

Mumbai calling

Actor Kubbra Sait reveals she left her corporate job at a tech MNC to chase her dreams in Bollywood

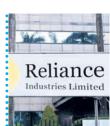
LEISURE | P2



Drilling in Alaska

Trump administration opening up more drilling in an Alaskan wildlife refuge that was restricted under the Biden admin

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Reliance, Meta JV

Reliance Intelligence Ltd is forming a JV with a Meta subsidiary to market and distribute enterprise AI in India

BUSINESS | P11



The Ro-Ko show

Opener Rohit Sharma strikes an unbeaten century, Virat Kohli scores a fighting half-ton as India defeat Australia by nine wickets

SPORTS | P12

SEVERE CYCLONIC

STORM TO CROSS

AP COAST OCT 28

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:

The Odisha government

Saturday said it has acti-

vated its disaster readi-

ness model in view of an

impending severe cyclonic

PNN & AGENCIES

12 PAGES+SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 204 I www.orissapost.com

Indore man stalks, molests Australian women cricketers

New Delhi, Oct 25: In a shocking incident that has sparked global outrage, two Australian women cricketers were allegedly molested and "touched inappropriately" by a biker in Indore Thursday morning while they were walking to a nearby cafe.

The incident, which happened during the ongoing Women's World Cup, has sparked a storm on social media and led to strong criticism from international media concerning women's safety in India.

Cricket Australia confirmed the disturbing incident in an official statement, saying, "CA can confirm two members of the Australian Women's team were approached and touched inappropriately by a motorcyclist while walking to a cafe in Indore.

The matter was reported by team security to police, who are handling the matter."

According to police, the incident took place around 11 am near Khajrana Road. The suspect, Ageel Khan, allegedly followed two players on his motorcycle, inappropriately touched one of them, and then fled the scene. Swift coordination between the Australian team's security officer Danny Simmons and local police resulted in a quick investigation. CCTV footage, eyewitness testimonies, and hotel records helped trace and arrest the suspect within 24 hours.

Officials revealed that Khan has criminal antecedents and cases registered against him. An FIR was filed under Section 74 (use of criminal force to outrage a woman's modesty) and Section 78 (stalking) of the BNS.



INDO-JAPANESE COLLAB: Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel during the harbour phase of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise 'JAIMEX 25'

storm (SCS) likely to cross neighbouring Andhra Pradesh coast October 28, officials said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has is sued the pre-cyclone watch for South Odisha coasts and said the state was likely to witness heavy rain for

three days from October 27 as a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression. In its 5.30 PM bulletin, the IMD said the depression moved nearly westwards and lay centred around 970 km southeast of Kakinada

(Andhra Pradesh) and 1,030 km south-southeast of Go palpur (Odisha). 'It is likely to move nearly west-northwestwards, intensify into a deep de-

pression by October 26 and into a cyclonic storm over southwest and adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal by October 27 morning, it said, adding that there after, it is likely to move northwestwards, north-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cy clonic storm by morning of October 28.

"Continuing to move north-northwestwards, it is very likely to cross Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam around Kakinada during evening/night of October 28 as a severe cyclon ic storm with a maximum sustained wind speed of 110 kmph," the IMD said. P3

Veteran actor

Satish Shah dies

Mumbai, Oct 25: Veteran Hindi film actor Satish Shah, whose very presence in films such as "Jaane Bhi

Do Yaaron" and "Main Hoon Na" and sitcom "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai" elicited smiles and many a laugh, has died. He was 74. The ever amiable Shah passed away at his residence in Bandra East in the afternoon, Ramesh Kadatala, his trusted aide and personal assistant for over 30 years, told PTI.

Born June 25, 1951, Shah was a prominent figure in Indian cinema and television. In a career spanninf several decades, he earned acclaim for his comedic timing in numerous movies. MORE P2

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It's full of misplaced and misspelt words, and missing phrases. Seems like a clarification from the EC

B-MAAN to make state aviation hub of east

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The state Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved five major proposals during its 29th meeting held at the Lok Seva Bhawan, Saturday.

During the meeting, five proposals from four departments were discussed and approved, reflecting the state government's focus on inclusive development across agriculture, aviation, animal resources, urban transport, and social welfare, said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

The Cabinet approved the Building & Management of Aviation Assets and Network (B-MAAN) umbrella scheme under the Commerce & Transport department with a total outlay of ₹4,182 crore for five years (2025-30). Aimed at positioning Odisha as a leading aviation hub in eastern India, the scheme covers airport infrastructure development, air connectivity through Viability Gap Funding, establishment of MRO facilities, promotion of emerging technologies like drones and e-VTOL aircraft, air cargo development, skill-building in aviation, and institutional



strengthening of the Directorate of Aviation.

The Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment department received the Cabinet approval for the continuation of the Crop Diversification Programme for three more years (2025-26 to 2027-28) with an estimated outlay of ₹1,523.98 crore. First introduced during Kharif 2021, the programme aims to diversify upland and medium land paddy areas into non-paddy crops, promote indigenous aromatic rice, manage rice fallow areas, and enhance soil health. Over the next three years, 11.5 lakh hectares of rice fallow areas and 1.95 lakh hectares of upland and medium land paddy areas will be diverted to high-value crops, benefiting farmers across all 30 districts of the state.

From the Fisheries &Animal Resources department, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Small Animal Development sub-scheme under the State

Sector "Prani Sampad Samruddhi Yojana (PSSY)" for four years (2025-26 to 2028-29) with a budget of ₹294.36 crore. The initiative targets 23,735 farmers and WSHGs, aiming to boost meat production by 12.25 TMT annually through goat, sheep,

and pig farming. The Housing & Urban Development department received approval for two major initiatives: the Procurement. Operation & Maintenance of 200 Midi Electric Buses at a total outlay of ₹9,52,56,00,000 for 10 years, and the "Aahaar" scheme with an outlay of ₹512 crore over five years (2025-26 to 2029-30). The electric bus project will enhance urban transport in six major cities, improve charging and depot infrastructure, and reduce urban pollution, while the Aahaar scheme will provide subsidised meals with increased government support, ensuring uninterrupted service to beneficiaries

500 days of Mohan Majhi govt

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: As the BJP government in the state completed its 500 days in office, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday said that his administration has implemented all the promises made by the party in the 2024 Assembly elections.

Majhi, who took oath of office as the first BJP CM of Odisha June 12, 2024, in a statement thanked the people of Odisha for their support and said that keeping promises made to the people is the basic principle of his government.

"Your unwavering support and trust are the foundation



mented all the promises we made as a 'people's government'. Our basic principle is 'keeping our word'; inspired by this mantra, we have set a new and people-centric standard of governance in the state," he said. Listing the achievements

of his government, Majhi said that the farmers of Odisha are now getting ₹3,100

said that though the MSP of paddy is fixed at ₹2,300 per quintal, the state government provides an additional ₹800 as input assistance to farmers. More than 19 lakh farmers

per quintal of paddy as

promised by the party. He

have received a direct benefit of ₹7,411 crore. In addition, 51 lakh farmers have benefited from the CM Kisan Yojana. About one crore women have been provided financial assistance under the Subhadra Yojana, which was launched for women's empowerment, and about 17 lakh women have moved towards financial independence as 'Lakhpati Didis'.

33 projects worth ₹1.46L-cr approved

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The state government Saturday approved 33 investment proposals worth ₹1.46 lakh crore, including Adani Enterprises Limcoal-to-chemical ited's project.

The projects were cleared in the High Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the Single Window Clearance Committee (SLWCA) headed by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

MORE P3

DHARITRI YOUTH **CONCLAVE 2025**

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WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED AT THE **DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE IN NOVEMBER 2025, BHUBANESWAR**

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Long hidden Picasso painting of muse sells for \$37mn

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 25: A vividly hued Picasso portrait of longtime muse and partner Dora Maar that had remained hidden from public view for more than eight decades sold Friday at auction for 32 million euros (about \$37 million), including fees surpassing expectations but far from the artist's most expensive work ever

auctioned. Painted in July 1943, 'Bust of a Woman with a Flowered Hat (Dora Maar)" depicts Maar in a brightly coloured floral hat. Maar, an artist and photographer herself, had been Picasso's partner and muse for about seven years, and the relationship was coming to a painful close. The work

was purchased in 1944 and had not been on the market since, remaining in the family collection.

The painting, part of Picasso's "Woman in a Hat" series, was auctioned at the Drouot auction house in Paris. Auctioneer Christophe Lucien called the final sale, to a buyer in the room, "an enormous success." as well as a very emotional moment. He said the price 32,012,397 euros after adding buyer fees to the 27-million hammer price - was not only well above estimates but also the highest paid at auction this year for any artwork in France.

Lucien called the painting "a little piece of the story of love" - albeit a bittersweet one - between Picasso and Maar. She was 29 when she



met the artist and quickly became his muse and the model for "Guernica," among other works. He later left her for the younger Francoise Gilot and she died at 89, having lived an increasingly reclusive life.

leaving her. At a preview this week, Picasso specialist Agnès Theirs "was not a very Sevestre-Barbé marvelled simple story," Lucien said, at how vivid the portrait

came at the end of it. "You

see that she was contain-

ing tears because she un-

derstood that Picasso was

has remained. "We have a painting that is exactly as it was when it left the studio," she said. "It wasn't varnished, which means we have all its raw material, all of it. It's a painting where you can feel all the colours, the entire chromatic range." "It's a painting that

speaks for itself," she added. "You just have to look at it - it's full of expression, and you can see all of Picasso's genius."

Auctioneer Lucien said before the sale that the work was of huge interest across the globe. "It's being talked about in all the world capitals with a strong art market, from the United States to Asia, and of course through all the major European markets," he said.

eisure



DREW BARRYMORE'S **REHAB EXPERIENCE**

Hollywood actress Drew Barrymore has spoken about entering a rehabilitation facility at 14 years old, where she was treated for nearly two years, and tagged it as the "best thing that ever happened" to her. Barrymore shared this during a conversation with Mae Martin on The Drew Barrymore Show, reports people.com.

CELINE DION ON HER BIGGEST SUPPORT

Legendary singer-songwriter Celine Dion has called her 15-year-old sons as her biggest support system since she was diagnosed with Stiff Person Syndrome. This comes as it has been revealed that panic buttons have now been installed in their home, reports Mirror.co.uk.



There is all likelihood today of things not shaping up as you desired. It may seem you made all the wrong investments, as the benefits may be very less. However, Ganesha indicates that life is full of unexpected happenings.

TAURUS

You will find it difficult to keep up appearances. Be prepared, says Ganesha. Situations are likely to bring out your inner feelings, your true nature. If someone crosses or confronts you will neither take it lying down, nor be inclined to forget and for give. Maintain your composure and don't allow anyone to hassle or provoke you.

GEMINI

You will be faced with difficult situations and circumstances today. You will become sentimental as a result. You will be able to extricate yourself only when the time is right from these adverse circumstances. You will receive co-oper ation from your colleagues. This will ease some of your burden, says Ganesha.

Today, you are likely to exhibit tremendous patience while dealing with your loved ones. Giving them a patient ear is your way of saying that you care. Some may, however, think otherwise. But that's their problem, says Ganesha. At work, you will make plans and ensure a smooth implementation of those plans.

You will pay attention only to vour work and will not be distracted by other issues today, says Ganesha. People involved in Research and Development related fields will find that their knowledge will come in handy for them today. Steps taken in the right direction will make your task very easy today.

VIRGO

Today is a day to do some hard training and hard think-ing. Ganesha says you will have to exercise both your muscles and vour brain. Hard work will eventually lead to rich rewards. A romantic meeting with your beloved in the evening will put you in high spirits.

Ganesha says that today you should think before spending your money because you know and understand the importance of money. You will not hesitate to spend money on family members and on entertainment. You will be able to meet like-minded peoyour experiences and knowledge.

SCORPIO

It's time to live your dreams. You may just land up in your dream house or drive in a plush car, you once dreamt of. Evening time is spared for family and loved ones, says Ganesha. You may even go shopping to buy object de art for your new cosy corner.

SAGITTARIUS

Fuel those tanks and propel yourself today to meet your targets today. On the business front, the fast buck that you expected might just not materialise. Expect to sail into rough seas in the love journey. Ganesha advises playing the wait-andwatch game in matters of the heart.

CAPRICORN

You are in for an exciting ride, today. Happiness and con tentment will fall in you lap and you'll be delighted with this positive energy, feels Ganesha. Job requirements will keep you occupied as you need to find answers to some complicated questions at the earliest. With rise in your bank-balance and available finance schemes, you can plan to set up your own business venture, also.

