abandoning his craft of 35 years after increased US tariffs left him unable to afford his children’s school fees and medicine

for his family of six.

Thousands of Indian artisans and weavers have been battered by US President Donald Trump’s move in August to double tariffs to 50% on Indian goods. Bhat, 49, hired a weaver to finish his last carpet before he laid down his tools.

“This profession is dying,” he told Reuters, days before he switched occupations.

The US buys nearly 60% of India’s handmade carpets, according to industry estimates.

The Himalayan region of Kashmir, with a handicraft industry that, according to the Jammu and Kashmir Industry Chamber, employs about 400,000 people, is known for its Persian-style tufted and knotted varieties.

Indian carpet and handicraft exports fell more than 16% in September from a year earlier, according to data from the trade ministry, forcing small



manufacturers to cut jobs and shelve expansion plans.

“Business is slowing down because of the increase in US tariffs ... many workers are losing jobs and shifting to oth-

er work, causing a loss of traditional skills,” said Mujtaba Qadri of M&K Exports, which sells shawls and rugs - mainly to the US. A trade ministry official said New Delhi is try-

ing to help affected exporters with financial incentives and by getting them to sell to new markets. But local exporters warned that this could take time.

The tariffs are affecting the peak export season from October to December and winter orders are getting stuck, leaving unsold goods in warehouses while threatening to wipe out an entire business cycle.

Third-generation carpet maker Mohammed Yaqoob Bafanda, 40, says the tariffs are just the latest blow to an already struggling industry.

His family business has shrunk from 100 handlooms during his father’s time to around 20 now, with the number of weavers also dropping from 300 to only “four or five,” he said.

“If a 50% tax continues, this industry will collapse,” Bafanda said. “I have 40 to 50 carpets in stock and no buyers.”

of the day

quote

Disaster Act has been implemented in the state and our first priority is to give relief to the affected families whose houses have been damaged



SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

Behind the scenes in my office in the assembly complex while we work out the arithmetic and strategy of the Rajya Sabha polls



OMAR ABDULLAH | J&K CM

They call it 'Mahagath-bandhan' (grand alliance). But, there is neither 'gath' nor 'bandhan' in that alliance. Their only purpose is to acquire power (in Bihar). On the other hand, the NDA is eager to serve people. This is the main difference between the two coalitions



JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Delhi sees coolest Oct night in 2 years

New Delhi: The city recorded its lowest minimum temperature in October in the last two years, dropping to a minimum of 17 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, while the air quality improved, moving into the 'poor' category after remaining in the 'very poor' category for the past four days. The night time temperature in Delhi settled at 17 degrees Celsius, 0.2 notches below normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday.

Girl drowns in waterlogged area

New Delhi: A six-year-old girl drowned after falling into a waterlogged stretch near her house in Delhi's Rohini, an official said Friday. The incident occurred in the Rama Vihar area Thursday evening. According to the police, a PCR call was received around 6 pm Thursday, reporting that a minor girl had gone missing from the locality. A team was deployed and an extensive search was initiated in and around Rama Vihar.

Minor kills mother with axe for scolding him

Kurukshetra: A 16-year-old boy has been apprehended for allegedly murdering his 45-year-old mother by striking her head with an axe, police said Friday. According to police, the woman identified as Mukesh Rani had been living separately after her divorce. The accused son had been residing with her for the past few months. The neighbours told police that Tuesday night, a heated argument broke out between the two over a family matter. In a fit of rage, the minor attacked his mother with an axe multiple times, causing severe head injuries.

Sachin Sanghvi held

Mumbai: Bollywood singer and music composer Sachin Sanghvi has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman after promising her a chance in a music album as well as marriage, police said Friday. Sanghvi, known for hit songs in 'Stree 2' and 'Bhediya', was arrested Thursday under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, an official said. He said the complainant, in her 20s, claimed she came in contact with Sanghvi in February 2024, and he had sent her a message on Instagram.

'India, US close to finalise trade deal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Berlin, Oct 24: India and the US are “very near” to finalising a bilateral trade deal, an official said Friday, even as Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal insisted that New Delhi will not do any deal in a hurry or with a “gun to our head”.

In the Berlin Global Dialogue, Goyal said India is in active dialogue for a trade pact with the EU and the US.

“...But we do not do (trade) deals in a hurry and we do not do deals with deadlines or with a gun to our head,” he said, adding that India never takes decisions in a rush or in the heat of the moment.

Goyal Thursday said that talks between India and the US for the proposed trade agreement are progressing, and expressed hope that both sides would work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future.

“We are very near as far as the deal is concerned,” the official said, adding that not much differences are there now for the resolution.

Talks are progressing on the agreement, and no new issues are acting as a hurdle in the negotiations. “We are converging on most of the issues,” the official added.

More than 300 schools receive bomb threat mails

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 24: Over 300 schools in the national capital received bomb threat emails Friday morning, prompting authorities to evacuate the premises for a thorough inspection, officials said.

According to the fire department, the first alert was received at 8.15 am regarding a bomb threat at the CRPF School in Sector 16, Dwarka. Another threat was reported at 8.20 am from Sant Darshan Public School in Nangloi.

At approximately 8.51 am, a similar call came from Shanti Gyan Niketan in the Goyla Dairy area, followed by a fourth threat at 10.33 am from Andhra School in Prasad Nagar. Other affected institutions included Blue Bells International School, DPS Dwarka, Modern School Barakhamba, St Stephen's College, along with numerous government and private schools across North, South, and West Delhi. The threatening email was sent by a group identified as 'Terrorizers 111', which has a history of sending similar threats, officials said.

The sender claimed that C4 explosives had been placed around the school buildings and demanded a response within 24 hours, stating, "You have 24 hours to react or face the blood pool." However, the bomb threat was later determined to be a hoax. Multiple teams from the Delhi Fire Service, local police, bomb disposal units, and dog squads were dispatched to each location.

Multiple teams from the Delhi Fire Service, local police, bomb disposal units, and dog squads were dispatched to each location.

Chhath songs create festive atmosphere at rly stations

The Railway Ministry said this initiative aims to connect passengers with the auspicious spirit of the Chhath festival and make their journey more pleasant and comfortable

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 24: The Indian Railways has begun broadcasting Chhath songs at railway stations from Friday, marking the auspicious occasion of Chhath Puja.



