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

/OLUME 15, ISSUE 203 I www.orissapost.com

Turning point

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 25, 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00



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

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.



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 Bankar, 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 postmortem 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.

Ad industry doyen **Piyush Pandey dies**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. Oct 24: Pivush 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 global creative chief, transformed Indian advertising by rooting it

in local language, humour, and emotion. His work -including Cadbury's "Kuch Mein Rang Laaye" for Asian Paints, and Fevicol ads (notably the "egg" film) -- became part of the coun-

Khaas Hai", "Har Khushi try's cultural lexicon. P11

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Cyclone brews over Bay pression over southeast

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-northwestwards and is likely to move in that direction

"It will become a de-

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



vellow 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.

is gener-"October

ally considered a cy-Kurnool, Oct 24: A Banclone-prone month. There is no need to panic. The

tion." 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

government is fully pre-

pared to handle the situa-

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.

20 CHARRED AS BUS CATCHES FIRE IN AP PRESS TRUST OF INDIA charred beyond recogni-

galore-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

Some of the bodies were

tion, 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 al so 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 More oil to come from Mideast, US

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 What will we do with a CM face or a Dy CM face when, in brother and an uncle), politics, every face is deceptive? 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 ag-

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 pro-

duce non-GM varieties. The United States is

pressing India to allow

corn imports, arguing

that ethanol made from US

for blending with gasoline and not enter Indian agri-Tit-for-tat tariffs im-

corn would be used solely

posed 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.



leisure



TO RELEASE IN THEATRES

STRANGER THINGS FINALE

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.



deed, her belief that "God was preparing

her for something

big and awesome"

now feels proph-

etic as she steps

and grace. AGENCIES

with

Bollywood

confidence

FORTUNE **FORECAST**

👼 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

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 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

GEMINI

You will be surrounded by conflicts today. However, you will come to realise within a short while the solutions required to troubleshoot 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.

What good is life if it doesn't involve great fun and merrymaking. 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.

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.

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 cussions. 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.

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 ac-

count 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, Deep-

ika was replaced by Triptii Dimri in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's next. Although the exact reason for her ex

it 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.

dy Vanga wished Prabhas on his birth-



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 Shrivas-

> the series marks a full-circle moment for Alaya - from admiring Hrithik on screen to working along-



No expectations, just relief for Rashmika

Delhi: 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.

Actress

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 Siddqui 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." IANS

Sonam on missed opportinities only made her thing," she said. In-

stronger and wiser.

several offers from

Bollywood and the

South, Sonam said

she often turned

them down for vari-

ous reasons, trust-

ing that "when God

has something for

you, it will happen."

added, was never

on chasing fame or

big-budget projects

but on growing as

an actor and do-

ing meaningful

work. "My fans

expect the

best from

I can't

do just

me,

any-

Her focus, she

received

Having

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 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,

the from decisions that I've made She shared that missed oppor

tun-

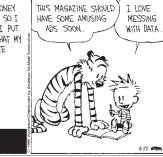
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



SEE, THEY ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY I SPEND ON GUM EACH WEEK, SO I FOR MY AGE, I PUT "43", AND WHEN THEY ASKED WHAT MY FAVORITE FLAVOR IS, I WROTE GARLIC / CURRY!



BREVITY



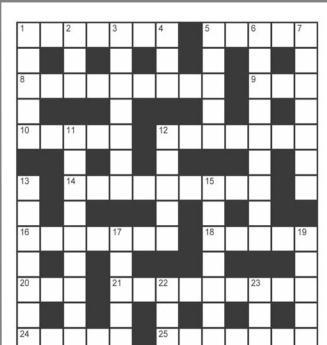






DOST

CROSSWORD



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Across 1 Devilfish

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

21 Lacking

bouquet

24 Has dinner

25 Music genre

- 2 Children's game
- 4 Hot springs

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

5 Sharp narrow

ridge

- 3 Soft colours

- 1 Young hooter
 - 17 Zoo denizens
 - 19 Rodeo rope

6 Threw out

7 Digressed

12 Weighty

books

13 Scandalised

15 Exactly as

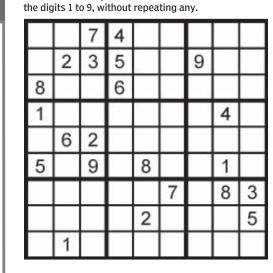
written

11 Attila the Hun

- 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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

AVANNA

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

SUDOKU

wntown

CITY SHOW

Artistes perform at 19th Guru Debaprasad Award Festival organised at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday







BIDDING ADIEU: Processions for immersion of Goddess Kali idols heading towards Devigada Ghat in Cuttack, Friday

THE BURN UNIT HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING IN A VERY LIMITED SPACE AND HAS IS ONLY ONE DRESSER, WHILE ONLY ONE NURSING OFFICER **UNIT AT NIGHT**

DUE TO SHORTAGE OF SPACE TWO NEWBORN BABIES ARE BEING KEPT IN A SINGLE TRAY FOR INVESTIGATION AND

need to have their dressings changed at least four times a day, depending on their condition and the percentage of burns. Given the limited space between the five closely placed beds, the committee suggested separating them using plywood partitions and glass fittings. It also recommended the immediate appointment of at least three additional dressers on an urgent basis.

The committee's report also highlighted similar issues of space shortage, inadequate manpower, and scarcity of equipment at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of the premier government medical college and hospital.

"Due to shortage of space and a lack of sufficient manpower and equipment, two newborn babies are being kept in a sin gle tray for investigation and observation," the report stated.

It further observed that there is no dedicated ICU facility available for newborns imme diately after birth or surgery Instead, newborn babies were found to be accommodated in rooms designated as SNCU-II Neonatal Care Unit-I, and the High-Risk Ward, while some of the medical equipment was stored outside the available space in a glass enclosure.

The report added that despite multiple requests from the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department to the authorities, no action has been taken to provide adequate space, manpower and equipment.

Complete 'Kalamandal' DGP for use of tech to combat human trafficking work by May 2026: CM



an estimated cost

The complex will

include a 2,000-seat

main auditorium and a

500-seat open-air theatre.

This auditorium will be

highly useful for organising

various government pro-

grammes and meetings in the

state capital. Keeping future

requirements in mind, the

Chief Minister advised that all

associated facilities be made

available within the 'Kalaman-

dal' complex. The meeting also

emphasised adequate parking

of ₹173 crore.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday reviewed the construction work of Kalamandal Auditorium at Lok Seva Bhavan here and directed the officials concerned to finish the ambitious art project by May 2026. He also discussed the development of sports infrastructure in Keonjhar district.

'Kalamandal', Odisha's largest auditorium, is being constructed by Odisha Industrial Development Corporation (IDCO) on a 9.85-acre plot near facilities on its premises. Keonjhar to get six major sports projects

Additionally, the meeting included discussions on the development of six proposed major sports projects in Keonjhar district. These include two stateof-the-art sports complexes in Ranki and Raikala, a football stadium with indoor and outdoor game facilities at Keon-

jhar Kali Padia, a modern swimming pool in DN High School campus,

an archery academy in Naranpur and a 100-bed specialised VARIOUS GOVERNMENT handball sports hostel in Keonihar.

PROGRAMMES AND

MEETINGS IN The meeting was attended by Odia Language, Literature, Culture, and Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Saswat Mishra, Principal Secretary to Finance department Sanjib Mishra, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Sports department Sachin Ramchandra Yadav, Culture Secretary Vijay Ketan Upadhyay, Sports

Director Edula Vijay, and other

PNN & AGENCIES Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania Friday said the police department is working to strengthen its Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units (IAHTUs) by enhancing

ficking in the state. Khurania was speaking after inaugurating a state-level conference on human trafficking here Friday morning.

manpower and using new tech-

nology to combat human traf-

Addressing a gathering of officers of police, labour and other departments working against human trafficking, the DGP said human trafficking is a matter of utmost concern and urgency not just for Odisha, but

for the entire nation. "Human trafficking is not

just a crime – it is a violation of basic human rights. It strips individuals, especially women and children, of their dignity, their freedom, and their fu

scarcity of equipment at the burn and newborn care units of the premier state-run facility. Quoting Plastic and Recon-

structive Surgery department's

Dr Biswajit Mishra, the com-

mittee, in its fact-finding report,

informed the HC that each burn

patient should ideally be kept

in an isolated cabin as there is

a significant possibility of infection among them. There is also

an acute shortfall of essential

manpower, such as nursing of

"The unit has been function

ing in a very limited space and has only nine intensive care

unit (ICU) beds. Out of the nine beds, one has been arranged in

a cabin structure, another five

in a separate room, and the remaining beds are placed in the

open space. For nine beds, there

is only one dresser. There is

an urgent need to appoint four

more dressers," the report said.

The report further noted that

at night, only one nursing officer

manages the entire unit. Despite

requests for necessary equipment, little has been done so far.

The committee also recom-

mended that burn patients

ficers and dressers.

ture," he said. Odisha, due to its socio-economic and geographic vulnerabilities, remains a source, transit, and destination for trafficking. This makes the fight against human trafficking even more critical and complex, he said.

"In Odisha, we have seen trafficking manifest in many forms: sexual exploitation. forced labour, child trafficking for domestic work and more insidiously, the trafficking of young girls under the guise of employment or marriage,' Khurania pointed out.