AQUARIUS

Be appreciative of the achievements of others as it will inspire them to continue and put their best foot forward. Your amicable approach at work will create friendly environment and motivate your colleagues to perform better. You will be in the good books of everyone, says Ganesha.

PISCES

You are blessed with exceptional grasping power today, and will be able to easily imbibe whatever you see or hear today. You will also be able to speed through your routine tasks. You will be able to concentrate on the tasks you have taken up. Your enhanced sensitivity today could see that special someone's words enter straight into your heart and cause you to fall head-overheels in love with them, says Ganesha.



in Sacred Games, Gully Boy, Farzi and others, is getting nostalgic. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and embarked on an emotional journey back to 2009, the year she left her corporate job at a tech MNC, to chase her dreams in Mumbai. The actress shared a series of throwback pictures. The post also included the pictures from her portfolio

shoot. She also penned a long note in the caption, as

She wrote, "Circa 2009. Somewhere between spreadsheets and dreams, I decided to quit my job at Microsoft and move to Mumbai. Everyone said you needed a "portfolio", yes yes! that mythic ticket to the big city. Mine was shot by a kind photographer in Dubai, Sunith Shyam, right after I'd won Miss Personality at Miss India Worldwide. I remember how proud I felt when I framed this first photo, my first real step towards a life and career I hadn't yet lived. Today, vears later. I tried to change that old frame'

she shared her journey

Kubbra's post struck a chord with fans for its honesty and heart.

The actress was recently seen in The Trial season 2 and made her reality debut with Rise and Fall. She will next appear in Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai. Be your own champion: Gauahar

Gauahar and her

husband, social

media influen-

cer Zaid Darbar, welcomed

their second child together in Sep-

The actress

tember.

recently

shared

striking

new pic-

on her

social

media

where she

highlighted

that she was

back on set work-

ing just 25 days post

her delivery. Khan was

seen donning a stylish black

pantsuit with wide-legged trousers

and a statement white lapel blazer.

The picture was taken from her

appearance on Bigg Boss season

19 during the Weekend Ka Vaar

ture

Mumbai: Actor and Bigg Boss 7 winner Gauahar Khan is setting major fitness goals just two months after welcoming her second baby.

> The actress, who became a mother recently, has started her post-pregnancy fitness routine. She recently shared a video from a

first day back at the gym. In the clip, Gauahar is seen working out with dumbbells dressed in a striped sleeveless top and black leggings. She captioned the video, "Be Your Own Champion: Day 1 in the gym, almost two months postpartum.'

She also tagged her husband Zaid Darbar, stating that his latest song, which released a few days ago, had now become her gym anthem. The video, shared on her social media stories, shows her performing bicep curls and strength training exercises.

Mumbai: Former Miss Universe India-supermodel Vartika Singh is set to make her Bollywood debut with the upcoming courtroom thriller Haq starring Emraan Hashmi and Yami Gautam.

Directed by Suparn Varma,

the film is produced by Junglee Pictures. Haq will have Vartika play a woman who is unpredictable and

emotionally exacting. Varma, known for *The Family Man* and *Rana* Naidu, calls her performance "controlled fire." To prepare, the former beauty queen trained with dialect coaches and worked through impro-

visation-based workshops to understand her character's silences, what Varma calls "the quiet

episode.

Supermodel Vartika makes celluloid debut

> tle, Hag brings Emraan and Yami opposite each other in a case that collides with Singh's character in ways ther expects. Based on Jigna Vora's book Bano: Bharat ki Beti, Haq offers a fictionalised account of the events surrounding the Shah Bano case, a landmark issue that stirred public discourse decades ago and remains relevant in contemporary times. Backed by Junglee Pictures, in association with Insomnia Baweja Studios, Haq releases

Set against the backdrop of a controversial legal bat-

Legend who redefined TV comedy

health issues and passed away Saturday in Mumbai, has left behind a legacy of laughter, wit, and an unparalleled contribution to Indian television and cinema.

career spanned Shah's over four decades wherein he worked in theatre, films, and television. Born on June 25, 1951, in Bombay (now Mumbai), his sharp timing and nuanced performances in acting quickly caught the attention of industry insiders. He made his film debut with supporting roles in Hindi cinema during the late 1970s and 1980s.

While Satish Shah appeared in several films, his portray-

PEANUTS

HEY, MANAGER, IT'S

TOO HOT TO PLAY

BALL TODAY!

al of Indravadan Sarabhai in Sarabhai vs Sarabhai (2004-2006) cemented his status as a television icon. The show, a sophisticated comedy set in Mumbai, revolved around the quirks of the Sarabhai family. Indravadan's sarcastic wit and playful banter, along with the quirks of other charascters became a defining aspect of its

HAVE YOU LOOKED

AT YOUR PITCHER'S

MOUND LATELY?

ning for two seasons, charm.

fondly remember his oneliners, impeccable timing, and the effortless wav he brought humour to everyday situations. The show, though initially run-

> became a cultural phenomenon, with Satish Shah's performance continuing to resonate with audiences years later. Saitsh Shah's Indravadan is a popular subject of memes

POST

SATISH SHAH (1951 - 2025)

media. Beyond television, his filmography includes several memorable characters. From comic roles in films like Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro to supporting performances in movies such as *Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin*, he had a unique ability to inhabit every role with authenticity.

He was last seen on screen in Humshakals in 2014. Throughout his career, he won several accolades including three Indian Television Academy Awards for Sarabhai vs Sarabhai alone.

Fans and colleagues of the veteran artist have taken to social media to express their grief, sharing anecdotes and tributes that celebrate his humour, kindness, and legacy

SUDOKU

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

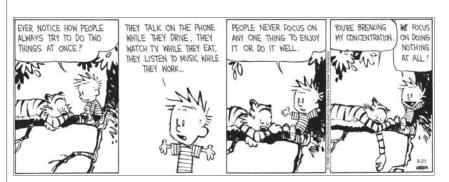
2 8 5 4 3 4 1 9 4 5 4 6 3 2 4 3 5 2 8 4 8

CALVIN AND HOBBES

STOP COMPLAINING!

YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE

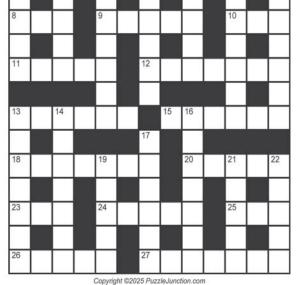
OUT ON THE DESERT!



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Across

starter

15 Snub

20 Modify

1 Wet blanket

5 Knight mare? 8 Convent dweller

9 Kangaroo kids 10 Easy mark

11 Swagger 12 Philanders 13 Plaster of Paris

18 Timepiece of old

Down

2 Recluse 3 Martial art

1 Picture cards

5 Rope fibre

4 Rates of return

23 Venom carrier

24 English race

25 Curling surface

place

27 Methods

17 Trousers

26 Cheque recipient 14 Impressive

19 Publicist's concern

21 Old hat 22 Flightless birds

6 Resulting

7 Sediment

13 Illumination of

16 Simple shelters

yore (3,4)

array

(4-3)

SUDOKU

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS ODOURLESS

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown/state

Angul, Oct 25: Authorities Friday reportedly tried to disrupt a prolonged protest staged by the displaced villagers demanding permanent jobs and opposing the halt on general recruitment at NALCO in Angul district.

The administration demolished a temporary shed erected by the protesters, sparking tension in front of the district According to reports, mem-

bers of the 'Khyatigrasta Praja Sangha' (association of affected villagers) had been demonstrating near the left gate of the Angul Collector's Office for the past 283 days. They had built a temporary shed to continue their protest, but officials pulled it down without any

Additional Tehsildar Prasant Singh, Sadar RI Sachindra Machindra Sahu, and several other officials arrived at the site and oversaw the demolition. Leaders of the Khyatigrasta Praja Sangha, includ-



ing its president Dibyaranjan Das, secretary Sashank Sekhar Samal, and members Dhananjay Behera and Jayanta Naik, strongly opposed the move, leading to a heated situation

Police patrol teams soon arrived to pacify the crowd, but tension prevailed for some time. When contacted, Additional Tehsildar Singh

said the shed had posed safety risks and resulted in several minor accidents. "We acted on the directions of the Collector and the Sub-Collector,

Meanwhile, the protesters led by Dibyaranjan Das have warned that if the demolished shed is not rebuilt, the Khvatigrasta Praja Sangha will in-

Man jailed after son testifies against him

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Oct 25: A local court handed down one-year imprisonment to a man after his son testified against him in

The convict was identified as Jama Praska of Prarthibeda under Kalyansinghpur police limits in Rayagada. His son Manoj Praska appeared in the court and recorded his statement accusing his father of threatening to kill the villagers. SDJM (First Class) Barsha Das pronounced the verdict Saturday. The case dates back to July 27, 2025 when villagers filed a complaint at Kalyansinghpur PS alleging that Praska had abused, assaulted and threatened to kill several residents. Based on the complaint, police registered a case and launched a probe.

After probe, police arrested Praska and produced him in the court. During the trial, the judge recorded the statements of 14 witnesses, including Praska's son, Manoj Praska.

Based on a complaint lodged

by the victim's father, police

registered a case under rele-

Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act,

and apprehended the accused

duo. "They are being interro-

gated," said the police, adding

that they will be sent to Dis-

trict Headquarters Hospital

District Child Welfare

Committee (CWC) has been

directed to provide neces-

sary care and counselling to

the survivor.

for medical examination.

33 industrial projects worth ₹1.46L-cr okayed

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The state government Saturday approved Rs 1.46 lakh crore worth 33 industrial projects with a potential to generate 66,000 employment opportunities in Odisha.

While the 42nd High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved Rs 1,41,993.54 crore worth 12 investment proposals with a potential to generate 49,745 employment opportunities, the 141st Single Window Committee, led by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuia, approved Rs 4.019.53 crore worth 21 investments projects. creating 16,590 jobs.

The project approval meetings marked the completion of 500 days in office by the BJP government in the state.

On the occasion, Majhi said, These 500 days reflect a confident, progressive, and investment-ready Odisha. The trust shown by investors from across India and abroad highlights the strength of our policies, the speed of governance, and our vision for a self-reliant and developed state."

The approved projects cover a wide range of sectors like IT & ESDM, aerospace & defence, textiles & apparel, food processing, tourism, green energy equipment, IT & ITES, data centre, specialty steel, aluminium, power & renewable energy, green hydrogen & ammonia, chemicals, semiconductors, and rare earth materials.

"Investments have been strategically spread across 14 key districts – Angul, Bolangir, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Khurda, Puri, Sambalpur and Sundargarh, ensuring balanced industrialisation and

inclusive regional growth, according to a statement by the Industries department.

These initiatives will boost industrial growth, create more skilled jobs, and support sustainable development across Odisha. "They will also help strengthen the state's position as a leading destination for both Indian and global investors. With a proactive approach, the state government is promoting industries, improving infrastructure, and focusing on employment and sustainability. These efforts are driving Odisha's rapid progress and making it an important contributor to India's overall growth and development," it said.

The HLCA approved Adani Enterprises Limited's proposal to set up a coal to chemical unit in Sundargarh with an investment of Rs 84,000 crore, creating 36,000 jobs.

Jindal India Power Limited is set to establish an ultra supercritical coal-based thermal power plant in Angul. With an investment of Rs 14,800 crore, the unit has a potential to generate 1,060 employment opportunities.

aluminium plant in Sambalpur with an investment of Rs 10,517, creating 1,169 jobs. ACME Akshay Energy Pri-

vate Limited will set up a green

tries Limited will set up an

methanol manufacturing fa cility in Kendrapara. With an investment of Rs 12,422 crore, the facility would generate 1.136 jobs. Among other HLCA-approved projects was ACME

Akshay Energy Private Limited's plan for a green ammonia manufacturing facility (capacity increase) in Kendrapara. With an investment of Rs 2,344.50 crore, the initiative will provide 152 jobs. The Single Window Com-

mittee, on the other hand, approved NLC India Limited's proposal for an emerging excellence and research centre in Khurda with an investment of Rs 70 crore, creating 290 jobs.