One of the key pillars for achieving the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 is reaching 70 per cent women workforce participation. Women from different socio-economic segments have been driving India's progress

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT



Piyush Goyal Thursday said that talks between India and the US for the proposed trade agreement are progressing, and expressed hope that both sides would work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future

These deliberations are important, as relations between the two countries have been under severe strain since the Trump administration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods. It includes a 25 per cent additional import duty for buying Russian crude oil.

India has described these duties as “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable”. Goyal said India is looking at newer markets to deal with the high tariffs.

Asked if India is getting a fair trade deal that is long term with conditions attached, Goyal said, “I do not think India has ever decided (that) who its friends will be based on any other considerations other than national interest...and somebody tells me (that) you can't be friends with the EU, I won't accept that or somebody tell me tomorrow, I can't work with Kenya, it's not acceptable”.

The decision to buy a particular product from a country is something that the entire world will have to take a call on, he added.

“I was reading in today's paper, Germany is asking for an

EU TRADE DELEGATION TO VISIT INDIA NEXT WEEK FOR FTA TALKS

A seven-member high-powered trade delegation of the European Union (EU) will visit India next week to push for finalising the long-awaited bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) between the two sides



J&K: NC wins 3 RS seats, BJP one



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 24: The results of Jammu and Kashmir's first Rajya Sabha polls after becoming a Union Territory followed expected lines, with the ruling National Conference securing three seats Friday and the BJP clinching the final one, largely due to a possible strategic cross-voting by a few Independents and the People's Conference's abstention.

Polling for the four Rajya Sabha seats was held Friday, and the entire process was divided into three notifications. Chowdry Mohammed Ramzan of the NC had a direct contest with Ali Mohammed Mir of the BJP in one of the seats. The NC candidate secured 58 votes, while the BJP managed only the party strength of 28.

In the second seat, NC's Sajjad Kitchloo had a direct fight against the BJP's Rakesh Mahajan. Kitchloo secured 57 votes, and the BJP managed 28. One vote of the NC was rejected. For the third notification, the NC had fielded two candidates – G S Oberoi, also known as Shammii Oberoi, and Imran Nabi Dar. The BJP, on the other hand, fielded its Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Sat Sharma.

Oberoi got 31 votes, while Dar could only manage 21. The BJP candidate secured 32 votes, indicating that the party got four more votes, probably from the independent MLAs. Three votes were rejected.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the three NC candidates who got elected to the Rajya Sabha and made it clear that all party votes remained intact across the four elections, and the poll agent saw each polling slip. "There was no cross-vot-

SNIPPETS

UP shocker: Madrassa demands virginity test from 13-yr-old girl

Moradabad: Police lodged an FIR against a school-cum-madrassa here based on a man's complaint that her 13-year-old daughter was asked to submit a “virginity test” report for admission into the institute. According to police, the class 8 student had not been attending the institute for a prolonged period without notifying the school administration. When the father, who hails from Chandigarh but currently resides in Moradabad, later approached the boarding school for her re-enrolment, authorities allegedly refused admission and demanded a “virginity test” report.

Nitish will not be made Bihar CM if NDA voted to power: Tejashwi

Patna: Asserting that Bihar is still a “poor” state despite the 20 years of rule by the JD(U)-led NDA in the state, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav Friday claimed that CM Nitish Kumar will not be made the chief minister if the ruling alliance is again voted to power. Yadav also alleged that Kumar has been hijacked by the BJP, and two people from Gujarat - ostensibly referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah - are “controlling” Bihar. The chief ministerial candidate of the INDIA bloc accused the Centre of shielding corrupt leaders and criminals in the state.

Man stabs ex-lover to death after breakup, then kills self

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 24: A 24-year-old man chased and fatally stabbed his former girlfriend in public and committed suicide by slitting his throat in central Mumbai Friday, police said.

The accused, Sonu Barai, attacked Manisha Yadav (24) on a road in the Kalachowkie area around 11 am, nearly two weeks after the two broke up, an official said. He said that Yadav sustained serious injuries in the attack and was rushed to Dr Ambedkar Hospital in Byculla, where she died during treatment. According to the police, Barai suspected that Yadav was seeing someone else, which had led to a fight between the duo, and they eventually ended their

relationship.

The accused Friday morning called his former girlfriend for a meeting and carried a kitchen knife with him.

When Yadav arrived, Barai stabbed her two to three times and chased after her as she ran to save her life and entered a nursing home.

The attack continued inside the medical facility, as he held on to Yadav and slashed her again, the official said.

He said that although people in the vicinity tried to intervene, they could not do much as Barai was angry and armed. Just then, someone threw a stone at Barai and hit him with the wooden stick, which made him realise that he won't be able to escape.

Don't misuse AI-based tools: EC to parties

New Delhi: Ahead of assembly polls in Bihar, the Election Commission Friday issued an advisory to political parties against the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools in political campaigns, saying it is a deep threat and challenge because of its ability to masquerade as the truth. After issuing guidelines in 2024 and January this year, the poll authority came out with an advisory largely reiterating its earlier instructions. Depicting political leaders making electorally sensitive messages using AI is contaminating the level-playing field in the electoral arena, the advisory said. Publishing and transmitting synthetically generated information is a deep threat and challenge because of its ability to masquerade as the truth, it said in a communication addressed to party presidents, chairpersons and general secretaries.

Medical breakthrough at Patanjali Yogpeeth

AGENCIES

Haridwar, Sept 24: Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna inaugurated the Patanjali Emergency and Critical Care Hospital in Haridwar, marking a new phase in medical science. Ramdev called the event the start of a “new chapter,” emphasising that the hospital represents a democratic healthcare system designed to serve patients, not profit. He announced plans for an even larger hospital in Delhi-NCR, which will surpass top institutions like AIIMS and Apollo. This hospital is envisioned as a cooperative rather than a corporate facility, integrating modern medicine with traditional practices. Ramdev highlighted that while modern medical science will be used selectively, partic-



ularly for emergencies, Ayurvedic vaidyas, naturopathy experts, and modern doctors will collaborate in treating patients. The hospital will offer state-of-the-art diagnostic services and perform complex surgeries, including brain, heart, and spine operations.

The hospital will focus on essential surgeries to avoid high costs, providing critical care and affordable treatment to hundreds of patients daily. Ramdev thanked Balkrishna for his significant role in realizing this vision. Balkrishna,

sonnel and monitoring of CCTV cameras,” the ministry said.