The IAHTUs, district child protection units and district

labour officers play a pivotal role in rescuing the victims. However, rescue is not the end, rehabilitation and prevention are also equally vital, he stated.

"Combating trafficking requires more than just law enforcement. It requires a coordinated, multi-agency approach involving the police. child protection units, labour departments, NGOs, judiciary, and the community at large, the DGP further said.

Stating that Odisha Police is fully committed to eradicating the heinous crime, he said, "To strengthen the IAHTUs, we are working on enhancing manpower, training, and resources available at the district level."

Similarly, inter-agency and inter-state cooperation is being deepened to trace and dismantle trafficking networks. The police department is also ex ploring data analytics, surveil lance, and digital platforms for tracking suspected traffickers and missing persons, he added.

"Every trafficker we allow to escape justice is another child at risk, another woman exploited another family broken. We must be relentless, compassionate and united," Khurania told the officers.

This year, Odisha Police has rescued 1,209 missing children (131 boys and 1,078 girls) during a special drive named 'Operation Anweshan'. Along with this, 6.667 missing women have also been rescued by the

state police. The DGP said that the Odisha Police will continue to expand the operation in the coming days. Retired National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) DG PM Nair spoke on various aspects related to human trafficking, its

changing trends and remedies Supreme Court Advocate Ravi Kant emphasised the reinte gration of the rescued children with their families and society and ensuring them a new lease of life with health, education, and safety.

Union Home Ministry Deputy Commandant Sanjay Kumar spoke on the issue of human trafficking and 'cyber slavery'

DURGAPUR GANGRAPE

Victim attends TI parade, testifies before magistrate

IN BALASORE

DISTRICT, WAS

ALLEGEDLY

GANGRAPED IN

WEST BENGAL'S

DURGAPUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 24: The second-year student of a private medical college, who was allegedly gangraped

in West Bengal's Durgapur, attended the Test Identification (TI) parade, where the accused were brought face-toface with her in the magistrate's court Friday, police said.

OCTOBER 10 Five of the six arrested persons were brought before the woman. "She was accompanied by her mother and she later recorded her testimony before the mag-

istrate," a police officer said. The sixth arrested person – a classmate of the woman with whom she had gone for dinner when the incident took place, was not brought for identifica-

Additional Magistrate Rajib Sarkar and the investi-THE 23-YEAR-OLD gating officer in the case WOMAN, HAILING were present during the FROM JALESWAR exercise, which continued from noon to 1.30pm.

"The entire process was videographed amid tight security," he said.

The 23-year-old woman, hailing from Jaleswar in Balasore district, was allegedly gangraped October 10, triggering uproar as members of NCW

and Odisha women's commission, civil rights activists, doctors' forum and political parties visited the area and held demonstrations. He was honoured with sev-

Poet Rajendra Kishore Panda dies

senior officials.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: Eminent poet and novelist Rajendra Kishore Panda passed away Friday. He was 81.

The demise of Panda, a former administrative officer and recipient of the prestigious Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, marks the end of an era in Odia literature, leaving behind a rich legacy of poetry that explored spirituality, humanism, and the Odia ethos.

Born in June 1944 in Natasha village of Sambalpur district, Panda was one of Odisha's most respected literary figures. Over his illustrious career, he published 16 poetry collections and two novels.

His notable works include Gaun Devata (1975), Nija Pain Nanabaya (1980), Shailakalpa (1982), Anya (1988), Bahubreehi (1991), and Drohavakva (2003).



cluding the Sahitya Akademi Award (1985) for Shailakalpa, the Gangadhar National Award (2010), and the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar (2020). In 2004, he was honoured with a D.Lit. by Sambalpur University.

People from various walks of life including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and

Leader of Opposition Naveen

"I am saddened to learn about the demise of Rajendra Kishore Panda, a recipient of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, a poet, and a former administrative officer. I pray for the eternal peace of his soul at the lotus feet of Lord Jagannath and express my condolences to his bereaved family. Om Shanti," Majhi wrote on X.

Taking to X, Patnaik wrote, "I am saddened to learn about the passing away of renowned poet and writer Rajendra Kishore Panda. His unique contributions to Odia language and literature will always keep him memorable. In this sorrowful time, I convey my condolences to the family members and pray for the departed soul's eternal

The Odisha Sahitya Akademi also condoled Panda's demise.

IIT-Bhubaneswar, ISRO ink pact for research

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar have signed an agreement to foster collaborative research and development, an official said.

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO and IIT-Bhubaneswar signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) here October 17, and the official statement was issued

Friday, he said. The partnership focuses on assessing physical and biogeochemical oceanic processes and shoreline change dynamics along the western Bay of Ben-

gal, the release said. "The pilot phase will involve mapping and analysing



nearshore dynamics from the Sundarbans delta to northern Andhra Pradesh, with potential extension to other Indian coastal regions..." it said.

The MoU was signed by SK Srivastav (Chief General Manager, Regional Centres of NRSC) representing ISRO and P Dinakar (Dean-Spon sored Research and Industrial Consultancy) representing IIT Bhubaneswar.

OrissaPOST

Mangrove resembling sandalwood seized; nine smugglers held

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 prinoides roots and stems, locally called 'Batara', 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

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-



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 cooperation to ensure that projects reach citizens efficiently and cities grow in a people-cen-

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 Bhubaneswal Press Information Bureau at Cuttack Club in Silver City, Friday

RABI CAMPAIGN 2025-26

State targets 23.26 LMT foodgrain production

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 coordination 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

Arabinda Kumar Padhee said

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, Develop ment 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

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, 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 adopt ing modern technologies and high-value crops for enhanced income. Programmes like MIDH, PMKŠY, NMEO-Oil Palm, and state schemes or potato, vegetables, spices, and fruit-specific missions will be closely monitored for effective

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

TRAIN SERVICE EXTENDED

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

CLASSIFIED

By virtue of an affidavit

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

PRASAD KHATUA

for all purposes.

be known as **BISHNU**

Suryanarayan Khatua

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.

train to accommodate rising passenger demand during the

grove genes, is home to 55 spe-

cies 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 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,

The coastal state is endowed

with rich reserve of a mangrove

forest area of 231 square kilo-

metres, with a major chunk ly-

ing in Bhitarkanika. It stands

second only to the Sundarbans

in West Bengal in terms of den-

Besides Bhitarkanika in

Kendrapara, the districts of

Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsing-

hpur and Puri are also home to

mangrove, otherwise known as

Bhitarkanika has dense man-

grove cover, 95 square km

area has moderate mangrove

forest. 54 square km patches

are sparsely covered under

While 82 square km area in

coastal woodland.

mangrove forest.

officials said.

Mangroves are regarded as natural barriers against

festive season. According to the official notification, Train No 07165 from Hyderabad to Bhubaneswar New will continue to operate with its existing schedule up to November 25, departing every Tuesday. For return journey, Train No 07166 from Bhubaneswar New to Hyderabad, will run up to November 26, departing every Wednesday.

The train will maintain its usual stoppages at key stations along the route, including Secunderabad, Guntur, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Berhampur and Khurda Road.

BDA to redevelop 2 crematoriums 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

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

BDA Vice-Chairman Chanchal Rana urged local residents to extend their cooperation for the timely completion of both projects. He also informed that the BDA is developing another modern crematorium at Dumuduma.

These redevelopment projects reflect the government's commitment to providing dignified, accessible, and well-maintained facilities for the deceased and their families. As Bhubaneswar continues to grow as a Smart City. such initiatives aim to meet the city's increasing needs while promoting respect, cleanliness, and compassion during times of grief.

ECoR enhances electrification infra

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has embarked on the expansion of its advanced electrification infrastructure with introduction of the 2 X 25 KV Overhead Electrification (OHE) system across key sections of its network. This strategic upgrade aims to improve voltage regulation, ensure smoother operations for semi-high-speed trains, facilitate the movement of heavily loaded freight trains, and maintain consistent voltage levels across the system. In line with Railway Board's vision to achieve 3,000 million tonne of freight loading capacity and to support the introduction of high-speed trains like Vande Bharat Express, the existing 1 X 25 KV OHE system is being upgraded to the more efficient 2 X 25 KV system. Under this advanced system, power is transmitted at 50 KV along the line and stepped down to 25 KV for feeding the trains. The system operates through Traction Sub-Stations (TSS) equipped with 50 KV transformers and intermediate autotransformers, which ensure balanced voltage and efficient energy distribution.

	MARKET WATCH	
CURRENCY	BOURSES	COMMODITIES
INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION
DOLLAR 87.82 	SENSEX 84211.88 † 344.52	GOLD ₹123,660 ₹ 444
EURO 101.94 \$\(\phi\) 0.10	NIFTY 25795.15 ♦ 96.25	SILVER ₹147,764 ♦ ₹748

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 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 func-

tion 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.