Among other Single Window Committee approvals was Re liance Consumer's proposal to set up a biscuit, carbonated soft drink, juice and confectionary plant in Khurda. With an in vestment of Rs 938 crore, the facility is expected to provide jobs to over 600 individuals

2 tribal girls gangraped in Mayurbhanj

Baripada, Oct 25: Two tribal girls were allegedly gangraped by five men in Mayurbhanj district when they were returning home along with their friends, police said Saturday. incident happened

Wednesday night but came to light after a complaint was lodged by their parents at the Rasgovindpur police station Friday, they said. The girls, aged 13 and 14,

had gone to a nearby village along with two boys to see a 'jatra' or theatre. While returning home, some young men intercepted their motorcycle and took the girls away after assaulting their friends, police said. The girls, who are students

of Classes VIII and IX, were allegedly raped by the five men,



Puri: Odisha Police Saturday arrested two persons for allegedly gangraping a minor girl, who happens to be their

vantage of the absence of her parents, allegedly entered the house, tied up her elder sister, and took turns to rape the mi-

in Odisha. "The horrifying sta-

present BJP government in

Missing youth found dead

Sambalpur, Oct 25: The body of a youth was found in the power channel of Burla Hydro Electric Project Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Sourabh Sambit Tripathy (22), a resident of Mahalaxminagar in Bolangir. He was a budding mountaineer.

Sourabh had been reportedly missing from VIMSAR, Burla since October 22.

According to police reports, the deceased had admitted his ailing mother to VIMSAR for treatment of a critical illness. However, he went missing from the hospital premises Wednesday night under mysterious circumstances. Before disappearing, he reportedly sent a message to his mother expressing his love for her and his father.

"I love you both father and

mother. I am ending my life by jumping in to the canal. I am not taking any money with me. You can check my wallet and my bag," his message read, creating suspicion that he might have

Police said three persons

have been detained in connec-

tion with the incident, while

a search is underway for the

A case was lodged under

various sections of the BNS

and the Protection of Children

from Sexual Offences (POCSO)

The Opposition BJD claimed

that in the last 16 months, over

5.000 women have been raped

died by suicide. Following his disappearance, Sourabh's family lodged a missing complaint at Burla police station. Acting on the complaint and the content of the message. Burla police checked all the surveillance cameras on the streets. Upon finding him heading towards the power channel, the police and fire services personnel launched an extensive search operation Friday and found his body in the power channel in nearby Chipilima. An unnatural death case has been registered by the police in this matter. The exact cause of his death will be clear only after the autopsy report, police said.

vant sections of the Bharativa Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Protection of Children from

niece, in Puri district, an of-According to Puri Police,

the victim's parents had gone to attend the immersion ceremony of Goddess Kali at Biragobindpur Dakshin Bhoi Sahi under Chandanpur Police Station October 23 when the incident occurred. The accused duo took ad-

tistic reflects the deteriorating condition of women under the the state," BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said.

State fully prepared to tackle cyclone: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The pared to face the impending cyclone brewing in the Bay of Bengal that is likely to impact the state. This was stated by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari during a review meeting on cyclone preparedness, Saturday.

The meeting chaired by the minister was also attended by Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh and Collectors of likely affected

Briefing reporters after the meeting at Rajiv Bhawan here, Pujari said that according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Bhubaneswar.

the system over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a deep depression. Though its exact path is yet to be confirmed, it is expected to bring heavy rainfall over south and coastal Odisha between October 27 and 29, af-

fecting around 15 districts. He assured that the state government has taken all precautionary measures based on past experiences. NDRF, ODRAF and Fire Services teams have been kept on alert. Coordination has been established among key departments including Agriculture, Water Resources, Energy, Panchavati Raj. Health, Cooperation, Rural Development and Animal Resources. Vulnerable low-lying areas have been identified, and cyclone shelters have been equipped with food, drinking

water, cattle feed and essential medicines. Evacuation will be carried out if required.

Pujari also informed that the government is equally focused on protecting both life and property, with special attention to possible landslides and urban flooding. He urged people to remain in touch with official updates and avoid panic. The SRC advised the public

to rely only on government-issued information, assuring that continuous updates on the cyclone will be provided through all official channels.

Meanwhile, Director of Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar Manorama Mohanty said red warning of rains and wind has been issued in certain districts of southern

and coastal districts for Octo-While red alert (rainfall of 20

cm and above) has been issued for Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayaga da, Koraput and Malkangiri, or ange warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall of 12 cm to 20 cm has been issued for Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur October 28.

Similarly, for October 29, the IMD issued red warning for Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri and orange warning for Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal Boudh, Bolangir and Nuapada Nine other districts have been identified under yellow warning area where rainfall of 7 cm to 11 cm is likely to occur, she said

Vigyan Ratna for late astrophysicist J Narlikar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: India's most celebrated astrophysicist Javant Narlikar, who passed away in May, was Saturday selected for Vigyan Ratna Pu-

Narlikar challenged the Big Bang theory, which states that the universe was created in a single moment. He, along with British astronomer Fred Hoyle, proposed that the universe had always existed with continuous creation of new matter into infinity

Narlikar died May 20 at the age of 86. Modelled on Padma awards, Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is the country's top science award. The winners for 2025, the second edition of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, were announced on the website of the national awards -awards.gov.in -- Saturday.

The government also announced eight Vigyan Shri, 14 Vigyan Yuva and one Vigyan Team awards. Noted ag-



riculture scientist Gyanendra Pratap Singh, popularly known as the wheat breeder, won the Vigyan Shri award for his contribution to the field of Agricultural Science.

Yusuf Mohammad Seikh, Director of the physics group of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, won the Vigvan Shri for his contribution to the field of Atomic Energy

K Thangaraj of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology has won the award in the field of Biological Sciences and Pradeep Thalappil of IIT-Madras bagged the Vigyan Shri The government also announced eight Vigyan Shri, 14 **Vigyan Yuva and one Vigyan Team awards**

in the field of Chemistry.

Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit, Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Chemical Technology, was awarded the Vigyan Shri in the field of Engineering Sciences and S Venkata Mohan, Director of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, won the award in the field of Environmental Science.

Mahan Maharaj, a monk of the Ramakrishna Order and Professor of Mathematics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), won the Vigyan Shri in the field of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Jayan N of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre has been selected for his contribution to Space Science and Technology.

The 14 Vigyan Yuva awardees are: Jagdis Gupta Kapuganti (Agricultural Science), Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia (Agricultural Science), Debarka Sengupta (Biological Sciences), Deepa Agashe (Biological Sciences), Dibyendu Das (Chemistry), Waliur Rahaman (Earth Science), Arkaprava Basu (Engineering Sciences), Sabyasachi Mukherjee (Mathematics and Computer Science), Shweta Prem Agrawal (Mathematics and Computer Science), Suresh Kumar (Medicine), Amit Kumar Agarwal (Physics), Surhud Shrikant More (Physics), Ankur Garg (Space Science and Technology), and Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam (Technology and Innovation).

The CSIR Aroma Mission Team, which heralded the 'Lavender Mission' in Jammu and Kashmir, won the Vigyan Team award.

No scuffle during Kali puja immersion in Cuttack: CP

Cuttack, Oct 25: Twin City Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh has dismissed reports of a scuffle between security personnel and members of a Kali Puja committee during immersion in Cuttack.

Reports in a section of the media had stated that a few members of Bakhrabad Puja Committee were beaten up by on-duty security personnel without any provocation when the procession was moving through Chandni Chowk area of the Millennium City. Singh said there is no truth in such reports.

'No scuffle took place and no tension prevails in the area. The immersion procession continues normally," Singh said Friday evening.

Nearly 50 platoons (1,500 security personnel), including jawans of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), have



been deployed for the immersion processions in the city to maintain law and order, police

Earlier this month, several people, including a deputy commissioner of police, were injured after clashes broke out between two groups during a Durga Puja idol immersion procession in Cuttack Meanwhile, a court in Cut-

tack granted bail to 22 out of over 31 people arrested in connection with the clashes October 4 and 5. They were granted bail Thursday and released from jail Friday.

OrissaPOST

BJP govt anti-tribal, anti-SC: Congress

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The Odisha Congress Saturday accused the BJP government of being anti-tribal and anti-Scheduled Caste (SC), claiming that lakhs of job cardholders from these communities are being denied employment under the MGNREGA scheme.

Addressing a press conference at Congress Bhawan here,

.ASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I Ajit Kumar Panigrahi, Legally father of Army No. of 14665214X, Rank - Hav, Name Mousumi Panigrahi, Unit - FRI HQ. CIF. U, Force presently residing at Vill/PO - Khaparpada, PS - Dhusuri, Dist -Bhadrak, Odisha, Pin -756116 have changed my daughter's name from MOUSUMI PANIGRAMI to MOUSUMI PANIGRAHI vide affidavit No. 2114 dated 17.10.2025 sworn before Notary Bhadrak.

I Ajit Kumar Panigrahi, Legally Husband of Army No. of 14665214X, Rank - Hav, Name Priyadarshni Panigrahi, Unit - FRI. HQ. CIF. U, Force presently residing at Vill/PO - Khaparpada, PS - Dhusuri, Dist -Bhadrak, Odisha, Pin - 756116 have changed my wife's name from PRIYADHARSHANI PANIGRAHI to **PRIYADARSHNI** PANIGRAHI vide affidavit No. 2120 dated 17.10.2025 sworn before Notary Bhadrak.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Koraput, Odisha dated 16.10.2025, Affidavit no. 679/25, I Suchismita Pradhan, Qr No. B/346, Sector-2, NALCO township, Damanjodi, Koraput, Odisha, Pin-763008 declare that I have changed my name from Suchismita Rout to Suchismita Pradhan. Henceforth I shall be known as Suchismita Pradhan for all purposes and my correct date of birth is 15.03.1994.

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Khordha, on dated 22/10/2025 affidavit No.1948, I, Bharati Jagadev, W/o.- Ashok kumar Sahoo, Village -AKS house, Baseli sahi, P.O./P.S./Dist.- Khordha, PIN-752055 declare that as per my aadhar card vide No.- xxxx xxxx 0889 my name has been recorded as Bharati Jagadev, that in the passport of my husband Ashok kumar Sahoo vide passport No.- H2682868 my name has been mentioned as Bharati Sahoo. I do hereby declare that Bharati Jagadev and Bharati Sahoo both the names are related to one and same person.

spokesperson Rajani Kumar Mohanty said that despite promises of rapid development, the double-engine government has failed to deliver even after 16 months in office. Mohanty alleged that MGNREGA funds have been sharply reduced from 2023 to 2025, forcing thousands of poor tribal and SC families into distress migration. "With 52% of job cardholders from trib-

al and SC communities, any cut

in MGNREGA funds directly affects them," he said, noting that only 37 families have received 100 days of work this year.

Congress spokesperson Jayashree Patra demanded the immediate establishment of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency office and warned of a statewide agitation under the OPCC president's leadership if the demand is ignored.

NEET aspirant from Odisha found dead in Kota hostel room



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, Oct 25: A 24-year-old NEET aspirant from Odisha was found dead in his hostel room in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar Saturday, police said.

The deceased student, identified as Roshan Kumar Patro (24), a resident of Abhayapur in Ganjam district, Odisha, had been preparing for the NEET exam at a coaching institute and was staying at a hostel in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar.

The student was found dead in suspicious circumstances around noon Saturday, Jawahar Nagar police station Circle Inspector, Ramlaxman, said, adding that Roshan was found lying on his bed with vomit around his mouth.

He was immediately taken to the hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead after ex-

amination, the officer said. Meanwhile, the FSL team visited the room where the body was found and collected necessary evidence for the investigation.

The reason behind the student's death is yet to be ascertained, the officer said, adding the body has been placed in the mortuary for the post-mortem, which will be conducted after the arrival of his family members, who have been notified of his passing.

Roshan came to Kota in 2025 and resided in room 407 on the fourth floor of the hostel, while his cousin was staying in another room on the fifth floor, the police said.

When Roshan did not show up for lunch at noon, his cousin went to check on him. After receiving no response to repeated calls and knocks on the door, he informed the warden, who unlocked the room with a spare key and discovered Roshan lying on the bed, police stated further.

"The cause of death will become clear only after the post-mortem report and further inquiry into the matter," the circle inspector said



BOOK DONATION: Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde donates books at Book Donation Centre in Cuttack Collectorate, Saturday

OES 44TH FOUNDATION DAY

Call for collective action on environment

Eminent personalities honoured for contributions to environmental conservation and awareness

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: Stressing the urgency of addressing global environmental challenge es, speakers at the 44th Foundation Day and Award Ceremony of the Orissa Environmental Society (OES), held in the city Saturday, called for collective action to protect and preserve nature.

The event was attended by OES working president Jayakrushna Panigrahi, former Police DG and OPSC chairman Satyajit Mohanty, UNDP Odisha head Abha Mishra, and other dignitaries

Mohanty, in his address, highlighted that challenge



pollution, and biodiversity loss pose serious threats to ecological balance. He urged greater public participation in initiatives aimed at preserving environmental quality. Delivering the Prasanna Kumar Dash Memorial Lecture on the theme "Funding

Through Nature-Based Solutions," Mishra emphasised the need to invest in sustainable, nature-based strategies to address and mitigate environmental crises.