“This initiative is not only providing convenience to the passengers but also allowing them to experience the sanctity and cultural flavour of Chhath Puja at the railway stations,” it added.

Officials said that the Railways is also gearing up for the safe and comfortable return journey of passengers after the Chhath Puja festivities.

“For the period of 28th October till November, 6,181 special trains have been notified to facilitate passengers returning to their workplaces after the festival season,” a

railway press note said.

It added, “Additional coaches are also being attached to existing services to accommodate the increased demand. Weather-proof holding areas are being created at major stations to manage large passenger inflows and provide convenient waiting facilities before train departures.”

Some of the stations where holding areas are being established include Patna, Danapur, Rajendra Nagar Terminal, Saharsa, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Samastipur and Barauni in Bihar and Gorakhpur, Ballia and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

of the day

quote

Has anyone heard them talk about electricity, schools, hospitals, or roads? We brought Punjab back on track after 75 years of chaos. The journey was hard, but with honesty and intent, everything became possible



BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

The Opposition is keeping this issue (demanding justice for Zubeen Garg) alive against Hindu society. Akhil Gogoi and the opposition say Zubeen did not have caste or religion. Was Zubeen not a Hindu? Was Zubeen not an Assamese?



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The opposition had objected to the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar... because they want to form a government on the basis of votes of infiltrators. The NDA-led government will never allow that to happen... They (the opposition) stand totally exposed now, as they have no evidence to back their claims



J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

POST OF THE DAY



Some Key Focus Area For Govt's Attention

- Potholes
- Cleanliness
- Food Safety
- Encroachments

- Clean Public Toilets
- Adequate Lighting on Highways
- This Can Significantly Make Living Better

@Ravisutanjani

SHORT TAKES

Veteran scribe Baikuntha Goswami dies at 79

Guwahati: Veteran journalist Baikuntha Nath Goswami died Friday due to old-age-related ailments at his home in Guwahati, his family said. He was 79, and survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. "Though he had some health-related issues earlier, he was fine in recent times. He died in his sleep," his daughter, Sushmita, said. In a post on X, Chief Minister's Office said CM Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed deep sorrow over the passing of the veteran journalist and eminent writer.

Youth's body found inside hotel room

Kolkata: The decomposed body of a youth, suspected to have been murdered, was found in a room of a hotel in central Kolkata Friday, police said. The body of the youth, identified as Rahul Lal, was stacked in the locked wardrobe of a loft bed in the hotel on Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road near Park Street. As new guests checked into the hotel and were allotted the same room, they complained of a foul smell and hotel authorities, after searching the room, found the body, a senior officer said.

Delhi: One killed as rickshaw overturns

New Delhi: A 74-year-old man was killed and two others sustained minor injuries after an e-rickshaw overturned in east Delhi's Farsh Bazar area Thursday, police said. The deceased was identified as Komal Singh Chandel, a resident of Krishna Nagar, who was travelling in the e-rickshaw when it turned turtle after the driver suddenly swerved to avoid colliding with a scooter, police added.

Congress MP compares Bhagat Singh with Hamas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 24: Congress MP Imran Masood Friday stoked a controversy by comparing Bhagat Singh with Hamas, as the BJP accused him of “insulting” the people of Bihar, with whom Bhagat Singh had a “deep connection”. However, after the BJP’s attack, Masood later backtracked, claiming he never drew any comparison and said that Bhagat Singh was ‘Shaheed-E-Azam’ and cannot be compared to anyone. BJP leader and its IT department head Amit Malviya accused Masood of drawing the comparison between Bhagat Singh and Hamas as part of a well-planned strategy during the Bihar Assembly elections, which will be held in two phases November 6 and 11. In an interview shared by Malviya on his X handle, Masood compared Bhagat Singh with Hamas, saying both were the same as they were fighting for their land. “Comparing Bhagat Singh to the terrorist organisation Hamas by Congress MP Imran Masood during the Bihar



elections is part of a well-planned strategy. This is an insult to the people of Bihar. Bhagat Singh had a deep connection with Bihar,” Malviya alleged in a post on X. He claimed that in the incident of throwing a bomb in the Central Assembly, his companion Batukeshwar Dutt was from Bihar. Similarly, revolutionaries like Yogendra Shukla from Vaishali were also imprisoned with him and carried forward his ideas, he said. “Bhagat Singh’s revolutionary ideas inspired countless youths in Bihar — from student movements to leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, who carried forward the torch of rebellion. Bihar may not have been the land of Bhagat Singh’s actions, but it has certainly been the birthplace of his ideas,” Malviya said.

EAM criticises UN, Pak over terror response

Jaishankar criticised those equating victims and perpetrators of terrorism in the name of global strategy, in an apparent reference to the hyphenation of India and Pakistan in the context of the dastardly terror strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 24: India Friday cited Pakistan’s attempts to protect at the UN Security Council the terror group that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack to point out that the global body's work has been “gridlocked” in absence of urgent reforms. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also criticised those equating victims and perpetrators of terrorism in the name of global strategy, in an apparent reference to hyphenation of India and Pakistan in the context of the dastardly terror strike. Jaishankar was speaking at an event that celebrated the 80th anniversary of the United Nations (UN). In his remarks, the external affairs minister said “all is not well” with the UN as its debates have become “increasingly polarised” and its working “visibly gridlocked”. “Any meaningful reform is obstructed using the reform process itself,” he said, adding sustaining the UN even while seeking its re-invention is clearly a major challenge before the world. “Few examples are more telling about the challenges facing the UN than its response to terrorism. When a sitting Security Council member openly protects the very organisation that claims responsibility for the barbaric terror attack such



as at Pahalgam, what does it do to the credibility of multilateralism,” Jaishankar asked. Though Jaishankar didn’t directly name Pakistan, it was abundantly clear from his remarks that he was referring to that country. “Similarly, if victims and perpetrators of terrorism are equated in the name of global strategy, how much more cynical can the world get. When self-proclaimed terrorists are shielded from the sanctioning process, what does it say for the sincerity of those involved,” he said. Pakistan is currently a member of the UN Security Council. It was the chair of the top global body in the month of July. The Council is composed of 15 members including five permanent members which are China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Ten non-permanent member nations are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. The presidency of the UNSC is held by each of the members in turn for one month. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group, had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack. TRF found mention in a UNSC report in July for its role in the Pahalgam attack. Pakistan had attempted to remove references to TRF in the UNSC press statement condemning the Pahalgam attack, according to officials. Jaishankar’s remarks on shielding terrorists from the sanctioning process came against the backdrop of instances of China blocking many initiatives at the UN Security Council to designate Pakistan-based terrorists.