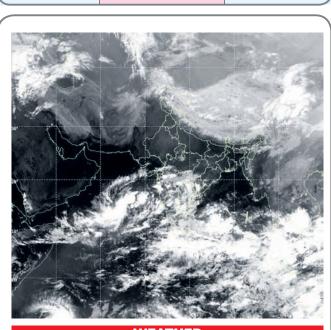
Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery head Dr Sanjay Kumar Giri elaborated on various fixation methods including pins, plates, screws, and wires — used by plastic surgeons to achieve stable bone alignment. He highlighted that in complex cases involving bone loss or non-union, advanced techniques such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

The workshop, conducted under the mentorship of Dr Giri, brought together experts from across the country, including Apollo Hospitals senior con-

sultant 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



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

SSIFIED AD BOOKING RTISEMENTS CON OUR

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

Parties on tribal voter wooing spree Man, woman assaulted, paraded



Nuapada, Oct 24: With the bypolls in the Nuapada Assembly Constituency just round the corner, all the three major political parties—BJP, BJD and 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 Samai Bhawan. Tanuat, Nuapada, Thursday. 'A large number of tribal leaders and tribal community

PITABAS MURDER

Accused ex-mayor

to be shifted from

Berhampur, Oct 24: For-

mer Berhampur mayor

Shibashankar Dash, alias

Pintu, arrested in connec-

tion with the murder of ad-

vocate Pitabas Panda, will

be shifted from Berhampur

Circle Jail to Phulbani Jail

Jail authorities had sought

permission from the SDJM

Court of Judge Kumar Span-

dan to transfer Dash, citing

security concerns. The court

has granted permission, pub-

lic prosecutor Rajendra Sa-

bat said. Dash will be moved

to Phulbani Jail October 27.

tioned the court to shift him

to a jail closer to Berham-

pur instead. The plea will

13 people in the case, includ-

ing former MLA Bikram

Panda, BJD leader Madan

Mohan Dalai, and corpora-

tor Malay Bisoyi. All are

lodged in Berhampur Circle

Jail, which also houses ac-

cused in the Shanti Mishra

Authorities fear Dash's

presence there could spark

tension, as he reportedly had

enmity with some of Mish-

ra's murder accused. Mean-

while, 53 lawyers have filed

vakalatnamas to represent

the co-accused in court.

Police have arrested total

be heard Saturday.

murder case.

However, his wife has peti-

for security reasons.

Berhampur jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

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

Mishra said.

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

228 roads under

scrutiny as MP, MLA

demand accountability

Koraput, Oct 24: Lok Sabha

MP Saptagiri Ulaka Friday

alleged massive corruption in

the construction of 228 roads

executed by National Build-

ings Construction Corpora-

tion (NBCC) Limited in Kora-

put 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

dissatisfaction with NBCC's

performance, saying, "Public

money is not meant to fill the

pockets of contractors and com-

panies. If the damaged roads

are not repaired immediate-

ly, strict action will be taken

against those responsible," he

He further added that villag-

es in remote tribal belts still

warned.

shortly after completion. MP Ulaka expressed strong

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ulaka, Kadam allege

corruption by NBCC

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

lack proper transportation

because of such negligence,

resulting in hardships during

medical emergencies and affect-

ing local economic activities.

Supporting his stand, Pottan-

gi MLA Ramachandra Kadam

emphasised that substandard

infrastructure directly impacts

the future of tribal communi-

ties, "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, Ev-

ery single road must be rebuilt

with strong quality standards,"

Both the MP and MLA urged

the administration to conduct

a thorough investigation into

NBCC's road projects and en-

sure accountability. They al-

so demanded immediate field

inspections and transparent

The issue triggered wide-

spread public anger in Kora-

put and Ravagada, with people

expecting quick reforms to

restore trust in government's

said the MLA.

action reports.

development works.

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.

Gopalpur port workers'

unions threaten strike

Chhatrapur, Oct 24: Adani

Gopalpur Port workers' unions

Friday presented a 10-point

demand charter to the port

management and sought inter-

ference of the Ganiam 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

As per reports, leaders of

two labour unions, registered

as Gopalpur Port Dock Work-

ers' Union and Gopalpur Port

Karmachari Sangh, met the

Ganjam Collector V Keerthi

Vasan to submit their demand

letter and sought government's

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 work-

er, jobs to unemployed youths

and other financial assistanc-

es. It is worth mentioning that

these workers are responsible

for track cleaning and wagon

unloading of goods received at

Union leaders alleged that

prior to this, during the last

three meetings, talks with the

management failed to reach

any satisfactory response. An-

ti-worker policies and repeat-

ed ignorance of requests of the

labourers have forced them to

this point, they added.

the port's dockyard.

Their demands included ₹10

role in resolving their issues.

main entrance.

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 pub-

social media.

of this district.

said Friday.

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

lic humiliation went viral on

Keonjhar, Oct 24: A 26-year

old man and a 22-year-old mar-

ried woman have allegedly been

physically assaulted, forced to

wear footwear garlands and

paraded on the streets of a vil-

lage in Keonjhar district on

the suspicion of having an ex-

tra-marital relationship, police

Keonjhar police have ar

rested four people, including

the woman's husband and two

women in this connection,

in Sadangi village under the

Anandapur police station limits

beer) after returning from harvest work.

with shoe garlands; 4 arrested

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 inves tigation is underway, "During investigation, we found the sus picion of the locals to be baseless," the officer said.

Villagers launch 'satyagraha' against illegal sand mining



POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Oct 24: Resentment has been mounting among residents in Keonihar district's Hatadihi block against illegal sand mining as villagers of Karagola under Ambo panchayat Friday staged a 'satvagraha' 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

Meanwhile, concerned citizens have intensified their "sand satyagraha" movement, which has now become a major concern for the local adminis-

Earlier, locals had staged a demonstration in front of the Anandapur sub-collector's office, demanding action against illegal sand mining. Following their protest, the sub-collector had assured them that a trench would be dug along the approach road to the riverbank to restrict illegal lifting of sand. The villagers had withdrawn their agitation after receiving the assurance.

However, as sand mafias reportedly resumed their operations, villagers once again took to the river to register

Local sources said the residents are determined to con-

Cobra, python rescued, released in Bhitarkanika

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 24: Forest officials in Kendrapara district Friday rescued two snakes that had straved into different hous es in villages located within the Bhitarkanika National Park.

While a five-foot-long mono cled cobra was rescued from the backvard of a house in Khama rasahi village, a nine-foot-long python was rescued at Righaga da village by forest personnel, said a forest official

After locals spotted the snakes they informed the forest officials and did not cause any harm to the reptiles. After rescue, both the monocled cobra and the python were released into the mangrove forest, the safe habitat of the snakes, he said. Unless provoked, these species never attack humans. On occasions however, they attack humans in self-defence, said forest officials.

Because of the timely and active cooperation from people. the department could manage to rescue nearly a dozen pythons and cobras that had strayed into village areas over the last eight months.

NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF LINEAR HEAT SENSING AND ASPIRATION DETECTION MODULE IN EXISTING RDSO APPROVED AFDAS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Tender Value : ₹1,84,70,966.43, Bio

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1100

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courie Fax or in person accepted against suc e-tenders. Even if these are submitted or firm's letter head and receipt in time. Al such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summaril ithout any consideration.

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



from the area.

tinue their agitation until strict administrative action is taken to curb illegal sand mining in the region.

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड / IREL (India) Limited निविदा सूचना/ TENDER NOTICE आईआरईएल, ऑसकॉम निम्नलिखित मदों / जॉब विवरण के लिय प्रस्ताव हेतु अनुरोध आमंत्रित करता है IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job description किए से / Bid No. GEM/2025/B/6817109 Engagement of Consultancy Agency towards Debottlenecking of TSP and RECL circuit of REEP Plant at Odisha. GEM/2025/B/6752362 Operation and Maintenance of Desalination Plant. GEM/2025/B/6734813 Structural Painting works. GEM/2025/B/6734813 Engagement of Manpower for assisting in production activities at REEP.

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कते हैं। उपरोक्त निविदाओं का कोई भी सुद्धिपत्र / विस्तार केवल उपरोक्त वेवसाइटों पर ही होस्ट किया जाएगा।

Divl. Signal & Telecom Engineer (Signal) PR-712/Q/25-26

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

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 microg-

rid" 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



"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 Rov, 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.

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 Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India

Branch Office: 3rd Floor Sreemaa Construction Building, Naya Chowk

Madhupatna, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753 010.

NOTICE

DEMAND

DEMAND NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13[2] OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with nterest accuring there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and cost. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejedice to any other remedy available to the Company

Loan A/c. No. HE01BHU00000086144 Name and Address of Borrower / Co- Borrower

1. Kruttibas Parida (Applicant), S/o. Kailash Chandra Parida,

Ghanta Pada, Central Colony, Balanda, District - Angul. Odisha - 759116 2. Kruttibas Parida (Applicant), S/o. Kailash Chandra Parida, Dhurusia Tahasil - Athagad, P. S. - Khuntuni, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754027

5. Jagan Jewellers (Co-Applicant), Through Its Proprietor- Kruttibas Parida,

W/o. Kruttibas Parida, Ghanta Pada, Central Colony, Balanda, District - Anugul, Odisha - 759116.