On the occasion, several eminent personalities were felicitated for their outstanding contributions. Former Principal of CET (now OUTR) Prof. B. Seetarama Patro received the Lifetime Achieve ment Award for his multifac eted contributions. The Envi ronment Excellence Award was presented to former Director of IMD, Bhubaneswar, Sarat Kumar Sahu, while Ex cellence in Environmental Reporting was conferred on Gopal Krishna Mohapatra,

Other awardees included Nikunja Bihari Sahu, who received the Environment and Science Popularisation Award, and Utkal Ranjan Mohanty, honoured with the Nature Conservation Award

Editor of Prameya.



BALI YATRA PREP: ORMAS stall construction underway at Bali Yatra Lower Ground in Cuttack, Saturday

BPIA DGM held over fake marriage promise

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The Airport Police have taken into custody the Deputy General Manager (DGM) of Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) for allegedly deceiving a woman by promising marriage a case of fraud that has raised serious concerns over personal misconduct within the airport administration.

The accused has been identified as Umakant Patel, while the victim, a resident of Odisha, is employed with a private airline.

According to police reports,

■He illustrated law in

popular culture, referencing

films such as Andha Kanoon.

No One Killed Jessica, and

Damini to demonstrate



Patel was in a relationship with the victim and had established a physical relationship with her under the pretext of marriage. However, he later refused to marry her and allegedly coerced her into undergoing an abortion

Moreover, Patel continued

the relationship while con cealing his marital status. The victim later filed a complaint at the Airport Police Station. Following the complaint, the police took prompt action and arrested Patel under multiple sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"Patel was in a relationship with the victim and kept his marital status hidden. Based on the complaint, we took action arrested him, and registered cases under various sections of BNS," said Airport Police Station IIC Rabindranath Me her. He was later forwarded to court.

Law & literature deeply interlinked: Justice Mishra

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: Law and literature are two distinct and different disciplines but there is an inseparable linkage between the two. Orissa High Court Judge Justice Sibo Sankar Mishra said Saturday.

"Law is an instrument which regulates human conduct and behaviour while literature provides expression to human behaviour which is a representation of law," Justice Mishra said while addressing students and faculty members at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here

Pointing out that literature was often represented through writings, storytelling, paintings and theatre, he said, "Law could be found in literature and vice versa.

Citing the example of eminent novelist Fakir Mohan Senapati's magnum opus 'Chha Maana Atha Guntha', Justice Mishra said that the writer had



exposed before the society how the colonial land laws were being misused during that time.

was

Justice Mishra also referred to novelist Pratibha Ray's famous work 'Yajnaseni', saying the renowned writer had focused on how women were suppressed in the society under the voke of patriarchal laws.

represented through Senapati's story," he

Justice Mishra highlighted the link between law and literature, citing works like Fakir Mohan Senapati's Chha Maana Atha **Guntha and Pratibha Ray's** Yajnaseni to show how literature reflects legal and societal issues

of Venice' also spoke about injustice and prejudices in society while the mythology 'Mahabharat' explained the battle between 'dharma' and ʻadharma'," he said.

SOA Vice-Chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda presided over the programme while SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL) Senior Professor Prabir Patnaik introduced the speaker. Dean (Student Welfare) Jyoti Ranjan Das conducted

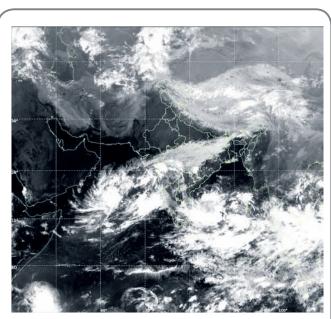
the programme. Referring to the 'Ramayana', Justice Mishra said, "The kidnapping of Sita pointed to the behavioural disorder of a person which was illegal. He was asked to return her but refused and was punished through execution

legal principles and societal justice Justice Mishra also cited the example of a series of old Hindi movies including 'Shree 420', 'Awara' and 'Kanoon', saying the law was sought to be

taught to the society through

cinematic representation in these films. Recalling the story of the famous film 'Andha Kanoon', he said, "The movie made it clear that no person could be punished twice for the same offence. Similarly, the nuances and technicalities of law were the focus of the film 'No One

Killed Jessica'.' dialogue famous 'tarikh pe tarikh' in Hindi film 'Damini' was a reflection of the legal system pointing to delayed justice," Justice Mishra said.



	WEATH	ER .			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST		
Мах Тетр	34.2°	31.8°	Partly cloudy sky		
Min Temp	24.8°	22.8°	with possibility of Rain or		
Humidity	78%	87%	Thunderstorm		
Rainfall	TRACE	Nil			

"Shakespeare's 'Merchant FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT 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.

Villagers guard Baitarani riverbank all night to stop illegal sand mining



Despite the vigil, several trucks reportedly arrived at the site late at night to smuggle sand, leading to a face-off

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi/Keonjhar, Oct 25: Tension is mounting in the Karagola sand ghat area of the Baitarani river under Ambo panchavat and this block in Keonjhar district's Hatadihi block, as illegal sand mining by local mafias continues un-

On Friday night, local residents, along with BJP leader Yajnya Prasad Sahu and others, staged a "sand satyagraha," keeping vigil at the riverbank throughout the night to protest the illegal transportation of sand. Armed with sticks and bamboo poles, villagers guarded the ghat to protect themselves from the mafias.

Despite the protest, several trucks reportedly arrived at the site late at night to smuggle sand, leading to a face-off between the villagers and the sand smugglers. Before the situation could escalate into a violent clash, police reached the spot, forcing the sand smugglers to flee with their vehicles.

Meanwhile, a statement from the district mining officer has sparked further debate. Mining Officer Tarini Singh said residents had earlier submitted complaints against illegal sand transportation, after which deep trenches were dug across the route leading to the sand ghat to block heavy vehicles. However, the mafias later filled up those trenches and resumed their operations.

A formal complaint has been lodged at the Nandipada police station. Despite repeated crackdowns, the sand smugglers continue to challenge the administration, carrying out illegal sand mining and transportation at night as before.

Anandapur Sub-Collector Nilamadhab Suna said steps will be taken after discussions with the mining department regarding the ongoing sand ghat issue.

Anandapur DSP Prasant Behera said local MLA Abhimanyu Sethi had informed

hood of a clash between the two groups at the sand ghat. "After receiving the information, I directed Nandipada police to visit the spot. The police reached there and have been monitoring the situation," Behera said.

BJD MLA Abhimanyu Sethi accused the sand mafia of operating with administrative support. "Without the administration's cooperation, how could these smugglers become so active?" he questioned.

Former Congress MLA Java dev Jena also took to social media to denounce the illegal sand trade.

Notably, sand smugglers recently threatened the Hatadihi tehsildar and mining officials of dire consequences when they tried to inspect the sand ghat. However, details of any subsequent administrative action remain unclear. Even as villagers continue their "sand satyagraha" to protest illegal mining, reports suggest that the sand smugglers remain active at night, posing a serious threat to local residents' safety and livelihood.

Observers have warned that the ongoing sand smuggling might trigger a major law and order situation in the coming

A few years ago, Baishnab Biswal, former sarpanch of Samana panchayat, was murdered in broad daylight over a sand transport dispute. With the mafia growing stronger by the day, questions are now being raised under whose protection they are operating in



STITCH IN TIME: NCC cadets and scouts perform CPR on mannequins at a Basic Disaster Management Training Camp organised by 3rd ODRAF unit, IRBN Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur at NS Police High School in Keonjhar Saturday

Farmer trampled by elephant herd

Bhanjanagar: A 40-year-old farmer, identified as Bikram Nayak of Belatun village, was dragged from his house veranda and trampled to death by a herd of elephants late Friday night. The incident occurred under Mujagada range in the Ghumusar North forest division of Ganjam district sparking panic across the area. Upon learning about the tragedy, Bhanjanagar MLA Pradyumna Kumar Naik directed Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Himanshu Shekhar Mohanty to take immediate action and ensure compensation to the victim's family in accordance with government policy. Following the MLA's instruction, DFO Mohanty, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Vivek Das, and Range Bimbadhar Sahu visited the site and conducted an inquiry. The victim's family was provided with an interim relief amount of ₹1 lakh Saturday. The remaining ₹9 lakh will be disbursed after the final investigation report is completed, said Mohanty. According to forest officials, a herd of four elephants caused extensive crop damage in the Mujagada area Friday night before moving toward Belatuni

CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS

Ganjam on high alert; leaves of all govt officials cancelled

Chhatrapur, Oct 25: An all-department cyclone preparatory meeting, led by the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Pramod Kumar Prusty, was conducted through video conferencing Saturday. The meeting was held in the presence of ADM Debdutta Panda, Chhatrapur Sub-Collector Sibasish Baral, District Emergency Officer Abhishek Sahu and other officials in the district collectorate here.

The IMD has issued orange warning for Ganjam district very heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty wind. Keeping this in view, the sanctioned leaves of all the government employees are cancelled till October 30 and they are instructed to join the duties with immediate effect, said the ADM.

ADM Prusty further said that none of the employees should leave their respective headquarters until normalcy is restored in their areas. The administration has stressed on maintaining zero casualty during the probable cyclone 'Montha'. All the fishermen to the coast and not venture into the sea. About 110 existing multipurpose cyclone/flood shelters and schools have been asked to remain alert.

Dedicated control rooms have been asked to remain functional during this period at all blocks and pancha yats in the district. Besides WhatsApp groups will be cre ated that will include the respective local representatives. ODRAF and fire departments have been advised to remain on high alert by the ADM. Spe cial nodal officers have been appointed for all panchayats

Vig nabs clerk while accepting ₹47K bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, Oct 25: A Jeypore -based independent treasury clerk was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe to facilitate pension and arrear payments, officials said Sat-

Harishchandra Mohapatra, a clerk at the Jeypore settlement office, was apprehended by the Koraput district Vigilance team while taking ₹47.000 from an individual. the Vigilance department said.

According to the report, Bharat Nayak had requested Harishchandra to release arrear and pension payments following the death of Nayak's father-in-law, Rajendra Khara. Nayak's mother-in-law, Premnalini Khara, is currently serving as a pension officer at the Jeypore settlement office.

Harishchandra reportedly demanded half of the arrear and pension funds as a bribe from Bharat. Nayak complied, giving Harishchandra ₹40,000 over four days before approaching the Jeypore Vigilance office to report the de-

Youth electrocuted by live wire laid for poaching; woman hurt

Sunabeda/Semiliguda, Oct 25: A vouth was electrocuted Saturday after coming in contact with a live wire set up as a trap to poach wild animals near the Aligaon coffee farm under the Semiliguda police limits of Koraput district.

The deceased was identified as Sanjay Badnaik, son of Bisu Badnaik of Ghataguda village under Dudhari panchayat in Semiliguda block. A woman from Aligaon also sustained

injuries in the incident.

According to reports, Sanjay and the woman had gone to meet each other near the coffee farm Friday night. Unknown persons

earlier laid a live electric wire in the area to poach wild animals. Sanjay accidentally touched the wire and died on the spot, while the woman suffered injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment. On being informed, Semiliguda IIC Ani-

ta Kujur and his team reached the spot and launched an investigation. The body was sent to Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital in Koraput for post-mortem.

tained two persons from Aligaon for questioning in connection with the incident, Kujur said.

Tent ban in Deomali sparks livelihood crisis

NARENDRA RAUT, OP

Koraput, Oct 25: While Deomali, Odisha's highest peak, continues to attract nature lovers and adventure tourists, it is the effort of local youth entrepreneurs that has significantly boosted tourism in the region in recent years.

However, local youth entrepreneurs say a recent ban on private tent setups has jeopardised both their livelihoods and the tourism growth they helped create.



More than 40 local youths gathered at the District Collector's office Saturday to protest the decision. which they said has left them job-

For years, government initiatives

tourism infrastructure and visitor facilities. In contrast, local youths began offering camping tents, food services, and tourist assistance efforts that quickly turned Deomali into a popular weekend and trekking destination.

'Tourists come because we provide the experience they look for. Without us, visitors only come, take photos, and leave. We have turned Deomali into a night-stay adventure destination," said Siba Majhi, a

young entrepreneur. He added that the group is willing to operate under proper licensing, safety measures, and eco-friendly norms.