Delhi Diwali terror plot foiled; 2 ISIS operatives held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 24: Two suspected ISIS operatives have been arrested from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh with police seizing explosive-making material including plastic bombs, Molotov cocktail, timer devices and an ISIS flag from a house in the national capital, officials said Friday. The accused, Mohammad Adnan Khan alias Abu Muharib (19) from Delhi and Adnan Khan alias Abu Mohammad (20) a resident of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, were allegedly planning to carry out a terror strike in a high-footfall area of the city, including in a mall in south Delhi and a public park, they said. “During a search of Md Adnan’s house in Sadiq Nagar, three mobile phones containing ISIS propaganda material, images and manuals detailing remote detonation systems and instructions on making plastic bombs along with Molotov cocktails were recovered,” Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said in a statement. A pen drive, hard disks, an ISIS flag – the clothing used during his Bay’ah (pledge of allegiance), and a timer clock used in improvised explosive device (IED) was also recovered from his house, the statement added. Police said the recovery exposed the duo’s advanced stage of preparation to carry out terror strikes in crowded areas of Delhi during the ongoing festive season. The second accused, Adnan Khan was arrested in coordination with the Bhopal Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS).

LDF IN TURMOIL

CPI rebels against CPI(M) over PM SHRI Schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 24: Kerala’s ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) faces turmoil as its key ally, the CPI, launched a full-blown revolt Friday against the lead partner CPI(M) over the state General Education Department’s decision to join the PM SHRI Schools scheme, which was signed a day ago. CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam said that the party and other LDF constituents were kept “in the dark” about the decision. He characterised the move as a “breach of the front’s collective discipline.” Viswam, speaking to reporters here after a secretariat meeting of the CPI, said that there had been no discussions on the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) in the Cabinet to date, despite which the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the project was signed in “unusual haste.” “Why this unusual haste, and for what? This is the question on everyone’s mind,” he said. He further said that the CPI could not understand the logic behind keeping LDF constituents in the dark about the PM SHRI MoU and the assurances given to the state as part of it. Viswam questioned how the LDF could move forward if the Front took decisions

without any discussions or consultations, keeping constituent parties uninformed. The CPI has warned that the move could pave the way for NEP’s implementation in Kerala-something the Left has long resisted. The requirement to display boards identifying institutions as PM SHRI Schools has also caused unease among party leaders. However, Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty defended the government’s decision to sign the scheme, saying it was a strategic move to secure central funds while safeguarding the state’s educational policies. Addressing a press conference here, Sivankutty said the decision was taken to counter the Centre’s attempt to “withhold thousands of crores in funds meant for children.” The funds withheld include ₹188.58 crore for 2023–24, ₹513.54 crore for 2024–25, and ₹456.01 crore from previous years, he added. The cumulative loss amounts to ₹1,158.13 crore. By signing the PM SHRI scheme now, the state will be able to receive these pending funds along with allocations for the current programme—a total of ₹1,477.13 crore, of which ₹971.01 crore has already been approved by the Centre, the minister further said.

CPI STATE SECRETARY BINOY VISWAM, SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSIONS ON THE PM SHRI IN THE CABINET TO DATE, DESPITE WHICH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE PROJECT WAS SIGNED IN “UNUSUAL HASTE”

ANDHRA BUS FIRE

Several perish in asleep, charred beyond recognition

Several passengers were fast asleep and died without even realising what was happening when the Bangalore-bound bus caught fire around 3 AM after an accident involving a motor bike, leaving 20 dead on the spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), Oct 24: For many passengers killed in a fire in the ill-fated private bus in this district Friday, death struck without a warning. Several passengers were fast asleep and died without even realising what was happening when the Bangalore-bound

bus caught fire around 3 AM after an accident involving a motor bike, leaving 20 dead on the spot. Most victims were charred beyond recognition. The blaze completely gutted the sleeper bus, reducing it to a metal skeleton. There were some techies onboard when the accident happened and the survivors recalled the tense moments leading to their miraculous escape, even while suffering broken limbs and other minor injuries. The private bus from Hyderabad to Bangalore caught fire after colliding with a two-wheeler. Only a few, jolted awake by the flames, managed to break the windows and escape through the emergency exit. Nellore-based S Harika said she was asleep and “when I



woke up I saw fire engulfing the bus which spread within seconds.” “The rear door was broken by a passenger for escaping and we all jumped out from it and I suffered a minor injury on the forehead,” she told PTI. An IT employee, Harika is now under observation in a

hospital. She stated her condition was fine. Harika said that she works for an IT company in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and is a native of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. She was travelling from Hyderabad to Bengaluru for some

personal work. Surya, a survivor who lives in Hyderabad said that around 2:45 am the fire engulfed the bus. He said that he was heading to Bengaluru for a job interview at a top IT firm on Saturday. “My legs are fractured because I jumped from over 15 feet height. The doctor said I will be fine soon,” he told PTI. There were a couple of IT professionals with him on the bus, Surya added. “Me and Naveen (IT employee), one of the passengers that I had a conversation with, also jumped out from the bus and is now beside me in the hospital. I don’t think I will be able to give an interview in this situation. The local authorities are arranging a vehicle for our way back home along with a police official to ensure safety,” Surya said. Some passengers escaped

by breaking the nearest window and jumping out of the burning bus. “The loud noise woke me up instantly. There was a lot of smoke in the bus,” a passenger who was undergoing treatment for minor injuries said. According to Kurnool District Collector A Siri, a total of 41 people, including the driver, were in the bus. Of the 41 onboard, 21 have been traced. Those who escaped the accident are stable and out of danger, she said. Many passengers could not escape the tragedy as it occurred during the night when they were asleep, she said. She said the bus door did not open immediately as some wires got cut which increased the severity of the tragedy. Most of the passengers belonged to Hyderabad, Siri added.