Talcher, Plot No. 6296/106/7, Dera Collery Township, Talcher, District - Anugul, Odisha - 759103

W/o. Kruttibas Parida, Dhurusia, Tahasil - Athagad, P. S. - Khuntuni, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754027

6. Kailash Chandra Parida (Co-Applicant), S/o. Late Prana Krushna Parida Alias Panu Parida, Dhurusia,

No. 280/392, Plot No. 1316/1988 and Plot No. 1316/1989, Area - Acre 0.0400 Decimils, Mouza -Dhurusia, Tahasil - Athagarh, Thasil No.130, P. S.- Gurudijhatia, P. S. No. 61, Kisam - Gharabari, District - Cuttack, Odisha

All that Part and Parcel of Land is that Khata

08.10.2025

NPA Date: 03.10.2025

(Rupees Twenty Lakh only)

Date of Demand Notice :

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 20,85,399.00 (Rupees Twenty

Loan Amount: Rs. 20,00,000.00

Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Nine only) as on 08/10/2025

Tahasil - Athagad, P. S. - Khuntuni, District - Cuttack, Odisha - 754027 Date: 25.10.2025

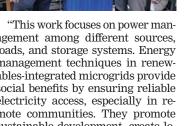
3. Sumitra Parida (Co-Applicant),

4. Sumitra Parida (Co-Applicant).

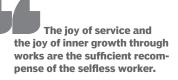
Place: Cuttack (Odisha)

Authorised Officer Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

potential use of fossil fuel reserves and provide power to remote regions that are not covered by the main electricity grid.



To address the issue of fluctuations,



SRI AUROBINDO



PM's Brainstorming

It's not every day that a Prime Minister spends hours in brainstorming sessions with senior bureaucrats. But that's exactly what Narendra Modi has been doing. Recently, he was huddling with his top babus in marathon meetings to "reboot governance" under the Modi 3.0 banner. The optics are familiar, but this time the pitch is grander: to reimagine how the government works, from decision-making speed to accountability and delivery on the ground.

The move comes at an interesting juncture, after two terms of muscular policy-making from GST to digital India to big-ticket infrastructure. Modi seems to have realized that new laws and slogans alone can't move the needle if the babus are stuck in old habits. Governance reform, not just policy reform, is now the frontier. The talk is of efficiency, synergy, and faster execution. The mood is one of a systems audit, where the government wants to check what's clogging the pipes, not just what's flowing through them.

Observers note that such optimism needs tempering. Bureaucracy reform is the hardest of all reforms. Every Prime Minister since Nehru has promised to "modernize" it; none has cracked it. India's civil service was designed for control, not creativity. Its rewards often flow from seniority, not performance. So unless Modi's reboot redefines incentives, builds accountability into the system, and protects honest officers from political whiplash, we'll be back to the same PowerPoint reform syndrome, all big talk, small change.

Still, it's worth noting that the Prime Minister is engaging the babus rather than lecturing them. That, by itself, is a small cultural shift. Modi's reboot may well leave a lasting mark, but for now, it is a bold idea still waiting for its real-world update.

The resignation that never was

The latest twist in the Kannan Gopinathan saga tells us something about how India's babudom can quietly bend rules without breaking them. Gopinathan, who resigned from the IAS in 2019 after speaking up on civil liberties, says the government never formally accepted his resignation. Now, six years later, as he joins the Congress, his exit is still "pending."

Under service rules, an officer's resignation is normally accepted unless there's a disciplinary inquiry or pending dues. Since there is no fixed time frame for this process, this omission gives the government an open-ended discretion. That gap between what's written and what's practiced is where the system operates best.

In Gopinathan's case, the lack of a clear "yes" or "no" effectively trapped him in a bureaucratic no-man's land: he is neither a serving officer nor a free citizen. This is less about one officer and more



about the larger culture of administrative convenience. If a resignation can remain in limbo for years, the message is clear: the system never really lets go.

It also raises an awkward question: whether the government has the unilateral power to delay or ignore a resignation indefinitely? If the rulebook says "normally accepted," then the exception should be justified, not normalised.

Ultimately, Gopinathan's predicament underscores the need for procedural clarity. The civil service shouldn't function like a flytrap for conscience. A rule-based system must apply its own rules, even when the officer happens to be inconvenient.

CRPF's rewiring

The CRPF has just rewired itself for the fight it's actually fighting. The country's lead anti-Naxal force has reoriented its command structure, aiming for sharper coordination and faster decisions. It's the kind of reform that sounds dull on paper but can make all the difference on the ground, and ideally, should have been done long ago.

For decades, the CRPF has been the workhorse of India's internal security. It is overstretched, under-praised, and often bogged down by an old-school hierarchy where every decision had to crawl up a chain of command before anything moved. That doesn't work in the jungle. When you're tracking insurgents who vanish as quickly as they strike, every delay is an opportunity lost.

The new structure is meant to fix that. A Special Director General will now handle all operations, including the elite CoBRA battalions, intelligence units, and tactical wings. Another will manage logistics and administration, a third will focus on training and capacity-building, and support functions will get a dedicated Additional DG. In theory, it's a neat redistribution of responsibility that eliminates overlaps and encourages accountability.

But structure, as every babu knows, isn't destiny. The real test lies in whether the CRPF can translate this reorganization into quicker, smarter, and more adaptive field operations. Will ground intelligence finally reach decision-makers in real time? Will red tape stop strangling initiative? Will troops feel the difference?

If these new lines on paper translate into fewer casualties, tighter operations, and faster responses, this could be the moment the long war against left-wing extremism truly begins to wind down.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

There's always some room for improvisation.

SATYAJIT RAY

You shouldn't dream your film, you should make it!

STEVEN SPIELBER

In order to be universal, you have to be rooted in your own culture.

ABBAS KIAROSTAM

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- 1940: American military officer Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., became the first African American general in the U.S. Army when he was promoted to brigadier general.
- 1950: China entered the Korean War on the side of North Korea against South Korea and the United Nations (UN), the United States being the UN's principal participant.
- 1964: The British rock band the Rolling Stones made its first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show.
- 1983: The U.S. military, under President Ronald Reagan, invaded the tiny island country of Grenada.

FOCUS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

REINVENTING THE UN

s the UN institutionally relevant or intentionally viable during this unprecedented global uncertainty? A month ago, 83 heads of state, 41 heads of government, and ministers from 45 countries participated in and deliberated on assessing the UN during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) debates at UN Headquarters in New York. Undeniably, the proceedings have raised serious questions about the efficiency of the UN among Generation Z resid ing in active conflict zones. It is equally doubtful that the theme 'Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights of the UNGA would galvanise the UN without an immediate tangible transformation of the world's largest international organisation.

Is the UN risking its own legitimacy? Arguably, the UN faces new realities and new challenges after 80 years of its establishment. With impunity and on several occasions, bypassing the UN, the member countries drop bombs at their will and inflict terrorist activities, postponing and vetoing decisions of global importance, withdrawing or evading multilaterally agreed decisions and withholding financial commitments. While multiple threats persist—such as nuclear attack, terrorism, resource competition, and climate emergencies—along with the emerging singular risk of unregulated, all-pervasive artificial intelligence (AI) to nations, the most pressing concern is the threat to human security. This encompasses violations of human rights, rising poverty, growing in-



Though the UN has largely been the tool in the hands of a few privileged member countries, it can't be refuted that it is also a glimmer of hope for millions of destitutes and poorer member countries

equalities, and the search for a dignified life, necessitating a new framework of global commitment, preferably after 2030.

However, increasing geopolitical rivalry, fissures in global alliances, the disappearance of internationalism and interminable armed conflicts, amplified by parochial nationalism and irrational protectionism, are posing a direct threat to the survival of the UN.

survival of the UN. The 'collective will' of the UN has been severely punctured by the 'sovereignty sacrosanct' of the member countries. The UN has been bulldozed several times by its own members. Despite the UN headquarters in New York, the US denied a visa to the Palestinian President to attend the UNGA Session. Remember the WHO proposal to visit Wuhan during the COVID-19 pandemic to assess the origin of the virus, but it was instantly denied and delayed by the Chinese administration. The permanent members of the Security Council, or for that matter, 60 authoritarian countries and six totalitarian countries, the UN quite often needs the approval of the regimes to function smoothly in these countries. The only leverage the UN has of its financial and humanitarian aid to get going in the hundreds of member countries.

The host, founding member and the largest donor to the functioning of the UN, the US, has questioned the UN itself and its Charter as 'empty words' during the UNGA session. The US has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the WHO, the UN Human Rights Council, and UNESCO. Criticising the UN at the UN venues is not surprising, as it has been a routine to use the platform of the General Assembly to settle the brownie points.

Though the UN has largely been the tool in the hands of a few privileged member countries, it can't be refuted that it is also a glimmer of hope for millions of destitutes and poorer member countries. Without the UN and its agencies, the progression of global environmental governance, at least, is

unimaginable. Be it climate change, ozone depletion, hazardous materials, or biodiversity, the UN has been instrumental in facilitating treaty agreements and their implementations. It continues to do so despite severe financial cuts from the member countries, especially by the US, which owes \$3 billion to the UN.

Outright rejection of the UN

is a fool's paradise. The UN has been navigating through the tumultuous equation and equilibrium of member countries since the Cold War, Post-Cold War and its unipolar moments and present complex multipolar ambitions. Certainly, the 'Blue Berets', UN Peacekeeping Force, is the success story operating in 50 missions with the largest contribution in terms of finance and personnel, both men and women, from India. At the heart of India's foreign policy, according to the Minister of External Affairs, lies a commitment to peacekeeping-rooted in dialogue, diplomacy, and cooperation.

While the UN faces a 'race to bankruptcy' as its Secretary General lamented, or 'trajectory of irrelevance' as criticised by the former Indian permanent representative to the UN, the UN needs to reinvent itself in the present realities and future perspective. The failure of the League of Nations in preventing the World War II gave birth to the UN. Not only expanding the UNSC permanent membership with equal powers, but the idea of the collective will of the post-World War II needs to be redefined and reformulated. Else, the UN risks its own demise.