The protesters argued that rather

than supporting their contribution to tourism development, the ban has pushed many families into financial hardship and could reduce tourist footfall during the winter season They urged officials to reconsider the ban, saying their efforts are essential to continuing Deomali's tourism growth story.

Tender No. MCSW-Scrap-Dis-25-26-22 NAME OF WORK : DISPOSAL OF ACCUMULATED ZERO VALUE / VERY LOW WASTE INSIDE WORKSHOP PREMISES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR Advertised Value : ₹21,95,826.00 EMD: ₹ 43,900/-, Period of Completion Bidding Start Date: 27.10.2025

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 10.11.2025. Manual offers are not allowed against this ender, and any such manual received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tende

Police have registered a case (135/25) and de-

to promote tourism at Deomali have **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER** RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II. GANJAM. BERHAMPUR

Phone: 0680-2404096, E-Mail: eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in No.O-1112 Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. Online Tender/15/SERWD-II/2025-26 Memo No.7565/RWD-IIGB, Date: 10.10.2025

1 Name of the Work Road Works Rs.50.42 to 58.82 lakhs Estimated Cost 3 Period of Completion 2 (Two) Months as per Annexure Date & Time of 28.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to availability of Bid 01.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M. documents in the Portal ast Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the 01.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M. Portal Superintending Engineer, Rural Name and address of the Works Division-II, Ganjam, Officer Inviting Bid Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement porta tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app

OIPR-25073/11/0035/2526

Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W. Division-II, Ganjam

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING

Email: eerwss_bgh@.nic.in, Ph (O): 06646 233220, FAX: 06646 234626

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. 06 Dt of 2025-26 No.O-1106 : The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites tenders from the valid licensed holder contractors of class 'C' or 'B' registered with any department of State Government or equivalent class of

entral Govt. etc. to be eventually drawn up in P1 Contract Form for the below work as

Construction of Government Quarter for Name of the work Assistant Engineer, RWS&S Section, Ambabhona, under RWS&S Division Bargarh

. Approx. Estimated cost Date and time of availability of

Dt.28.10.2025 to Dt.13.11.2025 up to 5.00

Last date/time for receipt of bids Dt.13.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M

Date & time of Opening of Tender Dt.14.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M

Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Name and address of the Officer Bargarh, District : Bargarh

Inviting Bid urther details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersorissa.gov

in". The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning ny reason thereof. Sd./- Superintending Enginee

OIPR-25018/11/0006/2526 RWS&S Division, Bargarh

Sd./- Managing Director

World record: Ganjam engineer crafts 1.1-mm wooden spoon



Berhampur, Oct 25: A 23-year-old miniature artist from Ganjam district set a new Guinness World Record for crafting the smallest wooden

spoon K Bijay Kumar Reddy, an electrical engineer, crafted a wooden spoon measuring 1.13 mm in length, which can pass through the eye of a

needle. The previous record of the world's smallest wooden spoon, at 1.64 mm, was held by an artist from Bihar. "I received a message about setting the new world record for my miniature sculpture recently," said an excited Reddy. He said that he took

around three months to craft the miniature spoon before sending it to the Guinness World Records in January. "I want to show the world that art knows no boundaries, even the smallest creation can carry a big message," he added.

Reddy, who is wellknown for his chalk sculptures, said crafting the spoon required steady hands, immense patience, and exceptional focus.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR (MAYURBHANJ)** E-mail ID : eerwrairangpur@yahoo.com

nents and corrigendum is available

CRW/Mancheswa

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH-II)

website www.ireps.gov.in

PR-717/Q/25-26

Letter No. // Date.

"e"-Procurement Notice for Road Works Bid Identification No. - RWDRRP- 9-2024-25

. Name of the work: Special repair of bridge and approaches road for the year 25-26, Z. Estimated Cost: From Rs.50.42 to 50.84 akhs, 3. Class of Contractor : "B" Class or relevant Class of works license, 4. Period of Completion : as per annexure calendar months 5. Tender Paper Cost : as per annexure/

The details are as follo	WS:						
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Division, Rairangpur		
		From	To	Clarification	Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
S.E.R.W Division.	RWDRRP- 09/2025-26	27.10.2025	10.11.2025	03.11.2025	11.11.2025	Will be intimated	
Rairangpur		at	up to	up to	Up to	later	
		11.00 A.M.	5.00 P.M.	5.00 P.M.	11.00 A.M.	iales	
Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in							

Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Rairangpur



RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BANSPAL

E-mail: eerwbansapal@gmail.com "e" Procurement Notice for Building Works

Identification No. Road Online NCB - 06/2025-26 Name of the Work: Building Works in the District of Keonjhar for the Year 2025-26, 2. Total Number of Work: 1 No., 3. Estimated Cost: Rs.81.99 lakhs (Approx.), 4. Class of Contractor: B Class, 5. Period of Completion: As per annexure of e-Procurement Notice

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o S.E., R.W. Division, Banspal	
		From	То	seeking Tender Clarification	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending	Road Online	Dt.28.10.2025	Dt.07.11.2025	Dt.06.11.2025	Dt.10.11.2025	Will be intimated
Engineer, Rural Works	NCB No. 06	at 11.00 A.M.	up to 5.00 P.M.	up to 5.00 P.M.	AT 11.00 A.M.	later
Division, Banspal						
Further details can be se	en from the we	ebsite www.ten	derorissa.gov.in			
					Sd./- Supering	ntending Engineer
OIPR-25198/11/0012/25	26				R.W. Div	ision, Banspal



Tel - MD 0674 - 2340573, Email - mdosscltd456@gmail.com **TENDER CALL NOTICE**

in the portal

No-OSSC/Engg-133/2025

No.CAD-2095 : The Managing Director, Odisha State Seeds Corporation Ltd invites the following tenders through ONLINE through e-procurement site of Govt of Odisha www.tenderodisha.gov.in.

Percentage Rate Tenders from eligible Civil works contractors registered under Competent authority of Govt of Odisha

SI	Name of the work	Estimated	EMD	Cost of tender	Completion	Eligibility class		
31	Name of the work	Amt	CIAID	document	period	of Contractors		
	Repair of Flooring of Seed Storage							
1	Godown and creation of office space at	24,73,877.00	24,738.00	6720/-	120	C or above		
	Keonjhar							
The details of location of work, estimated amount regarding construction work along-with cost of Tender Document, EMD and								
other criteria along with critical dates for the above Tenders can be seen in the <i>Detailed Tender Call Notice</i> posted in Website								
of Govt of Odisha <u>www.tenderodisha.gov.in</u> .								

OIPR-01045/11/0112/2526



E-mail ID: <u>eerwrairangpur@yahoo.com</u> Letter No. // Date.

"e"-Procurement Notice for Road Works

Bid Identification No. - RWDRRP- 8/2024-25 1. Name of the work: Special repair to roads and periodical maint for the year 25-26, 2. Estimated Cost: From Rs.6.36 to 49.33 lakhs, 3. Class of Contractor: "D" & "C", "C" & "B" & "B" Class or relevant Class of works license, 4. Period of Completion: as per annexure calendar months, 5. Tender Paper Cost: as per annexure/-

Progurament Officer	Bid Identification No.		ender on-line for ding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Division, Rairangpur Technical Bid & Financial Bid
Procurement Officer		From	То		
1	2	3	4	5	6
S.E.R.W Division, Rairangpur	RWDRRP- 08/2025-26	27.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	07.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	10.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be se	en from the web	site : www.tendersod		Sd./- Er. S. Naik	

OIPR-25107/11/0030/2526 Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Rairangpur



Consciousness, to be sure, is more effective than packets of medicine

THE MOTHER



Mamdani's Miracle

If all goes well, and your columnist is really hoping that it does go well, the world's most famous city will soon be won and run by a man with a Gujarati father and a Punjabi mother. Zohran Mamdani won the Democratic Party's nomination in June and on 4 November will likely win the general election to become New York's mayor.

What I wanted to focus on was his campaign and how he came out on top. In January this year, he was polling at 1% but by June had won 43% of the primary (the election that decides who will represent the Democratic Party in the general) and now polls show him at 50% in an expanded electorate of the entire city. How did this happen? Americans refer to such analysis as punditry and let us indulge in it.

First, take a look at the city's demographics. New York has 350,000 millionaires and 123 billionaires, as might be expected in the place that is host to Wall Street. But one fourth of its population lives in poverty as defined in that city. That definition is that a family of four surviving on \$47,000 or less a year. That is a total of more than 20 lakh New Yorkers.

Mamdani's starting point in his campaign was to focus on this problem of affordability. This went against conventional wisdom and poll-

ing, which showed that crime and safety were top priorities for voters. Mamdani's rivals focussed on those, but he took up affordability and made it his plank. He then offered three primary solutions: a four-year rent freeze on rent-stabilized apartments (in which 20 lakh tenants live); free childcare for children up to the age of five (something which costs a family around \$22,000 per year if both parents are working); and free buses.

He stayed with this message from the start of his campaign a year ago till now with no change. The second element to his success is the volunteer army that took up his cause. In June these were 50,000 in number of whom 30,000 had participated in knocking on doors, canvassing on the street or making phone calls on his behalf to raise money or sign-up volunteers. By the end of October, this is likely to be just under double.

This is a staggering number and can be explained by two things. The base comes from Mamdani's political home, the New York branch of the Democratic Socialists of America. This is a group that began participating in elections only a decade ago, but has seen success because it is laser-focussed on issues affecting working class people. Mamdani's campaign greatly expanded the number of volunteers that the DSA deployed in previous elections. His campaign team of youngsters (he is 34 and many of his team are younger than he is) most of whom had little experience in managing something of this size have turned output the size of the size have turned output the size have the size have turned output the size have th

managing something of this size have turned out to be more competent and effective than the usual consultants and strategists.

The third element was the candidate himself. Mamdani is Muslim and openly identifies as being such, in a city where Islamophobia has been an issue, particularly after 9/11. But New York is also a city where 40% of the population was born outside America and has a large Muslim and South Asian population, which has rallied to his cause. As important as this is his ability to attract all sorts of people to-

wards him, including young Jewish New Yorkers, because of his charm and his talent. His dazzling social media output will be studied for years as a model and many months ago, politicians across America were already copying it, most of them badly because they lack Mamdani's ability to make it all look effortless and fun. A happy warrior, as American pundits referred to him.

These three things to my mind are the building blocks of his (fingers crossed) victory come 4 November. I have touched on this in a previous column, but if and when he wins, he will represent a shift in the way many Americans see Israel. Polls consistently now show that the majority of Americans sympathise with Palestinians over Israel because of its practice of apartheid and genocide. But this shift has not been owned in politics because the Israel lobby is powerful and nasty and can kneecap candidates running for office. Mamdani has weathered their sharpest attacks, being called, predictably, a jihadist and bigot and anti-semite and so on. We know this because it was an essential part of his rival's attack on his in the primary.

It continues even now, but has not been as effective as it might have been even just a couple of years ago, because of his courage as much as the appalling behaviour of the Israeli state.

Optimists think that if he is able to government New York competently his campaign and his platform can offer a model for the entire Democratic Party in America. We shall see if that happens, but it is true that there is no other alternative that has been put forward by those inside the party which is as original as Mamdani's and (again fingers crossed) as successful.

What an achievement it will be if a young Gujarati-Punjabi man is able to give the most powerful nation in the world a new direction.

WISDOM CORNER

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned

BUDDHA

Die to everything of yesterday so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigor and passion

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

I find hope in the darkest of days, and focus in the brightest. I do not judge the universe

DALAI LAMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1970: Following an absence of more than three years, American boxer Muhammad Ali returned to the ring, defeating Jerry Quarry; Ali had been barred from fighting after he refused to be inducted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.
- 1979: South Korean President Park Chung Hee was assassinated by his lifelong friend Kim Jae Kyu, head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, who was sentenced to death for his actions.
- 1984: The action thriller The Terminator was released in the United States; hugely successful, it made actor Arnold Schwarzenegger a star and established director James Cameron as a bankable filmmaker.

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

HEAL THE PLANET

n my first day in office as Colombia's president just over 15 years ago, I met with the leaders of four indigenous peoples in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta - the Kogui, Arhuaco, Wiwa, and Kankuamo. As we stood together in the shadow of a magnificent mountain range next to the Caribbean Sea, the wisdom they imparted transformed how I viewed my responsibilities as a leader. It also changed how I saw our collective duty as transitory inhabitants of this increasingly bruised planet. I was given a wooden baton

 a symbol of power –to remind me to strive toward two goals: peace among our citizens after 50 years of conflict, and peace with nature. The indigenous leaders warned me that our relationship with the natural world had been harmed, that nature was angry, and that we would suffer the consequences. Two weeks later, La Niña hit Colombia with devastating floods, and I spent the first two years of my administration supporting those affected and preparing for the next natural disaster.