CARBIDE GUNS BANNED IN INDORE

The Indore district administration Friday banned the dangerous carbide toy guns after their use during Diwali led to at least 31 persons, most of them children, suffering serious eye injuries



of the day

quote

Let's wait to see how the relationship with Canada progresses... in the case of Mexico, we are quite far along



CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM | PRESIDENT, MEXICO

This is a historic mission ... there's nothing to model this after, because this has never happened before. I think we have a lot to be proud of in the first 10 days, eleven days, twelve days of implementation, where we have faced real challenges along the way



MARCO RUBIO | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

This is a blatant breach of international law and territorial integrity of Lithuania. Once again, it confirms the importance of strengthening European air defence readiness



GITANAS NAUSĖDA | PRESIDENT, LITHUANIA

SHORT TAKES

EU hits Meta, TikTok over transparency

Brussels: The European Union Friday said Meta and TikTok had breached their transparency obligations after an investigation that could result in billions of dollars in fines. The inquiry found both companies had violated the Digital Services Act, the EU's trailblazing digital rule book that imposes a set of strict requirements designed to keep internet users safe online, including making it easier to report counterfeit or unsafe goods or flag harmful or illegal content like hate speech, as well as a ban on ads targeted at children. "We are making sure platforms are accountable for their services, as ensured by EU law, towards users and society," said Henna Virkunen, the EU's executive vice president for tech sovereignty, security and democracy, in a post on X.

Turkiye in talks with Qatar

Ankara: Türkiye is negotiating with Qatar and Oman to acquire used Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets as part of its effort to bolster its air force capabilities, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in comments released Friday. Türkiye aims to purchase dozens of Eurofighters and other advanced jets as a stopgap measure to strengthen its fleet until its domestically developed fifth-generation KAAAN fighter jet becomes operational. In July, Türkiye and the United Kingdom signed a preliminary agreement for the sale of Eurofighter Typhoons, which are produced by a consortium made up of the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain. However, reports indicate that the Turkish government is also seeking to source secondhand jets from Gulf nations to meet its immediate needs.

Indian envoy Kwatra discusses bilateral ties

Washington: Discussions on India-US ties including a proposed trade agreement and cooperation on shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, were held between Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra and a Republican senator here. Kwatra hosted Republican Senator from Tennessee Bill Hagerty and his wife Chrissy Hagerty at his residence Thursday. "Discussed various facets of our bilateral partnership, including continuing ongoing talks on a mutually beneficial trade deal," Kwatra said in a post on X. He added that they also explored ways to expand bilateral hydrocarbons trade and "working together to address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region".

Trump calls off Canada trade talks

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 24: US President Donald Trump intensified his criticism of Canada on Friday after terminating trade talks over a Canadian political advertisement that used Republican icon Ronald Reagan saying tariffs cause trade wars and economic disaster.

Trump, who imposed import tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum and autos earlier this year, called the video ad fraudulent in a Truth Social post Thursday.

"Based on their egregious behavior, ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney had removed most of Canada's retaliatory tariffs on US imports imposed by his predecessor, and the two sides have been in talks for weeks on a deal for the steel and aluminum sectors.

Trump accused Friday, Canada of trying to influence the US Supreme Court as it prepares to hear arguments next month over the legality of Trump's sweeping global tariffs.

In an early morning Truth Social post he also said former President Reagan embraced tariffs, but Reagan was a free market and free trade proponent.

REAGAN VOICEOVER CRITICISES TARIFFS

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said this week that the ad from his provincial government, more than a week old, had



- Video ad plays Reagan's criticism of tariffs in 1987 address
- Ontario Premier Doug Ford said ad caught Trump's attention
- Reagan Foundation says ad uses remarks selectively
- Trump has used threat of tariffs against many nations

caught the Republican president's attention.

Ford has frequently urged Carney to take a more aggressive approach with Trump. Carney has visited Trump in the White House twice since becoming Prime Minister in March.

The ad's voiceover consists of Reagan, a hero to many US Republicans, criticizing tariffs on foreign goods while saying they cause job losses and trade wars.

"I heard that the president heard our ad. I'm sure he wasn't too happy," Ford said

US deploys aircraft carrier to South America amid Venezuela tensions

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 24: President Donald Trump dramatically escalated a US military buildup in the Caribbean Friday by deploying the Gerald Ford aircraft carrier group to Latin America, a show of force that far exceeds any past counter-narcotics need and represents Washington's most muscular move yet in the region.

The deployment is part of Trump's military buildup in the Caribbean, which includes eight additional warships, a nuclear submarine and F-35 aircraft. It is likely to raise concern in the region about the Trump administration's intent.

The deployment marks a significant escalation amid heightened tensions with Venezuela, whose government Washington has long accused of harboring drug traffickers and undermining democratic institutions.

"The enhanced US force presence in the USSOUTHCOM AOR will bolster US capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United States homeland and our security in the Western Hemisphere," Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell posted on X.

He did not specify when the carrier would be moving to the region, but as of a few days ago, the carrier was traveling via the Strait of Gibraltar and in Europe.



US military already has warships, fighter jets and nuclear submarine in region

Deployment to region will raise questions about intent

Ford Carrier is world's largest and has jets and missiles aboard

The Ford, which was commissioned in 2017, is the United States' newest aircraft carrier and the world's largest, with more than 5,000 sailors aboard.

The US military has carried out 10 strikes against alleged drug vessels, mostly in the Caribbean, since early September, killing about 40 people. While the Pentagon has not given much information, it has said some of those killed were Venezuelan.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has repeatedly alleged that the US is hoping to drive him from power.

Washington in August doubled its reward for information leading to Maduro's arrest to \$50 million, accusing him of links to drug trafficking and criminal groups that Maduro denies.

Violence, racism, Nazi praise: The dark side of US political group chats

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 24: Three separate controversies involving leaked text messages from private online group chats have rocked US political circles this month, revealing racist, antisemitic and violent statements from figures across the ideological spectrum.

The messages - sent privately but now public - include racial slurs, praise for Nazis, and threats of political violence, raising questions about why those involved felt comfortable expressing such views despite the risk of exposure and censure.

The online posts have also deepened concern among civil society groups and political lan-

guage experts that violent rhetoric and racist hate speech are becoming normalized in America, particularly after decades of hard-fought civil rights victories that sought to dismantle such ideologies.

People have long expressed violent or racist views in private settings but experts say the leaks of the text messages are noteworthy because they surfaced the unfiltered - and to many shocking - views of political figures.