The writer is an international advisor on Transboundary Water and Climate Change Risk.

SPECTRUM

Bruno Surdel

FOR INDIA, THE

COPENHAGEN

DISCUSSIONS

TAKEAWAY:

OFFER A CLEAR

CONTEMPORARY

DETERRENCE IS

NETWORKED.

Avilash Roul

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Between dome & drone wall

he first days of October 2025 marked a new tone in Europe's security debate. Copenhagen, usually a calm Nordic capital, transformed into a fortress as European Union leaders gathered for an informal European Council summit under the Danish presidency. The airspace above the city was secured by allied aircraft, while a German frigate docked in its port — a symbolic reminder that Europe's security is no longer abstract.

The meeting unfolded amid fresh Russian provocations: airspace violations over Poland and Estonia, and drone incursions in Denmark. For Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, who chaired the summit, these incidents confirmed that Europe is already fighting a hybrid war. The summit participants expressed their support for Ukraine, emphasizing its crucial role in Europe's collective defence against Russian aggression. The atmosphere was marked by tension and concern. As Antonio Costa, President of the European Council, later put it: We are committed to face common threats, on all fronts, whether conventional, hybrid or cyber, with a common purpose.

Formally, leaders framed the conversation around defence readiness by 2030 — a practical

translation of the "Europe of Defence" idea. In official briefings, the European Council underlined capability gaps and the need to accelerate common efforts in air and missile defence, cyber resilience and counter-UAS (counter-drone) tools, complementing Alliance efforts.

Two flagship strands crystallised. First, the European Drone Wall: an effort to interlink national detection, jamming and interception layers into a coherent continental response to unmanned threats. Second. the Eastern Flank Watch: a coordination framework focused on surveillance, early warning and the integration of ground, air, maritime and border-management capabilities along the EU's exposed frontier. Both concepts were referenced by the European Council President in Copenhagen.

The strategic context is unmistakable. In the days surrounding the summit, NATO underlined that Allied airspace was increasingly targeted by drones and aircraft, calling the European drone-wall concept timely and necessary within the Alliance's broader effort to protect its skies.

Institutionally, Copenhagen reaffirmed a well-worn balance: the Union can steer joint programmes, pool demand and finance industrial scaling; Member States retain primacy

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI

over defence policy and force structure, while NATO remains the cornerstone of collective defence. That logic —visible in the Council's agenda-setting letters before and after the meeting — keeps the EU's role focused on defensive preparedness, interoperability and procurement acceleration rather than command-and-control.

The operational ambition, however, is concrete. EU officials link the drone and flank initiatives to a layered approach: sensors and data fusion; electronic warfare and point defence; and cross-border procedures to act fast. In the High Representative's description, Eastern Flank Watch spans counter-drone, ground, air, maritime and border components. underscoring that Europe's next-generation protection will be as much a system-of-systems as a hardware list.

Copenhagen also served as a stock-take of support to Ukraine, where the EU has combined budgetary, humanitarian, military and reconstruction instruments. On the coercive side, leaders signalled continuity on restrictive measures targeting Russia and enablers of sanctions circumvention. While the Copenhagen meeting was informal and not a legislative venue, the institutional trail shows that sanctions policy has become a standing strand of the EU's security response.

For India, the Copenhagen discussions offer a clear takeaway: contemporary deterrence is networked. Europe's planned drone-defence layers promise not only hardware, but interoperability, predictability and faster decision-making. India's own experience suggests that scalable, standards-driven architectures are where strategy meets affordability.

In the end, Copenhagen did

not hinge on a communiqu or a single headline number. Its significance lies in normalising a conversation: that Europe's security has become a technology project — its borders now protected by data as well as by troops; and that unity is measured less in words than in the speed with which systems are specified, funded and fielded. The official record — Council direction, Commission and EE-AS programme design, NATO's operational posture — already sketches that new normal. If Europe can keep that loop tight, the much-invoked "Europe of Defence" will be less a slogan and more a working interface between institutions, industries and armed forces. That, as India knows from its own neighbourhood, is where strategy becomes credible.

The writer is an expert, Centre for International Relations, Poland

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TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

Lokpal on test drive

Sir, The news that the anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal has floated a tender to procure seven luxurious BMW cars totally worth Rs 5 crore has surprised the opposition parties as well as the general public. There's no substitute to the majestic Ambassador cars once was the favourite of Judges and Politicians served the purpose behind their travelling. Speaking Swadeshi shouldn't be a humbug and the core philosophy must be practiced genuinely rather than ending up leading a flamboyant life at the cost of public exchequer. Though it is up to the individual to decide when it comes to their choice, people in government authorities must set an example by adopting the basics. Lokpal authorities must ensure that no fingers should be pointed out towards them when it comes to their extravagant privileges of this sort need to be thought about. As we have witnessed that one may lead to the other there is every possibility that the authorities may be tested by the parties with respect to their core uprightness.

India's inequality woes

Sir, India is back in the news for all the wrong reasons. The harsh reality is that India has come out on top as one of the most 'unequal' countries on a global scale with a mere 1% of the population holding 22% of the total national income. While inequality has always existed for ages throughout the globe, the recent inequality report paints a dismal picture of India. One of the solutions to curb these inequalities is to focus on balancing income and wealth redistribution policies. While the government spends a good amount of money on digital infrastructure, there is a need for more attention on poorer regions of the country, which are the most affected due to inequality. Then, access to good education for all should be the topmost priority. Education can offer individuals a means to exercise their right over policies and decisions which affect their lives. Better education will lead to better opportunities and ultimately reduce inequality.

 ${\it Jayanthy~Subramaniam, MUMBAI}$



TWO STATES





Electric three-wheeler op begins under zonal system

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,

"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





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

Actor Mohanial 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, Perumbayoor.

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

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

that adequate publicity through other means was sufficient was rejected by the court. "We are afraid we cannot ac-

The government's contention

cept the said contention of the State Government," the Bench observed.

"The provisions of Section 40(4) are special provisions that empower a State Govern ment to confer immunity on persons otherwise in unlawful possession of animal articles or trophies. Such power must be exercised strictly in the man ner 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 exer cised 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'

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

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

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

BioNEST Incubator to be launched at Biotech Park

incubator

is funded by

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Council

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 schol-

"Union Minister Jitendra Singh will be the chief guest at the BioInnovation Connect and will formally launch the BioNthe Biotechnology at the Industri-**Industry Research** al Biotechnology Park, Kathua, October 27," CSIR-IIIM Director Zabeer Ahmed told re-

porters 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 in-

> novations, 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 entrepreneur-

ship 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 bioinnovation and entrepreneurship development in the region,'



No. E-463: It is for information of all concerned that the last date for

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

submission of RFP regarding outsourcing of Mechanized Laundr 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 inchanged. The technical bid will be opened on 29.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. at O/o. the CDM & PHO, Bhadrak. Sd./- CDM & PHO, Bhadrak

DISTRICT HEALTH MISSION

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

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 vear 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

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."

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, GANJAM-II, BERHAMPUR E-mail: mi2_exe.engr@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No.: 0680-229047 A-754 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No. GMID-II/07/2025-26
Date: 22.10.2025
Name of Work
No. of Works
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5.00 lakh)

ender Paper Cost

Period of Completion

Period of Receipt of bid through Online Mode of Payment Date of Opening of Bid documents Date of Lottery (if required)

Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder

urther details can be seen from

OIPR-32043/11/0036/2526

owrorissa.gov.in lame & Address of the OIT

Online
Dtd. 07.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
Shall be intimated through website and E-mail specified for the purpose ir e-tendering process
The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) o Class-III or Class-III be seen in the DOWR website: http://

Superintending Engineer
M.I. Division, Ganjam-II, Infront of Depau School, Engineering School Road Berhampur, Dist.: Ganjam, PIN - 760010 E-mail:mi2_exe.engr@yahoo.co.in http://tendersorissa.gov.in

21 (Twenty One) Nos. Rs.4.58 lakh to 30.89 lakh 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) 02 (Two) to 03 (Three) Calendar Months "D" "C" & "B" From 27.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 06.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in) From 27.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 06.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. through Online Online

Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I. Division, Ganjam-II, Berhampu

national



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

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





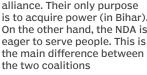
Disaster Act has been implemented in the state and our first priority is to give relief to the

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



(grand alliance). But, there is neither 'gath' nor 'bandhan' in that



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 Ram 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 Sanghyi 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, Sanghyi, known for hit songs in 'Stree 2' and 'Bhediva', was arrested Thursday under relevant sections of the Bharativa Nyava 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' J&K: NC wins 3

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 Pivush Goval 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 offi-



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

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

SNIPPETS

exemption from US sanctions on oil...The UK already has sorted or probably got an exemption for procuring oil from the US...so then why single out India," he wondered.

These remarks assume significance as the US is putting pressure on India to stop buying crude oil from Russia.

The US, 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.

A team of Indian officials, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last week to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day talks ended October 17.

In February this year. leaders of India and the US directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

They have fixed a deadline to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall of 2025. When asked about the November deadline, the official said: 'We are hopeful".