We now live in a world threatened by shattering storms – both physical and ideological. Just recently, flooding killed at least 1,006 people in Pakistan, with 2.5million reportedly evacuated from Punjab and Sindh, regions that were also hit by colossal flooding in 2022. Disturbing attacks on multilateralism and the post-World War II institutional foundations of human rights are making matters worse. Our entire value system, it seems, is under siege

But asThe Elders (a group of former leaders that I currently chair) recently stated, fatalism and cynicism are never options, no matter how



As climate-driven disasters intensify, the costs are falling hardest on the poor, underscoring the urgent need for a just transition to clean energy and a net-zero-emissions economy.

Although multilateralism is no longer in vogue, it remains the only viable path forward

relentless the crises we face may be. Multilateralism was developed precisely for times like these –to guide us through disagreements and disasters, with no exceptions.

This November, two major summits aimed at tackling global problems will take place. The first is the second World Summit for Social Development. The first such summit 30 years ago brought together an unprecedented number of world leaders, marking a new chapter for multilateralism in the service of human development. The other summit next month, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, will address the existential crisis of global warming.

As president of Colombia, I saw firsthand that when disaster strikes, the poor are always hit the hardest. That is why we created various institutions to coordinate assistance following the 2010 floods. Now, it is essential that all countries take heed of climate warnings and scale up their own resilience and adaptation policies.

A timely new report from

researchers at the University of Oxford and the United Nations Development Programme shines a spotlight on this issue. It finds that almost 80% of multi-dimensionally poor people –whose deprivations are measured beyond low incomes – across 108 developing countries, totaling 87 million individuals, live in regions exposed to at least one climate-related hazard (such as extreme heat, drought, flooding, or air pollution).

The report also confirms that people in lower-middle-in-come countries confront more overlapping climate hazards than those in low-income or upper-middle-income countries. And while upper-middle-income countries have relatively fewer poor people, this cohort is still exposed to air pollution and flooding in particular. Such findings underscore the need for a just energy transition.

To that end, Colombia introduced Latin America's first carbon tax in 2016. Now, in the run-up to COP30, The Elders are calling for G20 countries to use their financial advan-

implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework." At COP29 last year, world leaders committed to provide \$300 billion to fund such efforts, even though the total needed is closer to \$1.3 trillion. Given the size of this gap, we welcome the International Court of Justice's recent advisory opinion ruling that states are legally responsible for climate harms, particularly those caused by the fossil-fuel industry

With the Planetary Health Check warning of accelerating deterioration and the growing risk of reaching dangerous tipping points, we urgently need to improve our understanding of where and how both the planet and its people are suffering. That means reinvigorating efforts to support the interconnected agendas of climate action and poverty reduction.

When I left office in 2018, I met again with the indigenous leaders who had entrusted their hopes to me. I tried to return the baton. But to my surprise, they asked me to keep it, and then articulated a new principle that the international community would do well to consider. They spoke of the spiritual bond between humans and nature: nothing can be taken without first asking for permission and giving something in return. We break this bond at our peril. Today, many connections are broken - between peoples and between humans and the planet. Our task in the years ahead is to restore them.

The writer, a former president of Colombia, is Chair of The Elders and received the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM

Juan Manuel Santos

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ACHIEVEMENT

- BETWEEN

BETWEEN

AGRICULTURE

Big farm promises, small farmers' pain



Dhurjati Mukherjee

RENEWED
EFFORTS ARE
NECESSARY
TO MAKE
AGRICULTURE
REMUNERATIVE
BY PROMOTING
CASH CROPS, AND
AGRO-BASED
INDUSTRIES

"India will never compromise with the interests of the farmers, livestock holders and fishermen. And I know that I will have to personally pay a very heavy price for this, but I am ready," said Prime Minister Modi recently. Agriculture sustains around 46 percent of Indian population and employs over 46 percent of workers, but it generates less than a fifth of the GDP and thus priority to agriculture and agro-based industries is quite natural.

The Opposition promptly recalled and criticised the Modi government's three farm laws, highlighting police actions and negative campaigns against protesting farmers. with over 750 reported deaths. While Modi's claim of personal loss to protect farmers was unclear, officials linked his remarks to resisting the US demands for zero-duty market access for American agricultural and dairy products, which India has consistently opposed.

opposed.
An important development in the sector is the very recent launch of two mega central schemes with a total outlay of ₹35,440 crore to transform 100 low-performing agri-districts and increase productivity of pulses to reduce imports.

These are highly significant, specially the first one as the country's productivity needs to be improved by focusing on the low productivity regions. These include PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana with an outlay of ₹34,000 crore and Mission for Self-Sufficiency in Pulses with an outlay of ₹11,440 crore.

Meanwhile, the National Mission on Natural Farming with an outlay of ₹2481 crore aimed at promoting sustainable farming on 750,000 hectares of land and increasing the income of 10 million farmers, according to government officials. The central government will be contributing ₹1584 crore towards the scheme with states accounting for ₹897 crore.

Despite all efforts, the overall scenario in the sector does not look quite encouraging. There is no doubt that farmers are poor and experts suggest the government must come forward to free them from the voke of subsistence farming. Fragmentation of farm size as also lack of modernisation of agriculture has come in the way of increase in output while the failure of industry to create jobs has led to more people being dependent on agriculture.

However, questions remain regarding the government's actions to modernise agriculture, provide training to farmers for diversification into value-added crops, extend additional financial support for such initiatives, and enhance overall productivity.

After crossing western Uttar Pradesh into Bihar and West Bengal, the Indo-Gangetic plain has productive areas but faces high rural poverty. Rising temperatures have already reduced yields, especially for small farmers in Eastern India, and even prosperous regions like Punjab and Haryana may see declines. This could lead to a drop in overall food supplies soon. Nutritious foods such as vegetables, fruits, pulses, dairy, and millets should remain affordable and accessible.

Two aspects that need to be given special attention are diversification of food crops where the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has a big role to play though at the sub-divisional and block levels its presence is not evident. Training of small and marginal farmers, especially in the interior and backward regions, and giving them seeds and other inputs and technical knowledge to diversify crops

and earn better returns, which should have been taken up in right earnest, is virtually ab-

Another aspect is market-

ing, which included recent developments such as the Centre releasing a draft national policy framework on agriculture marketing. The framework recommends that states transition to a unified national market for agricultural products through a single licensing or registration system and a single fee.

Increasing farm income is indeed a great challenge for the country and the policy makers must sincerely look into the matter. The small and marginal farmers are in great distress, and this can't be allowed to continue for long, if agriculture must contribute in a bigger way to GDP. Renewed efforts are necessary to make agriculture remunerative by promoting cash crops, setting up peasant cooperatives and agro-based industries.

Considering the opportunities in agriculture, agrobased industries, and export potential, the government, in cooperation with state governments and agricultural experts, may develop an action plan to address these issues.

etters

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

ROKO show in Sidney

Sir, Has anyone dreamt that Rohit Sharma would claim the man of the match and man of the series award in the concluded ODI against Australia? While there were memes on Kohli by joining him in the band of most number of zeros scored by Indian players and Virat proved his comeback at the right time. ROKO silenced the critics and proved that the form is temporary and class is permanent. Indeed, one can't ask for a convincing victory than this from team India after losing out in the first 2 ODIs. It was yet another classic ton from Rohit Sharma to equal the records of Sachin Tendulkar by scoring the 9th one against the Aussies. It was a fairytale finish orchestrated by two legends of Indian Cricket. Incidentally, this is India's first ODI win at the Sydney Cricket Ground since 2016. Kudos to India for a spectacular win. ROKO showed their class. The performance once again endorsed why the crowd love and respect this pair as the invincible one in world cricket..

A.P. Thiruvadi, CHENNAI

Adieu ad icon

Sir, Leaving behind iconic advertisements, jingles and lyrics that tug a chord in every Indian heart, Piyush Pandey the advertising legend has passed away creating a void that can never be filled. Pandey redefined the Indian advertising world with his brilliant ads that was very much Indian - blended with Indian life, its wit, humour, emotion and flavour. He took ads to the global stage showcasing Indian creativity and culture at its best. Simple but powerful narratives made his ads worth watchable and memorable. His penchant for writing memorable and mesmerising lyrics came through the song - Mile sur mera tumhara (1988), a patriotic video song promoting national integration and unity in diversity. A recipient of the CLIO Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 he became the first advertising professional in India to be honoured with the Padma Shri.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

OrissaPOST

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110003, Dated: As per e-Sign

(Forest Conservation Division)

Government of India

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),

Government of Odisha

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 23.80 ha of forest land (as per Sabik records as on 25.10.1980) including 2.240 ha of forest land in safety zone area for chromite ore mining of Kalarangiatta Chromite Mines by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR Ltd.) in Cuttack Forest Division coming under jurisdiction of Sukinda Tehsil of Jajpur District, Odisha (Online proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/16453/2015). am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No 10F (Cons)-228/2026/13769 dated 27.07.2016 on the above subject seeking prior

approval of the Central Government under 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and additional information submitted by the State Govt. vide letter No. 10F (Cons)-228/2016/17975F&E dated 28.09.2016, vide letter No. 16103 /9F(MG)-368/2016 dated 19.08.2022, vide letter dated 30.12.2022, vide letter No. 25.09.2024 and vide letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0021-2017-3740 dated 13.02.2025 and to sa hat the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section - 3 of the After careful examination of the proposal of the Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee

and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords 'in-principle' approva ınder Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 23.80 ha of forest land (as per Sabik records as on 25.10.1980) including 2.240 ha of forest land in safety zone area for chromite ore mining of Kalarangiatta Chromite Mines by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR Ltd.) in Cuttack Forest Division coming under jurisdiction of Sukinda Tehsil of Jajpur District, Odisha (Online proposal no FP/OR/MIN/16453/2015 subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions: Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged

- The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the
- current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;
- The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Fores Department before issue of the final approval The identified non-forest land for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as PF under Section-29
- of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, before handing over the forest
- The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued; The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with
- the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years. The compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted as identified in Plot No.315 & 318 Khata No. 155 of Village Kerajodi under Kankadahad Tansil of Dhenkanal District, and additional CA over an area of 24 ha of degraded
- forest land identified in Dolia RF of Mahabirod Range of Dhenkanal Forest Division shall be raised at the project cost and afforestation works shall start within two years from the date of final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India toposheet of 1:50,000 scale

The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal

from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Write Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC (Pt.) dated 29.12.2023 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;

additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;

At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the

CC before final approval:

- The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation w.e.f. 31.12.2016 with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
- Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the
- account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/); User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF &CC before grant or
- The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal along with GPS lds and all other requisite details prior to Stage II approval; Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of Stage-I approval
- the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department; Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soi erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;

Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from

- Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles
- Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
- User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates

with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the. State Forest Department

up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;

- Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken
- The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms; The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall undertake to take up works for construction and cleaning of garland drains, stabilizing
- retaining walls, proper terracing of OB dumps and checking gully formation resulting in soil erosion The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall maintain that plants which are having lowest translocation factor can be preferred
- under afforestation on the OB dumps and fruit trees to be avoided in planting during biological stabilization of OB dumps Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond diverted area and also to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities:
- 12. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall made all possible efforts to prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area; 13. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;
- 18. The User Agency shall undertake that the project authority needs to take up works for construction and cleaning of garland drains, 14. The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved 19. The User Agency shall undertake that plants which are having lowest translocation factor can be preferred under afforestation on the

plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF &

- The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department; 16. Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DEO: 17. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree
- felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department; 18. User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting
- and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project; 19. A site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared by the State Government in consultation with the PCCF (Wildlife) for the protection and conservation of wildlife of the area. A copy of approved plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of the conditions

tress are to be cleared in this project. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area

- on 'inprinciple' approval. Entire cost of implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be deposited into the account State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest
- Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land proposed to be diverted as per the provisions of the Rule 11 (7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evanr Samvardhan) Rules, 2023; The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent
- reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report or implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct
- 22. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner, Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended time to time and the Rules framed there-

that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;

the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

- 24. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required; No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and
- 26. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS 27. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used
- for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government
- 29. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused; 30. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned
- Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly: 31. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest o

34. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).

DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.

Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi Guard File.

User Agency.

- conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; 32. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s)
- pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be
- taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.
- After receipt of the complete compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval

s granted by the Central Government in this regard. Yours faithfully. Sd./- (Suneet Bhardwaj) Assistant Inspector General of Forests Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bag Road, New Delhi - 110003, Dated: 03-10-2025

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), Government of Odisha

Bhubaneswar.

forest land to the UA;

Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 23.80 ha of forest land (as per Sabik records as on 25.10.1980) including 2.240 ha of forest land in safety zone area for chromite ore mining of Kalarangiatta Chromite Mines by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR Ltd.) in Cuttack Forest Division coming under jurisdiction of Sukinda Tehsil of Jajpur District, Odisha (Online proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/16453/2015)

am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letterNo 10F (Cons)-228/2026/13769 dated 27.07.2016 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Afte careful examination of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Adhiniyam, 'inprinciple' approval to the proposal under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even numbe dated 21.03.2025 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance repor in respect of the conditions stipulated in the 'in- principle' approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide lette 18556/9F (MG)-368/2016 dated 06.09.2025, 'final' approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan

Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is hereby accorded for diversion of 23.80 ha of forest land (as per Sabik records as on 25.10.1980)

- ncluding 2.240 ha of forest land in safety zone area for chromite ore mining of Kalarangiatta Chromite Mines by M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR Ltd.) in Cuttack Forest Division coming under jurisdiction of Sukinda Tehsil of Jajpur District, Odisha subject to ulfillment of the following conditions Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged; The State Government shall ensure that the non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation i.e. 24.0
- ha. which has already been mutated and transferred in favour of State Forest Department shall be notified as PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act. 1927 or under the relevant Section (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be before
- handing over the forest land to the User Agency; The State Government shall ensure that the compensatory afforestation shall be raised as per the approved plan, and the work of the afforestation shall start within two years from the date of issue of diversion order of the forest land,
- The State Govt. shall ensure that Additional Compensatory Afforestation shall be carried out on the degraded forest land over 24.0 ha of degraded forest land identified in Doha RF of Mahabtrod Range of Dhenkanal Forest Division to accommodate the balance seedlings and the work of the afforestation shall start within two years from the date of issue of diversion order of the forest land;
- The State Government shall ensure that the User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Compensatory levies, if any, realized in future under the extant project, shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-payment module on PARIVESH portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/), into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned, managed by the National Authority
- Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be implemented in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department Mitigation measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream, shall be implemented within a period of two years with effect
 - Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;

from the date of issue of order of diversion of forest land, in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State

- Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance
- Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°; and
- Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be implemented by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines

No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.

its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Fores

User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and

Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;

- Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal along with all other requisite details before handing over the
- The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter Keeping this un view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued,
- 12. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per plan submitted along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval, so as to mitigate the impact of project or

No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;

such tanks/water bodies 13. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department; The State Government shall ensure that the trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining

16. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that

- Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO; 15. The User Agency shall undertake that afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area shall be taken up
- any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department; 17. The provisions of the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented by the State Forest Department from the cost realized from the user agency on pro rata basis;
- OB dumps and fruit trees to be avoided in planting during biological stabilization of OB dumps; 20. The User Agency shall undertake that prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area;
- 21. The User Agency shall undertake that the angle of repose in OB dumps to be maintained to ensure stability and safety; The User Agency shall undertake that vetiver grass can be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump

stabilizing retaining walls, proper terracing of OB dumps and checking gully formation resulting in soil erosion

- The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an
- in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;

annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned

State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated

The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other

areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.

proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed

- in a timely manner: Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease
- The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, i
 - No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project

Ministry's guideline dated 26.12.2024;

without prior approval of the Central Government;

cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall

not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal except the change in land use allowed on the forest land vide

The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person

- 31. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused: 32. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife
- The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evan
- Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023; The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government
- concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly, and The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated

of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and after

Sd./- (S.Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

- 21.03.2025 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency; As per Sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 the State Govt. after receiving the 'Final' approva
 - fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlemen of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion of the forest land. Yours faithfully,

Copy to: The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar The DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.

The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal

User Agency

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evan

national



The government is working to remove regulatory barriers wherever they exist. Rating Point (TRP) guidelines are being formulated. The first round of consultation is complete, feedback has been received, and a second consultation paper will be pub-

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION INFORMATION AND

BOOK ON INDIA-UK TIES LAUNCHED IN LONDON

A new book, The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation by Ashok Tandon, explores India-UK relations from 1947 to the present, highlighting evolving diplomacy and trade, including the recent Free Trade Agreement





a weighing scale is fair or that a packaged dence in trade. Every measure litre, every metre represents the honesty of our markets and the faith of our consumers

PRAMOD SAWANT | CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

The number of medical colleges in the country has gone up from 387 to 819 in the last 11 years



Apart from documenting the traditional chanting of the priests, we need to translate it into a sim-

ple language for the younger generations to understand, in order to keep our shamanistic traditions alive

CHOWNA MEIN | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER. ARUNACHAL PRADESH

SHORT **TAKES**

5 killed as speeding car runs over pedestrians

Agra (UP): A speeding car ran over pedestrians, killing five people and leaving two injured in Agra, police said Saturday. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Shesh Mani Upadhyay said that the five critically injured individuals were rushed to Sarojini Naidu Medical College on Friday night, where doctors pronounced all five dead upon arrival. The deceased have been identified as Babli (33), Bhanu Pratap (25), Kamal (23), Krish (20), and Bantesh (21). Bhanu Pratap worked as a parcel delivery agent for a private company, police said.The accident occurred in the New Agra police station area, near Nagla Budhi, ahead of the Central Hindi Institute

1 dead, several ill after eating spoiled offerings

Hathras (UP): A woman died, and about a dozen villagers, including children, fell seriously ill after consuming temple offerings (prasad) in a village under the Sikandrarao police station area, police said Saturday, According to local sources, residents had placed several boxes of sweets at a temple on the village outskirts as a festive ritual. Devotees distributed the sweets among themselves Thursday. Soon after consuming them. 12 to 15 people started experiencing severe stomach pain, vomiting, and diarrhoea, the sources said. One of the victims, Munni Devi (55), succumbed to the ailment Saturday morning, police said.

Suspected Maoist killed in encounter

Kokrajhar: A suspected Maoist, allegedly involved in a recent IED blast on a railway track in Assam's Kokrajhar district, was killed in a police encounter here, officials said Saturday. Addressing a press conference here, Kokrajhar SP Pushpraj Singh said the encounter took place during an operation in Nadanguri, which was launched to trace militants behind the blast in Kokrajhar Thursday. "We got information that a few militants were hiding in the area. When police reached the spot, they opened fire. When our personnel retaliated, they fled. Upon searching the place, we found one injured militant, who was taken to hospital. He was subsequently declared dead," Singh said. From the encounter location, one pistol, two grenades, a voter card and an Aadhaar card were recovered, the

Farooq Abdullah, BJP reject allegations of 'fixed match'

The ruling NC won three seats Friday, while the BIP managed one in the first Rajya Sabha elections held in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union territory in 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 25: The National Conference and the BJP Saturday rejected allegations that the Rajya Sabha polls were a "fixed match", with NC president Farooq Abdullah saying his party had rejected an offer from the BJP and had preferred a contest.

Abdullah also denied the charge by People's Conference chief and MLA from Handwara, Sajad Lone, that the NC had "gifted" seven votes to the BJP.

The ruling NC won three seats Friday, while the BJP managed one in the first Rajya Sabha elections held in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union territory in 2019.

J&K BJP president Sat Sharma defeated NC candidate Imran Nabi Dar by securing 32 votes.

"Had we gifted it, then how did our fourth candidate secure 21 votes? We did not give any gift. They (BJP) had come to us (saving) -- let there not be an election and we (NC) take three and give them (BJP) one. We said no, we will contest and it will be decided on the ground," Abdullah said while replying



to queries from reporters.

He expressed gratitude to the Congress and the PDP for supporting NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha polls, and also asserted all his party MLAs were united and the BJP could not break even one of them.

"All MLAs of our party remained united; they could not break even one. There were some media reports that we are not united, but we remained united. We are thankful to Mehbooba (Mufti) ji's party (PDP), Congress party and those independents, including Langate and Shopian MLAs, and others who supported us," he said.

When asked whether the PDP had supported the NC, Abdullah said, "Yes, PDP supported us".

"I am thankful to them, I thank Mehbooba ji," he said.

He said while it was a matter of happiness that NC's three candidates won the election, it is "regretful" that the fourth candidate could not win because some MLAs "backtracked" from their promise

"He got 21 votes but could not win because some people did not keep the promise they had made," he added

He downplayed allegations of a "fixed match" between the NC and the BJP.

"Allegations were made even against our Prophet, and we are nothing in comparison to him. Allegations will continue to be levelled and we have to fight them," the former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K said.

Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma said they are thankful to the seven legislators who "rejected" NC and supported the BJP candidate.

"We do not know them, but one thing is clear that they have rejected the NC government and served them a warning. We welcome these seven legislators because the BJP bagged the seat because of them. There may be more like them who are not happy with the government," he said.

Yamuna cleaner ahead of Chhath: Delhi water min; AAP rejects claim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Delhi Water Minister Parvesh Verma Saturday said the Yamuna river's water quality ahead of Chhath was better than last year, citing data on faecal coliform bacteria.

Verma, in a joint press conference with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, slammed the opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), whose leaders are targeting the BJP government over Yamuna pollution during the Chhath festival.

Verma said the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DP CC) collected Yamuna water samples October 9 and October 20 from eight points, including Palla, Wazirabad Barrage, Okhla Barrage, ITO, and Yamuna Canal, among others.

The faecal coliform bacteria concentration in the Yamuna has come down to 7,900 units per 100 ml at Nizamuddin this year, from 11 lakh units per 100 ml last year, Verma said.

The count similarly dipped over the year from 920 to 600 at Palla, from 16,000 to 800 at Wazirabad, and from 35,000 to 7,000 at ITO, he said. "They (the opposition) are baffled because our government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, is doing a lot of work, and women are praising the preparations being made for the celebration of Chhath," the minister said. According to Verma, water

samples collected from ISBT also showed improvement with the bacterial count down to 8,000 this year from 28,000 in 2024. It dropped to 7,900 from 11 lakh

at Nizamuddin, to 2,700 from 18 lakh at Okhla, and to 1,600 from 22 lakh at Agra Canal, he said.

"AAP leaders, including its Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj, are raising the issue of Yamuna pollution, while the truth is that no DPCC reports on it were published during the AAP government's rule," he al-

EC to roll out first phase of all-India SIR next week



The poll authority is likely to announce the first phase of SIR middle of next week, in which as many as '10 to 15 states' would be included

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The Election Commission is likely to roll out the first of pan-India Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list next week beginning with "10 to 15 states", including those going to polls next year, officials said Saturday. Assam. Tamil

Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal will to polls in 2026 and they are amongst the states where the voters' list cleanup exercise will begin first. The poll authority is likely to

announce the first phase of SIR middle of next week, in which as many as "10 to 15 states" would be included, officials said.

The EC will not hold the electoral roll cleanup exercise in states where local body elections are taking place or are due, as the grassroots poll machinery is busy with it and may not be able to focus on SIR, they said The SIR in such states will be

held in later phases.

The voters' list cleanup exercise has concluded in Bihar where the final list with nearly

7.42 crore names was published September 30.

Biahr will go to polls in two phases, November 6 and November 11, and the counting will take place November 14.

The Commission has already held two conferences with state chief electoral officers (CEOs) to firm up the SIR rollout roadmap. Several CEOs have already put the voter lists published after their last SIR on their websites.

The website of the Delhi CEC has the 2008 voter list when the last intensive revision took place in the national capital.

In Uttarakhand, the last SIR took place in 2006, and that year's electoral roll is now on the state CEO website. The last SIR in states will

serve as the cut-off date, just as the 2003 voter list of Bihar was used by the EC for intensive revision. Most states had the last SIR of the voter list between 2002 and 2004. Most have nearly completed the mapping of current electors with the voters according to the last SIR held in their respective states or Union territories.

The primary aim of the SIR is to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth.

The move assumes signif

icance in the wake of a crack down in various states on illegal migrants, including from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

SNIPPETS

SC to hear suo motu case on digital arrest victims Oct 27

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear

a suo motu matter on victims of digital arrest who are defrauded by using forged documents October 27. According to the anex court's cause list, the suo motu petition titled "In Re: victims of digital arrest related to forged documents" will come up for hearing before a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi Monday, While hearing the matter October 17, the top court observed that, prima facie, a stern action on a pan-India basis with coordinated efforts between the Central and state police was required to unearth the full extent of the criminal enterprise involving forgery of judicial documents, cyber extortion and cyber arrest of innocent people, especially senior citizens. It sought responses from the Centre, the CBI and others in the matter, saving such offences strike at the "very foundation" of public trust in the judicial system.