A Politico report October 14 revealed that a group of about a dozen Young Republican leaders had been sending racist and antisemitic messages to each other on Telegram between January and mid-August, referring to Black people as mon-



keys and with one declaring "I love Hitler." October 3 leaked texts published by National Review revealed that Jay Jones, the Democratic candidate to be Virginia's top law enforcement official, sent a private text in

2022 saying a state Republican should be shot dead and that he would urinate on the graves of political opponents. And this week, President Donald Trump's nominee to lead a federal watchdog agen-

- Political text scandals reveal racist and violent language in private group chats
- Group chats provide an illusion of safety and intimacy, experts say
- Many involved in the group chats have resigned or lost their jobs

cy, Paul Ingrassia, withdrew from consideration after he lost support among key Republican lawmakers following reports that he had described himself as having a "Nazi streak" in a private text message exchange. Experts in online culture and political discourse, including a professor from the City University of New York and Alex Turvy, a sociologist who writes for publi-

The free, open and stable international order that we were accustomed to is violently shaken in the face of historic change of power balance and intensifying geopolitical competitions

SANAE TAKAICHI | PRIME MINISTER, JAPAN



XI TO VISIT S KOREA FOR APEC SUMMIT

China Friday confirmed that President Xi Jinping will visit South Korea to attend the APEC Summit, during which he is expected to hold crucial talks with his US counterpart Donald Trump to ease escalating trade tensions between the two countries



Almost 4,400 abused by priests in Italy, victims' group alleges

REUTERS

Rome, Oct 24: Nearly 4,400 people have been abused by Catholic priests in Italy in cases reported since 2020, a victims' group alleged Friday, renewing pressure on bishops to confront a crisis that has long plagued the world's largest Christian faith.

The unofficial tally by Rete l'Abuso, Italy's largest church abuse victims' group, is based on victims' accounts, judicial sources and cases reported by the media, the founder of the association Francesco Zanardi said.

Rete l'Abuso did not say how far back the alleged abuse cases occurred.

The Italian Bishops Conference (CEI), which was criticised by the Vatican's child protection commission last week, had no comment on the findings, a spokesperson said.

MOST ALLEGATIONS CONCERN ABUSE BY PRIESTS

The global Catholic Church has been shaken for decades by scandals involving paedophile priests and the cover-up of their crimes, but local church leaders in Italy have been less forthcoming in confronting the issue.

New Pope Leo, who met survivors of sexual abuse by clergy for the first time this week, has told the Church's newest bishops not to hide misconduct



Victims' tally unofficial, based on survivors' accounts, judicial papers, media reports

Majority of victims were male and underage, report finds

Italian bishops criticised last week by Vatican panel

Pope Leo has told bishops not to hide misconduct allegations

allegations. His predecessor, the late Pope Francis, made addressing the issue a priority of his 12-year papacy, but with mixed results.

In an unusually critical report on the issue published October 16, the Vatican's child protection commission said only 81 of Italy's 226 dioceses responded to a questionnaire about safeguarding practices it had drafted.

Rete l'Abuso said it had documented 1,250 suspected cases of abuse - some with multiple victims - including 1,106 allegedly committed by priests, with the rest attributed to nuns, religion teachers, lay volunteers, educators and scout members.

Pakistan SC affirms women's right to Khula

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 24: In a landmark ruling, Pakistan's Supreme Court has reinforced a woman's right to dissolve marriage through 'Khula' and recognised psychological abuse as a valid ground for divorce.

Khula is an Islamic concept which recognises the right of a woman to dissolve the marriage, a contrast against 'Talaq' which grants the right to a man.

Justice Ayesha A Malik, one of the two female judges of the apex court, authored the judgment uploaded on the Supreme Court website Friday.

The judgment was in response to a petition filed by a woman who challenged the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) dismissal of her dissolution of marriage claim. It denied her request on the grounds that her husband's consent was required and that reconciliation efforts had not been exhausted.

According to the SC judgment, the two-member bench comprising Justice Malik and Justice Naeem Afghan, after hearing the case, ruled that the PHC's decision was incorrect.

The bench reinstated the Family Court's decree of dissolution, affirming the right of the wife to seek Khula independently of her husband's consent. It clarified that Khula is a voluntary right of the wife and cannot be made conditional upon the husband's consent or judicial discretion.

Last dance Down Under

India fret over bowling attack in Ro-Ko's Australian swansong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Oct 24: The emotional quotient will be at an all-time high with a lot of moistened eyes expected to witness an embattled Virat Kohli and his partner in many a fight Rohit Sharma playing what could be their last appearance on Australian soil in the third ODI, here Saturday.

While Rohit Sharma has rightfully earned some breathing space with a fighting 73 off 97 balls albeit in a lost cause, Kohli's back-to-back ducks, his first ever in international cricket, has definitely made his die-hard fans contemplate whether this is the beginning of the end.

Rohit first came here for the CB Series in 2007-08 while Kohli's first tour with the senior team was in the 2011-12 season when he made an instant impact with a Test century at Adelaide.

Whether Kohli, in particular, continues to play post Australia series is a matter of conjecture but the final ODI at the iconic SCG will be more than a mere "dead rubber".

However at SCG, the fans would want those punchy cover drives to come out of the closet and a few of those on-drives and the inside-out lofted shot over extra cover from the modern-day legend.

The match is of consequence as the Gautam Gambhir-coached Indian team looks to avoid a 0-3 whitewash, which will certainly not look great although the ODI World Cup is a good two years away.

To make matters worse, in the last five ODIs between India and Australia at the SCG, the 'Men in Blue' have won only once. Skipper Shubman Gill and Kohli are both due for a big knock and Gambhir will expect both to fire in the final game.

Clinically outwitted in the last two games, a battered Indian team will be keen to revisit



With no ODI series in Australia in the next two years, it is impossible to think that Rohit, Kohli will again be seen Down Under in India blues

its template of shoring up the batting at the cost of compromising with bowling resources, especially ignoring a genuine match-winner like Kuldeep Yadav, who could have been more than a handful at the Adelaide Oval where the Australian batters struggled to read Axar Patel and Washington Sundar.

The current Indian team has been bullish about playing multi-skilled cricketers but most of them are bordering on being bits-and-pieces players.

Someone like Nitish Kumar Reddy remains under-utilised at No 8 in the batting order and his deliveries, in early and mid-120s, hardly have had any venom to trouble international standard batters on a regular basis.