Last month, Goval also led an official delegation to New York for trade talks

The talks paused briefly after the US announced high tariffs on Indian goods.

Don't misuse Al-based

New Delhi: Ahead of assembly polls

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

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

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

and transmitting synthetically

and challenge because of its ability

to masquerade as the truth. After

in Bihar, the Election Commission

tools: EC to parties

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 Shammi 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 Raiva 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-voting from any of our MLAs. So the questions arise -- where did the four extra votes of the BJP come from? Who were the MLAs who deliberately invalidated their votes by marking the wrong preference number while voting?

"Do they have the guts to put their hands up and own up to helping the BJP after promising us their votes? What pres sure or inducement helped them make this choice? Let's see if any of the BJP's secret team owns up to selling their souls!" Abdullah said in his post on X. He also had a word for the losing candidate, Imran Nabi Dar.

The NC Thursday issued a whip to its MLAs to ensure their presence and cast their votes in favour of the party candidates for polls to four seats of Rajya Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief, Tariq Hameed Karra, in a post on X, congratulated the National Conference for "securing three safe seats and putting up a strong fight for the fourth unsafe seat". J-K Peoples' Conference chief Sa jad Lone, however, described the Rajya Sabha election in Jammu and Kashmir as a "fixed match" between the ruling National Conference and the opposition BJP.

"So the BJP wins the fourth seat. As predicted -- a fixed match; Axis of the evil -- NC and BJP," he said in a post on X. Lone, the MLA from the Handwara Assembly segment of north Kashmir, abstained from voting in the election. "Thank God I abstained. Imagine what my plight would have been. Now mathematically proven that it was a fixed match."

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.

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 Teiashwi Yaday Friday claimed that CM Nitish Kumar will not be made the chief minister if the ruling alliance is again voted to power. Yaday also alleged that Kumar has been hijacked by the BJP, and two people from Guiarat - 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.

AGENCIES

secretaries.

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-ofthe-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,

speaking at the event, argued that only 20% of modern medicine is necessary for healthcare. When combined with 80% traditional medicine, he believes the global healthcare system can be restructured in four to five years While acknowledging the need for modern medicine in critical care, Balkrishna stressed that for many "incurable" diseases, Ayurveda and Yoga offer effective solutions. He also pointed out that Patanjali's doctors are not driven by profit but by the singular goal of patient healing. The hospital's launch reflects Pa tanjali's commitment to creating an integrated healthcare model where healing transcends profit motives. The event was attend ed by prominent medical profes sionals and Patanjali leaders all supporting this innovative approach to healthcare.

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.

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

"These devotional songs being played at railway stations during Chhath Puja are creating a sacred atmosphere for the devotees," a press note from the ministry said. "At 30 major stations like

Patna, Danapur, Hajipur, Bhagalpur, Jamalpur, Sonpur, New Delhi, Ghaziabad and Anand Vihar Terminal, these songs are giving passengers a taste of the fragrance of their home and culture, thereby in-



fusing devotion and joy into their journey," it added.

Officials said that the railway administration has also made special arrangements for the convenience of passengers. For instance, holding areas have

been created at major stations where passengers can comfort ably wait for their trains.

"Apart from this, elaborate security arrangements have been made at the stations, which include deployment of RPF personnel 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 exist-

ing services to accommodate the increased demand. Weather-proof holding areas are being created at major stations to manage large passenger in flows 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, Muzaf farpur, Gaya, Samastipur and Barauni in Bihar and Gorakhpur, Ballia and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

national



We have decided to inaugurate the state-level 72nd Cooperative Week on November 14, which coincides with Nehru's birth anniversary. The event will be held in a meaningful way at the Palace Grounds, and I will be inaugurating it

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

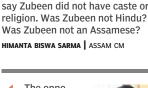




heard them talk about electricity, schools hospitals, or roads? We brought Punjab back on track after 75 years of chaos. The journey was hard, but with honesty and intent, everything became

BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CM

The Opposition is keeping this issue (demanding justice for Zubeen Garg) alive against Hindu society. Akhil Gogoi and the opposition



The opposition had objected intensive revision of electoral rolls

they want to form a government on the basis of votes of infiltrators er 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



Some Kev Focus Area For Govt's Attention Potholes Cleanliness **Food Safety** Encroachments

• Adequate Lighting on Highways This Can Significantly Make Living

@Ravisutaniani

SHORT TAKES

Veteran scribe Baikuntha Goswami dies at 79

Guwahati: Veteran journalist Baikuntha Nath Goswami died Friday due to old-agerelated 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 healthrelated 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 iournalist 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." Malviva said



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi and others during a visit to the historic battlefield of Laungewala, in Rajasthan

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 UN-SC 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.

from it and I suffered a minor

injury on the forehead,"she told

PTI. An IT employee, Harika

is now under observation in a

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 Sadig 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

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

THE PROJECT WAS SIGNED IN "UNUSUAL HASTE" 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 in stitutions 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 **SECRETARY BINOY VISWAM, SAID THAT THERE** move to secure ON THE PM SHRI IN THE central funds while safeguard

WHICH THE MEMORANDUM OF ing the state's **UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR** educational pol-Addressing a

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.

cumulative 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.

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 The private bus from Hy-

derabad 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



hospital. She stated her condithe bus which spread within seconds." "The rear door was tion was fine. broken by a passenger for escaping and we all jumped out

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

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 iumped 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," Surva said. Some passengers escaped by breaking the nearest win dow 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 on hoard. 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 oc curred 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.

international



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

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



the relationship with Canada case of Mexico, we are quite far along





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

MARCO RUBIO | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

challenges along the way





the importance of strengthening European air defence readiness GITANAS NAUSEDA | 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 Virkunnen, the EU's executive vice president for tech sovereignty, security and democracy, in a post on X.

Turkiye in talks with Qatar

Ankara: Turkiye 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. Turkiye aims to purchase dozens of Eurofighters and other advanced jets as a stopgap measure to strengthen its fleet until its domestically developed fifth-generation KAAN fighter jet becomes operational. In July, Turkiye 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 iets 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

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 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 NEGO-TIATIONS 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 propo-**REAGAN VOICEOVER**

CRITICISES TARIFFS

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

Tuesday.

The Ronald Rea-

gan Presidential

Foundation said

the ad used "selec-

tive audio and video'

ing legal options.

and that it was examin-

dation statement said.

er out of sequence.

'The ad misrepresents the

Presidential Radio Address (by

Reagan in 1987), and the Gov-

ernment of Ontario did not seek

nor receive permission to use

and edit the remarks," a Foun-

The video uses five complete

"When someone says, 'Let's

sentences from the five-minute

weekly address, spliced togeth-

impose tariffs on foreign im-

ports,' it looks like they're

doing the patriotic thing by

protecting American products

and jobs," Reagan says. "And

sometimes for a short while

it works - but only for a short

He also says, "over the long

 Video ad plays Reagan's criticism of tariffs in 1987

- Ontario Premier Doug Ford said ad caught Trump's
- 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

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 every American worker and consumer", and that the result of trade wars is that "Markets shrink and collapse; businesses and industries shut down; and millions of people lose their TRUMP HAS RAISED TARIFFS TO

run such trade barriers hurt

HIGHEST SINCE 1930S

The ad does not, however, mention that Reagan was using the address to explain that tariffs imposed on Japan by his administration should be seen as a sadly unavoidable

exception to his basic belief in free trade as the key to prosgious behavior, ALL perity. TRADE NEGOTIATIONS The Canadian

WITH CANADA ARE government had HERERY TERMINATED no immediate com-DONALD TRUMP I ment. Earlier PRESIDENT, US Thursday, Can-

ada sharply reduced, tariff-free import quotas for General Motors and Stellantis, citing their decisions to scale back manufacturing in the country.

Trump's trade war has in-

creased US tariffs to their

highest levels since the 1930s

and he has regularly threatened more duties, sparking concerns among businesses and economists. Carney told reporters Thurs-

day that Canada will not allow unfair US access to its markets if talks on various trade deals with Washington fail. Next year, the US, Canada

and Mexico are due to review their 2020 continental freetrade agreement.

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

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

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 New Pope Leo, who met survivors of sexual abuse by cler-

gy for the first time this week,

has told the Church's newest

bishops not to hide misconduct

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

ictims' tally unofficial, based

Majority of victims were male and underage, report finds

■ talian bishops criticised last week

Pope Leo has told bishops not to

hide misconduct allegations

allegations. His predecessor,

the late Pope Francis, made

papers, media reports

by Vatican panel

on survivors' accounts, judicial

only 81 of Italy's 226 dioceses responded to a questionnaire about safeguarding practices it had drafted. Rete l'Abuso said it had docu mented 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.

US deploys aircraft carrier to South America amid Venezuela tensions

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

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.



S 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 Ven-

ezuelan. 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.

BRITAIN PUSHES ALLIES TO **BOOST UKRAINE SUPPORT**

London. Oct 24: Britain Friday urged fellow allies of Ukraine to reach a deal to use frozen Russian assets to strengthen its hand for any future peace talks, as President Volodymyr Zelenskiy arrived in London for talks with those

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office said he would also press the "Coalition of the Willing" countries to take Russian oil and gas off the global market and give Kyiv more

long-range missiles. European Union leaders agreed Thursday to meet Ukraine's "pressing financial needs" for the next two years but stopped short of endorsing a plan to use frozen Russian assets to fund a giant loan to Kyiv over Belgian concerns.