In the case of Harshit Rana, the marked drop in pace in his second and third spells speaks volumes about why he isn't yet ready for international cricket. To come back and bowl second and third spells with the same intensity only comes with

years of toil in red-ball cricket, bowling in different match situations and in different conditions. Prasidh Krishna's presence in the playing eleven is the need of the hour.

From the first two games, the only takeaway has been Axar Patel punching above his weight, his improvement as a batter and the steady overs that he has been bowling.

If Axar keeps performing like this, India wouldn't be hard-pressed to recall Ravindra Jadeja in 50-over cricket.

As far as the Australian team is concerned, they have started their two-year journey towards the next ODI World Cup in earnest.

India A teams stand tall in China

MEN'S TEAM
REMAINS UNBEATEN,
WOMEN'S TEAM
DISPLAYS FIGHTING
SPIRIT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 24: The India A men's and women's hockey teams wrapped up their respective international exposure tours in China on a positive note, showcasing promising performances and gaining valuable experience against competitive local opposition.

The India A men's team participated in a four-match series against Gansu Club from October 12 to 18 in Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province, securing convincing victories in all their fixtures.

The men's side kicked off the series in dominant fashion with a 7-0 victory, courtesy of goals from Varun Kumar and Selvam Karthi, who converted a penalty corner each, while Uttam Singh and Venkatesh Dhananjay Kenche netted field goals. However, Angad Bir Singh stole the spotlight with a hat-trick.

In the second encounter, India A edged past Gansu 2-1, with Selvam Karthi and Aditya Arjun Lalage scoring a goal each.

Continuing their fine form, the visitors secured an 8-0 victory in the third match, with Poovanna Chandura Bobby converting a penalty corner. Aditya Arjun Lalage, Maninder Singh, Selvam Karthi and Venkatesh Dhananjay Kenche all scored field goals.

Additionally, Captain Sanjay contributed to the scoreboard as he found success from a penalty corner, while Mohammed Raheel Mouseen added a brace to complete a commanding display.

The series finished with another high-scoring match, as India A beat Gansu 8-3 in the final game. Rajkumar Pal, Uttam Singh, and Venkatesh Dhananjay Kenche each scored a field



goal, while Amandeep Lakra converted a penalty corner. Aditya Arjun Lalage scored two field goals, and captain Sanjay, who has been consistent with his drag flicks throughout the tour, converted two penalty corners to secure a clean sweep for the visitors.

Aditya Arjun Lalage finished as the top scorer for the India A men's team, with a total of four goals in as many matches, closely followed by captain Sanjay, Selvam Karthi, Venkatesh Dhananjay Kenche, and Angad Bir Singh, who scored three goals each in the series.

Meanwhile, the India A women's team played a five-match series against Liaoning from October 13 to 21 at the Liaoning Sports Centre in Dalian. The young squad exhibited strong resolve throughout the

tour, finishing with four draws and one defeat.

In their opening match, India A held Liaoning to a 1-1 draw, with Albela Rani Toppo finding the back of the net. The second game saw the team suffer a 1-3 loss, despite a fighting goal from Manisha Chauhan.

The women's side bounced back with consecutive draws - 1-1 in the third match, where Manisha Chauhan was again on the scoresheet, and 2-2 in the fourth, as Baljeet Kaur and Manisha Chauhan found the back of the net once each.

In the fifth and final contest, both teams played out a thrilling 3-3 draw, with goals from Kajal Sadashiv Atpadkar, Pooja Yadav, and Deepika Soreng ensuring that the India A Women's Hockey Team finished the series on a positive note.

SHORT TAKES

Shuttlers enter quarters

Chengdu: India's Lakshya Rajesh, Diksha Sudhakar and Shaina Manimuthu stormed into the girls' quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia U-17 and U-15 Championships here Friday. The sixth seed Diksha showed her composure while outclassing Chinese Taipei's Pin Hsuan Chiang 21-19 21-15 to secure a last-eight berth in the U-17 segment. Lakshya also entered the U-17 quarterfinals with a strong 21-16 21-11 win over Korea's Lee Yun Seo. In the U-15 pre-quarterfinals, top seed Manimuthu ousted China's Li Man Lin 21-17 21-16 with commanding control from start to finish.

T20: Maxwell to return

Sydney: Charismatic Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is set to return for the T20 series against India after recovering from a fractured wrist, while young pacer Mahli Beardman is a surprise pick in the squad for the high-stakes clash beginning in Canberra October 29. The five-match T20 series, to be played after the ongoing ODIs, will see the 37-year-old Maxwell and Beardman available for selection for the last three games, while pace stalwart Josh Hazlewood and bowling allrounder Sean Abbott will be available for the first two and three games respectively. Maxwell suffered a wrist fracture while bowling in the nets ahead of Australia's three-match T20 series in New Zealand in September.

ASIAN YOUTH GAMES

Young athletes secure four podium finishes



India hold on to fifth spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Riffa (Bahrain), Oct 24: India's athletics contingent ensured a steady flow of medals, grabbing four podium finishes including two silver through Edwina Jason and Oshin, to maintain the country's fifth position at the ongoing Asian Youth Games, here Friday.

With two silver and two bronze from the track and field events, India's overall tally rose to two gold, five silver and eight bronze medals (2-5-8) at the continental event.

In the girls' 400m final, Edwina Jason clocked 55.43 seconds to clinch the silver medal, finishing 1.17 seconds behind Aisha Tariq of the UAE, who took gold. Wu Chia-Ying of Chinese Taipei claimed the bronze in 56.60 seconds.

In the girls' discus throw, Oshin added another silver for India with a best effort of 43.38m. Xinyi Wang of China dominated the event with a throw of 55.38m to win gold, while Shih Yuh-Jhen of Chinese Taipei settled for bronze with 43.00m.

Palash Mandal secured a bronze medal in the 5000m walk to open India's account in athletics on the day. He clocked 24:48.92s.

The event was dominated by China, with Haoze Zhang (21:43.82s) and Yujie Lu (22:28.64s) taking the gold and silver medals respectively.

Zubin Gohain added another bronze medal for India in the boys' high jump, clearing 2.03m on his second attempt after a smooth progression through 1.85m, 1.89m, 1.93m, 1.97m, 1.99m and 2.01m.

South Asian Athletics C'ships: India clinch five gold medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 24: Rising Indian shot putter Samardeep Singh Gill broke the meet record while winning gold as the host country and Sri Lanka shared the spoils on the opening day of the South Asian Athletics Federation Senior Championships here Friday.

India swept the men's and women's 5000m gold but the Sri Lankans ran away with yellow metals in both the men's and women's 100m dash at the Birsamunda Stadium.

Gill, the flag bearer of the Indian team during the opening ceremony earlier in the day, delivered a commanding throw of 19.59m to win the gold. The previous meet record was a lowly 17.71m set by S Kumar Singh in the 2008 edition.

Ravi Kumar, also of India, finished second with 17.95m while Sri Lanka's Mithunraj took the bronze medal.

In the women's shot put, India's Dinesh V missed out on the gold, settling for silver with a best throw of 16.14m, 5cm behind Sri Lanka's Ashmika Kes-



han, who claimed the top spot.

In the men's 5000m race, India's Prince Kumar clocked 14 minute 22.17 seconds to secure the gold. Currently serving as a constable with Uttar Pradesh Police, Prince showcased remarkable endurance to outpace Sri Lanka's Vakshan Vicknaraj, who claimed silver with 14:23.21 seconds.

The bronze medal went to Mukesh Bahadur Pal of Nepal with a time of 14:25.25 seconds.

India continued its dominance in the women's 5000m race, with Sanjana Singh clinching the gold medal, followed by compatriot Seema, who took

silver, marking a 1-2 finish for the home country in the event.

Yodasinghe Chamo of Sri Lanka became the fastest man of the meet, winning gold with a time of 10.30 seconds while India's Pranav Gurav and Harsh Raut were second and third with 10.32 seconds and 10.42 seconds respectively.

The title of fastest woman of the meet went to Mohammad Yamick of Sri Lanka with a time of 11.53 seconds. Compatriot Dewa Thanuji Amasha was second with 11.72 seconds in Sri Lankan 1-2 finish. India's Sudeshna Shivankar took the bronze, clocking 11.78 seconds.

NBA gambling-mafia poker scandal rocks basketball world

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Oct 24: Federal indictments have detailed a sophisticated poker cheating ring with alleged ties to National Basketball Association (NBA) figures and organised crime October 23, 2025.

The scam reportedly used high-tech methods, including X-ray tables and tricked-out machines, alongside traditional poker signals, defrauding players in illegal games. These con tactics, federal authorities claim, are as old as poker itself, reminiscent of heist movies and James Bond films.

MAFIA-BACKED GAMES LURED HIGH-STAKES 'FISH'

Underground poker games, operating with the backing of

mafia families, are illegal. However, indictments highlight their 'extra illegal' nature, distinguishing them from conventionally illicit games where the poker itself remains fair.

These games primarily featured Texas Hold'em, a variant which uses just five face-up public cards and two for each player, potentially simplifying the cheating. Operators lured affluent targets, often referred to as 'fish', to high-stakes games held in posh secret spots across Manhattan, including The Lexington Avenue Game.

The offer of playing with well-known athletes and coaches further attracted victims. These figures were known as 'face cards'. Among them was Chauncey Billups, the Portland Trail Blazers coach and Hall-of-



Fame NBA player. Authorities charged Billups with participating in a conspiracy to rig games tied to La Cosa Nostra organised crime families.

These games reportedly cheated unsuspecting gamblers out of at least \$7 million. For-

mer NBA assistant coach and player Damon Jones also faces charges.

Authorities declined to identify the victims, stating these wealthy individuals often lost tens, or even hundreds, of thousands of dollars. Reportedly,

- NBA's Chauncey Billups, Damon Jones charged in poker cheating scandal
- High-tech cheating methods involved X-ray tables and shuffling machines
- Games lured affluent players to cheat, with \$7 million reportedly lost
- Mafia backed illegal games featured subtle signals and advanced devices

the 'face cards' and all other non-target players were complicit in the scam.

ADVANCED DEVICES, SIGNALS ENABLED CHEATING

The cheating scheme centred on a specialised shuffling machine. This advanced device could precisely determine the card order after a shuffle and

each player's hand once dealt. The machine wirelessly transmitted this information to an off-site accomplice, who then sent details of the winning hand to a player at the table, known as 'the quarterback'.

From there, the tactics became low-tech – the quarterback used classic subtle signals, such as touching specific chips, to relay information to fellow cheaters. All involved then placed their wagers accordingly. While the shuffling machine was the primary method, conspirators reportedly explored other gadgets. Some of the technologies used have also been seen in televised poker broadcasts to identify hands. These included an X-ray table capable of identifying face-down cards in Texas Hold'em from underneath.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

U23 WORLD WRESTLING

Hansika, Sarika keep title hopes alive, four others pocket bronze

Novi Sad (Serbia), Oct 24: Extending Indian women's impressive run in the women's event at the U23 World Wrestling Championships, Hansika Lamba and Sarika Malik put themselves in line to become the country's latest world champions by reaching the finals while four other women wrestlers grabbed bronze medals, here Friday.

Hansika lost only two points in her four bouts in the 53kg weight class. She began with a 11-0 win over Victoryia Volk and followed that up with a 8-2 victory over Kazakhstan's Zinep Bayanova.

In the quarterfinal she came up with a technical superiority (10-0) victory over Uzbekistan's Dilshoda Matnazarova.

The semifinal was even better as she won by a huge 11-0 margin against Spain's Carla Jaume Soler. She will next clash with Japan's Haruna Morikawa for the 53kg title.

Sarika got the better of American Alexis Janiak (4-2), and Norway's Othelie Hoeie (5-2) to reach the 59kg semifinals.

In the high-scoring last-four stage bout against Poland's Olha Padoshuk, Sarika emerged winner with a 12-6 scoreline. She is now up against Japan's Ruka Natami. Neha Sharma blanked Hungary's Roza Szenttamasi 5-0 in the 57kg bronze play-off.

Nishu (55kg) beat Ukraine's Albina Rillia 3-1 while Pulkit (65kg) overpowered Hungary's Eniko Elekes 8-4 in her bronze play-off.

Elekes moved ahead with a quick takedown but Pulkit scored eight points in a row, using her immense power. After taking a commanding 8-2 lead Pulkit played with solid defensive strategy, as she kept the Hungarian in body locks, never allowing her to attack much.

Priya Malik had won India's second medal of the tournament on Thursday night by bagging a bronze with a commanding 8-1 win over Mexican wrestler Edna Jimenez Villalba.