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT SEEKS LOANS AND WEAPONS

Zelenskiy had asked the EU leaders in Brussels Thursday for long-range missiles and to use the frozen assets to provide it with more weapons.

He also welcomed US President Donald Trump's decision to impose sanctions on Russia's two biggest oil companies, a dramatic U-turn after last week announcing plans for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Starmer said Putin was not

official, sent a private text in

serious about ending the war. "Time and again we offer Putin the chance to end his needless invasion, to stop the killing and recall his troops, but he repeatedly rejects those proposals and any chance of peace," he said in

"We must ratchet up the pressure on Russia and build on President Trump's decisive

RUSSIA WARNS OF PAINFUL RESPONSE

a statement.

Moscow has promised a 'painful response" if the assets are seized. Putin also said the sanctions on oil companies were an unfriendly act, but would not significantly affect the Russian economy

In another bid to starve

Moscow of revenue, the EU approved a 19th package of sanctions, which includes a ban on imports of Russian liquefied natural gas. Friday's talks in London

were due to be a mixture of in-person and virtual, with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen expected to join Starmer and Zelenskiv in London.

Zelenskiy began his visit by meeting King Charles at Windsor Castle. The king has frequently expressed his support for Ukraine, notably hosting Zelenskiy at his private residence shortly after the Ukrainian leader's stormy meeting with Trump in February.

women's right to Khula

Pakistan SC affirms

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 mar riage, a contrast against 'Talaq which grants the right to a man

Justice Avesha A Malik, one of the two female judges of the apex court, authored the judg ment 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 judg ment, 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 Fam ily 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.

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 2022 saying a state Republican love Hitler." October 3 leaked texts published by National Review revealed that Jay Jones, political opponents. And this week, President the Democratic candidate to be Virginia's top law enforcement

should be shot dead and that he would urinate on the graves of

Donald Trump's nominee to lead a federal watchdog agenPolitical 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 publications including "Social Media and Society", say the persistence of inflammatory group chats reflects a false sense of privacy and safety, despite the fact that the messages form a permanent record and can be leaked. As this car pulls up, the customer wanting to rent it is greeted behind the wheel by nobody. At the same time, members

in group chats sometimes falsely assume they can trust their fellow participants when allegiances, ambitions and mo tivations can shift over time, es pecially in politics, said Turvy "There is an illusion of inti-

macy," Turvy said. "It feels like it's private speech. But you're betting that all of the members in the group chat are going to protect you forever."

business



Our public listing today is not just a financial milestone, it's a mission milestone. At RNIT, we **believe Artificial Intelligence** must become the backbone of governance and enterprise transformation in India

RAIA SRINIVAS NANDIGAM

HERO MOTOCORP TO ENTER UK

Hero MotoCorp, India's largest two-wheeler maker, said Thursday it will enter the United Kingdom market with a partnership with Lancashire-based distributor MotoGB, making the company's products available in 51 countries. This comes on the heels of Hero's announcement earlier this month that it will sell its products in Italy and Spain



It is important that you (GST officers) remain polite. The next-generation **GST** is not just about rates, slabs,

simplification. It should make the taxpaver feel different

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

Gold ETF in vestors carry no risk of physical storage but the instrument

growth potential of physical gold.

AJAY KEJRIWAL | CEO, CHOICE MUTUAL FUND



retail sales affected demand for passenger vehicles in O2

PUSHAN SHARMA I

DIRECTOR, CRISIL INTELLIGENCE

02 **RESULTS**

ITC Hotels net shines

New Delhi: ITC Hotels Friday reported a nearly 74 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit for the second quarter ended September at Rs 133.29 crore, on higher revenue from operations. The company, which listed on the stock exchanges earlier this year post its demerger from ITC Limited, had posted a net profit of Rs 76.63 crore a year ago. Revenue from operations stood at Rs 839.48 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 777.95 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses also rose marginally to Rs 699.72 crore from Rs 671.29 crore in the corresponding July-September quarter of last year.

SBI Life profit drops

New Delhi: SBI Life Insurance Company Friday reported a 6.6 per cent decline in net profit to Rs 494.6 crore in the September quarter of the current fiscal. The insurer had recorded a net profit of Rs 529.42 crore in the same quarter of the last fiscal year. The company's net premium income for the quarter under review rose to Rs 24,848 crore from Rs 20,266 crore registered in the second quarter ended September 2024, according to a stock exchange filing, Shares of SBI Life settled at Rs 1,840.50 apiece, down 0.65 per cent on BSE Friday.

GOLD LOSES GLITTER

Yellow metal tanks to ₹1,25,600/10 grams amid weak global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 24: Gold prices tanked to Rs 1,25,600 per 10 grams in the national capital Friday amid weak trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,32,400 per 10 grams Octo-

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity slumped to Rs 1,25,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 1,31,800 per 10 grams Saturday.

In the local bullion market, silver prices also tumbled to Rs 1,52,600 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) Friday. It had ended at Rs 1,70,000 per kg in the previous market session.

The association said that local bullion markets reopened Friday after being closed for four days amid Diwali festiv-

In the international markets, spot gold fell by \$38.47, or 0.93 per cent, to \$4,087.55 per ounce Friday after rising 0.67 per cent in the previous session.

"Gold struggled to maintain its recovery on Friday as the market shifted from a bullish trend to the correction phase. Traders remain cautious following a sharp sell-off earlier in the week and avoid fresh

Bangalore, Oct 24: Growth

in India's private sector eased

to a five-month low in October

as weaker demand and rising

output prices weighed on

business optimism, a survey

HSBC's flash India Compos-

ite Purchasing Managers' Index

(PMI), compiled by S&P Global,

fell to 59.9 this month from a fi-

nal reading of 61.0 in September

and below a Reuters poll medi-

Despite slipping to the

lowest since May, growth re-

mained robust and well above

the 50-mark separating expan-

The overall index - a season-

ally adjusted index measuring

the month-on-month change in

the combined output of India's

manufacturing and service

sectors - was mainly dragged

down by a slowdown in services

sion from contraction.

REUTERS

showed Friday

an forecast of 61.2.

DIWALI HOLIDAYS



Gold of 99.5% purity slumped to ₹1,25,000 per 10 grams. It had settled at ₹1.31.800 per 10 grams Saturday

Silver tumbled to ₹1,52,600 per kilogram. It had ended at ₹1,70,000 per kg in the previous market session

and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's meeting is scheduled on October 30, also weighs on the metal. Meanwhile, the Trump administration's decision to impose sanctions on the biggest Russian oil companies has underscored the fact that geopolitical concerns are going to linger for a long time," Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities and Currencies at Mirae Asset

Share Khan, said. Gold is likely to trade between \$4,000-4200 per ounce level in the near term, as the interest rate cut expectations by the US Federal Reserve limit the downside, Singh added.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said, "The ongoing US government shutdown and uncertainty around trade negotiations are expected to keep sentiment

Forex kitty jumps to \$702.28 billion

Mumbai. Oct 24: India's forex reserves increased by \$4.496 billion to \$702.28 billion for the week ended October 17, as the value of gold reserves rose further, the RBI said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had jumped by \$2.176 billion to \$697.784 billion.

For the week ended October 17, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$1.692 billion to \$570.411 billion, the data released Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms,

the foreign currency assets include the effects of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units, such as the euro, pound, and yen, held in the foreign exchange reserves. Value of the gold reserves

jumped by \$6.181 billion to \$108.546 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$38 million to \$18.722 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF fell by \$30 million to \$4.602 billion in the reporting week, according to the apex bank's data.



PROFIT-TAKING

Stock markets halt 6-day rally

In a holiday-shortened week, BSE benchmark climbed 259.69 points or 0.30%, and Nifty went up by 85.3 points or 0.33%

NSE NIFTY OCTOBER 24, 2025



oil companies and

profit-taking by

investors

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

HEAD OF RESEARCH, (WEALTH

MANAGEMENT), MOTILAL

HINDALCO	+4.11%	100	
ICICI BANK	+1.05 %	TOP	
BHARTI AIRTEL	+1.00 %	GAINERS	
SHRIRAM FINANCE	+0.97%	GIHITERO	
ONGC	+0.94%	T	

-1.93 %

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 24: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined Friday amid profit-taking in FMCG and banking shares following a six-day rally and fresh foreign fund outflows. Snapping its six-day winning

streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 344.52 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 84,211.88. During the day, it fell by 599.25 points or 0.70 per cent to A total of 2,323

stocks declined while 1.853 advanced and 166 remained unchanged on the BSE. The

50-share NSE Nifty declined by 96.25 points or 0.37 per cent to 25,795.15 as 34 of its constituents closed lower and 16 with gains.

Profit-taking emerged after a six-day rally, during which key indices soared by around 3 per cent on strong festive demand and foreign fund inflows. Both Sensex and Nifty hit their 52-week highs Thursday. Sentiment was further damp

ened after Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Friday said India does not do trade agreements in a hurry or with a "gun to our head". Among Sensex firms, Hin-

dustan Unilever dropped the most by 3.20 per cent. UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Adani Ports, Titan, HDFC Bank and Axis

Bank were also among the laggards. However, Bharti Airtel, ICI

CI Bank, Bharat Electronics

and Sun Pharma were among the gainers. The BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.26 per cent, and the smallcap index went lower by

0.19 per cent. Bankex dropped 0.77 per cent, FMCG declined 0.71 per cent, financial services (0.51

pr cent), power (0.47 per cent), consumer discretionary **Markets were** (0.40 per cent) pressured by US services (0.38 sanctions on Russian

per cent) and consumer durables (0.38)cent). Metal surged 1.02

per cent, tele-

OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES communication jumped 1.01 per cent, oil & gas (0.25 per cent), realty (0.24 per cent) and

energy (0.22 per cent).

Rising for the sixth straight session Thursday, the Sensex climbed 130.06 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 84,556,40. The

Nifty ended 22.80 points or 0.09 per cent higher at 25,891.40. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Compos-

ite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled higher. Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended in positive territory

Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude dipped 0.24 per cent to \$65.83 a barrel.

Reliance to comply with US sanctions on Russian crude

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 24: Reliance Industries Friday said it will comply with the latest US and other Western sanctions relating to Russian oil and will tweak refinery operations to meet them. The oil-to-retail behemoth

said that it is assessing the implications of restrictions announced by the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States on crude oil imports from Russia and the export of refined products to Europe.

"We will comply with the EU's guidelines on the import of refined products into Europe,' an RIL spokesperson said.

Reliance Industries said that it remains fully committed to maintaining adherence to applicable sanctions and regulatory frameworks.

The spokesperson also said the company will tweak refinery operations to meet the latest sanctions compliance requirements.

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. Most of these volumes were bought by private refiners, Reliance Industries Ltd and Navara Energy, with smaller allocations

to state-owned refiners. Russian crude flows are expected to remain in the 1.6-1.8 mbd range until November 21. but direct volumes from Rosneft and Lukoil are likely to decline thereafter, as Indian refiners seek to avoid any risk of US sanctions, said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst (Refining and Modelling) at Kpler.

Gold struggled to maintain its recovery on Friday as the market shifted from a bullish trend to the correction phase. **Traders remain cautious fol**lowing a sharp sell-off earlier

SAUMIL GANDHI | SENIOR ANALYST (COMMODITIES). HDFC SECURITIES

buying," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

in the week and avoid fresh

Gandhi noted that many markets in India are closed for the holiday season, and following the conclusion of the Diwali festival, the demand in India, the world's second-largest gold consumer, is expected to decline. Spot silver declined by \$1.66

per cent to \$48.12 per ounce in the overseas markets. "Easing geopolitical tensions,

as US President Donald Trump

growth even as manufacturing

The flash manufacturing

activity recovered from a four-

PMI rose to 58.4 from 57.7

last month while the ser-

vices business activity index

An overall new orders sub-in-

dex expanded firmly though at

its weakest pace since May. The

month low in September.

slipped to 58.8 from 60.9.

Private sector activity eases to 5-month low

INTERNATIONAL DEMAND FOR INDIAN GOODS AND SERVICES SOFTENED TO ITS WEAKEST

IN SEVEN MONTHS, LARGELY DUE TO A SLOWER INCREASE IN MANUFACTURING EXPORTS

India is facing steep tariffs on its exports to the United States, with President Trump reiterating tariffs will remain high unless New Delhi stops its purchases of Russian oil.

A monthly bulletin released by the Reserve Bank of India Monday noted merchandise trade remained resilient overall but highlighted a sharp decline in exports to the US in September as the higher tariffs kicked in.

Cost pressure eased across both sectors, helped by a lowering of the goods and services tax (GST) in September. However, firms refrained from passing those benefits on to customers and selling charges were raised to offset higher operational costs.

For the year-ahead business optimism waned showing concerns over rising competitive pressures, market conditions and demand trends.

Piyush gave Indian advertising a 'swadeshi swagger'

His work -- including Cadbury's "Kuch Khaas Hai", "Har Khushi Mein Rang Laaye" for Asian Paints, Fevicol ads (notably the "egg" film) and the famous political slogan 'Abki Baar. Modi Sarkaar' -- became part of the country's cultural lexicon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 24: 'India's Adman', Piyush Pandey, who rede fined advertising in the country by making Hindi mainstream with liberal dosages of humour and broke the mould of English-dominated campaigns, died on Friday morning due to illness.

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 Cad-

bury's "Kuch Khaas Hai", "Har Khushi Mein Rang Laaye" for Asian Paints, Fevicol ads (notably the "egg" film) and the famous political slogan 'Abki Baar, Modi Sarkaar' -- became part of the country's cultural lexicon. Honoured with the Padma

Shri in 2016 and the London International Awards' Legend Award in 2024, Pandey was the first Asian to chair the Cannes Lions jury in 2004.

He had also represented the Rajasthan cricket team in the Ranji Trophy.

"He made a monumental con-

tribution to the world of advertising and communications," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote in a condolence message on the microblogging site X. "I will fondly cherish our interactions over the years," the PM added.

softer increase stemmed from

a loss of growth momentum in

the services sector, however,

goods producers saw a slightly

quicker rise than in September.

Indian goods and services

softened to its weakest in

seven months, largely due to

a slower increase in manufac-

turing exports.

International demand for

Tributes for Pandey, who had also penned the iconic 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara' song celebrating the rich diversity of the country, flowed in from all across

Billionaire Gautam Adani, the second richest Indian, said Pandey was more than just an advertising legend. "He was the voice that made India believe in its own story. He gave Indian advertising its self-confidence, its soul, its 'swadeshi' swagger,' Adani wrote on his X account.

Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal condoled the death of the creative genius. Calling Pandey a "titan and

legend" of Indian advertising, Sitharaman said he transformed communication by "bringing everyday idioms, earthy humour and genuine

Stating that she had interacted with Pandey on various

occasions, the Finance Minister said his legacy will continue to inspire generations.

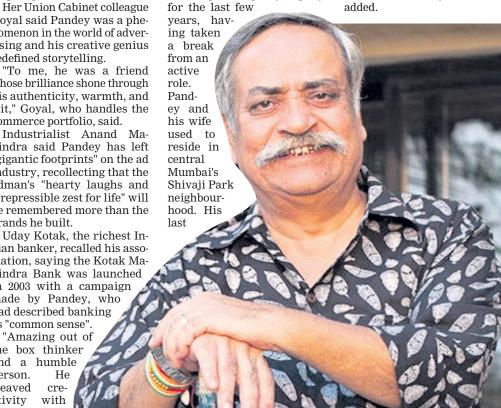
Goyal said Pandey was a phenomenon in the world of advertising and his creative genius redefined storytelling. "To me, he was a friend whose brilliance shone through

his authenticity, warmth, and wit," Goyal, who handles the commerce portfolio, said. Industrialist Anand Ma-

hindra said Pandey has left "gigantic footprints" on the ad industry, recollecting that the adman's "hearty laughs and irrepressible zest for life" will be remembered more than the brands he built. Uday Kotak, the richest In-

dian banker, recalled his association, saying the Kotak Ma hindra Bank was launched in 2003 with a campaign made by Pandey, who had described banking as "common sense" "Amazing out of

the box thinker and a humble person. weaved crewith ativity an Indian context." Kotak wrote on X. rites will be performed at the Shivaji Park crematorium at The Jaipur-born Pandey was advising his agency Ogilvy 10.30 am Saturday, Ila Arun



Last dance Down Under India A teams stand tall in China Men's TEAM

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 eves 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 diehard 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

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 vears, 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 Yaday, 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,

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

hardly have had any venom to

trouble international standard

batters on a regular basis.

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

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 Aditva Arjun Lalage scoring a goal each.

Continuing their fine form, the visitors secured an 8-0 victory in the third match, with Poovanna Chandura Boby converting a penalty corner. Aditya Arjun Lalage, Maninder Singh, Selvam Karthi and Ven katesh 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

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.

for the visitors.

Meanwhile, the India A women's team played a fivematch series against Liaoning from October 13 to 21 at the Liaoning Sports Centre in Dalian. The young squad exhibited 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 Balieet Kau 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 Lin 21-17 21-16 with commanding control from start to finish.

T20: Maxwell to return

Sydney: Charismatic Australian allrounder Glenn Maxwell is set to return for the T20I 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 T20I 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 T20I 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.

na 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.

Zuhin 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

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 Birsa Munda 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. Yodasinghege Chamo of Sri Lanka became the fastest man of the meet, winning gold with a time of 10.30 seconds while India's Pranay Guray 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.

U23 WORLD WRESTLING

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Ze

inep Bayanova. In the quarterfinal she came up with a technical superiority (10-0) victory over Uzbeki-

stan'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 Ol ha 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 de fensive 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

NBA gambling-mafia poker scandal rocks basketball world mafia families, are illegal. Howeach player's hand once dealt. NBA's Chauncev Billups, Damon

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

ever, 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 Chauncev 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,

Jones charged in poker cheating

■ High-tech cheating methods involved X-ray tables and shuffling

 Games lured affluent players to cheat, with \$7 million reportedly

■ Mafia backed illegal games featured subtle signals and advanced devices

plicit in the scam.

ADVANCED DEVICES, SIGNALS ENABLED CHEATING

the 'face cards' and all other

non-target players were com-

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

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

The machine wirelessly trans-

mitted this information to an

off-site accomplice, who then

sent details of the winning hand

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.

a bronze with a commanding 8-1 win over Mexican wrestler Edna Jimenez Villalba.

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