SC to hear suo motu case pertaining to stray dogs Oct 27

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a suo motu case relating to stray dogs October 27. The apex court had August 22 expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and directed that all states and Union Territories be made parties in the matter. As per the cause list of October 27 uploaded on the top court's website, the matter will be heard by a three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria. Besides the suo motu case, four separate pleas related to the issue are also listed for hearing. In its order passed August 22, the apex court had modified its earlier direction prohibiting the release of vaccinated stray dogs from pounds in Delhi-NCR, calling it "too harsh" and ordered the canines to be released post sterilisation and de-worming.

Delhi HC orders removal of AI-generated fake video against Udaipur's Taj Lake Palace

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has ordered removal of an Al-generated video which claimed that guests were poisoned by employees of hotel Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur. The court said it was of the prima facie opinion that the contents of the video were false. "This court finds merit in the submission of the plaintiff (The Indian Hotels Company Ltd) that circulation of such a false video directly infringes upon the plaintiff's reputation and grossly misrepresents the plaintiff's property Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur before the public," Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said in an order passed October 15. The court passed the interim order on a suit filed by Tata Group's Indian Hotels Company Limited which runs and operates hotel brand Tail





Members of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR) and other organisations raise slogans during a rally in protest against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, in Kolkata, West Bengal, Saturday

Acid attack survivor gets ₹5 lakh 'relief' after 28 years

The victim received ₹1 lakh as compensation from the Centre last year, and ₹4 lakh from the

Uttar Pradesh government this month, nearly three decades after she was attacked October 28, 1997, when she was 15 years old

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shahjahanpur (UP), Oct 25: Twenty-eight years after an acid attack shattered her life, a 43-year-old woman here has received Rs 5 lakh as compensation, with the NGO supporting her fight for justice vowing to

move the high court seeking Rs 50 lakh as relief.

According to sources, the victim received Rs 1 lakh as compensation from the Centre last year, and Rs 4 lakh from the Uttar Pradesh government this month, nearly three decades after she was attacked October 28, 1997, when she was 15 years old.

The attacker, Pappu, a resident of the same locality under the Sadar Bazar police station, threw acid on her face after her family called off their proposed marriage. Pappu was arrested within days and sent to jail November 11 that year.

According to Shaheen Malik, founder of the NGO Brave Souls Foundation, the survivor's face was completely disfigured in

the attack.

"The victim has lived through years of pain, surgeries, and trauma. Her father, a

NGO VOWS TO MOVE HC SEEKING ₹50 LAKH

tailor, spent everything he had on her treatment -- around Rs 10 lakh -- and later sought donations before he passed away.

Her mother too died, leaving her alone," she told PTI.

Malik, herself an acid attack survivor, said the organisation took up Jahida's case last year and pursued government authorities seeking financial aid.

"After multiple letters and meetings, the Uttar Pradesh government granted Rs 4 lakh this month, while the Centre had provided Rs 1 lakh," she said.

The survivor continues to undergo therapy to prevent further health complications, including possible cancer in the affected areas, she said.

Criticising the district administration for its inaction despite knowing the survivor's condition, Malik said, "Twenty-eight years of suffering, and she gets only Rs 5 lakh. We will approach the high court seeking Rs 50 lakh in compen-

The survivor, who now lives alone, says she still struggles to rebuild her life.

"My face and life were ruined in one moment. My parents are gone, and my brothers have abandoned me. I just want to

live with dignity," she said.

District probation officer Gaurav Mishra confirmed that financial assistance was provided under the Rani Laxmibai Mahila and Bal Kalyan Yojana, which was launched in 2014.

"The survivor received Rs 4 lakh this financial year and Rs 1 lakh last year," Mishra said. Attempts to contact the dis-

trict magistrate for comments were unsuccessful.

SP said.

national



Rahul baba says that let the infiltrators stay in Bihar. You tell me, should we let the infiltrators stay here? I want to clearly tell Rahul baba that no matter how many rallies you hold to save infiltrators...He can not protect infiltrators by taking out 'Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra'

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

DELHI LAUNCHES 'JAL SANGAM SE JAN SANGAM' CAMPAIGN

Delhi's Education Minister Ashish Sood Saturday launched the "Jal Sangam se Jan Sangam --The Festival of Unity" campaign at the Sonia Vihar Yamuna ghat to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary





Instead of a one-size-fits all policy, the government identified 64,006 vulnerable families and created specific micro-plans for each one's unique needs

PINARAYI VIJAYAN I CHIEF MINISTER, KERALA

In India. very very interesting things are going on. Our Honorable Prime Minister from 2000 onwards is in politics. He is always winning the elections. Earlier, he was Chief Minister of Guiarat, From 2014, 11 vears he is Prime Minister. Now another four years he will be there N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CHIEF MINISTER, ANDHRA PRADESH



in BJP-ruled Indore, Mind, this happens during the double-engine government rule. It has lowered our heads before the entire world KUNAL GHOSH I TMC STATE GENERAL SECRETARY



foreign tourists Vietnam: 1 Crore as big as Vietnam & yet millions

behind in foreign tourists. What is suddenly stopping foreigners from touring India?

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT **TAKES**

Karur stampede: Vijay to meet victims' families

Chennai: Actor-politician

Vijay is likely to meet

families of the Karur stampede victims in Mahabalipuram near here October 27, a month after the tragic incident, a source in the party said. Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam has arranged the meeting at a resort where the party has booked 50 rooms to enable him to personally meet the bereaved families and convey his condolences. "They have arranged a bus for us to reach the venue. Many of us are going," one of the victims' family members told reporters in Karur. As many as 41 people lost their lives and over 60 injured in the stampede that occurred at the TVK meeting addressed by Vijay September 27.

Sabarimala gold theft: **SIT conducts searches**

Pathanamthitta (Kerala): The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the loss of gold from the Sabarimala temple conducted searches at the apartment of prime accused Unnikrishnan Potty in Bangalore and at a jewellery shop in Ballari, officials said Saturday. Potty was taken to Bangalore as part of the investigation Friday. Sources said the SIT searched the jewellery shop owned by Govardhan. who reportedly funded the gold-plating work of the temple's Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) door frame, which was officially sponsored by Potty, Officials said the SIT seized several gold bars from the iewellery shop. However, it is vet to be confirmed whether the seized gold was extracted from the gold-clad copper plates of the Dwarapalaka (quardian deity) idols that were sent for electroplating in 2019, they added.



INVESTMENTS Congress seeks PAC probe

Congress demands probe after US daily claims LIC invested in Adani securities to help conglomerate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The Congress Saturday demanded that Parliament's Public Accounts Committee investigate the Life Insurance Corporation following a Washington Post report that the public sector company made huge investments in Adani Group's securities after they took a beating in the mar-

However, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) denied the allegations as "false, baseless, and far from the truth".

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh alleged the savings of LIC's 30 crore policyholders were "systematically misused" to benefit the Adani Group.

In a statement, Ramesh said disturbing revelations have just emerged in the media about how the "Modani ioint venture systematically misused the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the savings of its 30 crore policyholders"

The opposition party's attack came after The Washington Post, citing internal documents, reported that Indian officials drafted and pushed through a proposal to invest about ₹33,000 crores of LIC

Delhi-bound Air India

hit; returns to Nagpur

New Delhi, Oct 25: An Air

India plane en route to the na-

tional capital suffered a bird

hit shortly after take off Fri-

day and returned to Nagpur.

The aircraft landed safely,

the airline said in a state-

ment Saturday. Details about

the number of passengers and

the type of aircraft could not

"Flight AI466, operating

be immediately ascertained.

from Nagpur to Delhi, 24 Oc-

tober, experienced a bird-hit

shortly after take-off. The crew

decided to return to Nagpur as

a precautionary measure, as

per standard operating pro-

cedure, for inspection of the

landing safely, the aircraft un-

derwent maintenance checks,

which required extended time

for rectification, resulting in

"Hotel accommodation was

the cancellation of the flight.

provided to the passengers,

and full refunds on cancel-

lation or complimentary re-

scheduling were offered as

opted by them. Alternative

arrangements were made to

fly the passengers to their

destination at the earliest,"

the statement said.

The airline said that after

aircraft," Air India said.

aircraft suffers bird

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Modani joint venture systematically misused the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the savings of its 30 crore policyholders

JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

funds in various Adani Group companies in May 2025.

Markets regulator SEBI cleared the Adani Group of stock manipulation allegations made by US short-seller Hindenburg Research, saying fund transfer between group companies did not fall foul of any regulation. The SEBI probe was initiated after intervention by the Supreme Court.

In a statement posted on X, the LIC said the allegations levelled by the Washington Post that its investment deci-



sions were influenced by external factors are "false, baseless, and far from truth".

"No such document or plan as alleged in the article has ever been prepared by LIC, which creates a roadmap for infusing funds by LIC into Adani group of companies. The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board approved policies after detailed due diligence,' the LIC said.

The Department of Financial Services or any other body does not have any role in such decisions, it said.

LIC has ensured the highest standards of due diligence and all its investment decisions have been undertaken in compliance with extant policies, provisions in the Acts and regulatory guidelines, in the best interest of all its stakeholders, the statement said.

There was no immediate response from the Adani Group on the Congress' allegations. Taking a swipe at the gov-

ernment over the issue, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the real beneficiaries of the government's Direct Benefit Transfer initiative are not the common people of India, but Modi's best friends" "Does the average salaried

middle-class person, who pays every penny of their LIC premium, even know that Modi is using his savings to bail out Adani? Isn't this a breach of trust? Isn't it loot?" Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

The Congress president asked if the Modi government would answer why LIC money was invested in Adani's companies, and ₹33,000 crore was planned to be invested in May 2025.

Even before this, in 2023, despite a more than 32 per cent decline in Adani's shares, why was ₹525 crore of LIC and SBI invested in the Adani FPO, he asked.

'Why is Modi busy filling the pockets of his 'best friend' looting the hard-earned money of 30 crore LIC policyholders?

Techie held, sent to 4-day police custody

MAHA DOCTOR SUICIDE



A team from the Phaltan police arrested Prashant Bankar, one of the two men the doctor had

named in a suicide note written on her palm, from Pune, around 125km from *Satara*, *in the morning*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune/Satara, Oct 25: Police Saturday arrested a software engineer in connection with the alleged suicide of a 28-vear-old woman doctor in Maharashtra's Satara district, an official said.

A team from the Phaltan police arrested Prashant Bankar, one of the two men the doctor had named in a suicide note written on her palm, from Pune, around 125km from Satara, in the morning, he said.

Bankar, accused of mentally harassing the victim and now facing abetment of suicide charge, was later produced before a Satara district court which sent him to police custody for four days, according to the official. The doctor, hailing from

Beed district in the Marathwada region of central Maharashtra and posted at a government hospital in Satara district, was found hanging in a hotel room in Phaltan town Thursday night. In the suicide note written on her palm, she alleged that police sub-inspector (PSI) Gopal Badane raped her on multiple occasions, while Bankar, a software engineer, mentally harassed her.

A case of rape and abetment of suicide was registered Satara district.

According to the police, Bankar is the son of the landlord of the house where the doctor

She had allegedly called him over the phone and chatted with him before ending her life, they said. Sub-inspector Badane, who

is yet to be arrested, was suspended from service after his name came up during the probe, police said. The doctor, meanwhile, was

cremated at her native place in Beed's Wadwani tehsil Friday Her relatives demand capital

punishment for the accused in She complained multiple

times about harassment, but her grievances were not addressed, a relative alleged while talking to a news channel. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve hit out at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the home portfolio, over the doctor's suicide and the name of a police officer cropping up in the case.

"There is a need for women's security more than that of 'Ladki Bahin' (a financial scheme for women from low income families). If people who flourished under the wings of Fadnavis are harassing women in such a manner, then Fad navis has failed as the Home Minister and should resign, Danve wrote on X.

Danve appealed to National Commission for Women chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar to intervene in the case.

BJP MLA Suresh Dhas demanded that an MP who allegedly tried to pressurise the woman doctor be made an accused in the case.

A man takes a selfie with his camels ahead of the 'Pushkar Mela', in Pushkar, Rajasthan, Saturday against the duo in Phaltan in Govt working to shield traditional media amid rapid digitisation: Vaishnaw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 25: The government has planned a series of initiatives to shield the conventional media from the disruptions expected due to rapid digitisation in the sector.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said the government plans to remove the regulatory overhang in the radio industry and Television Rating Point (TRP) reforms.

"The government is working

to remove regulatory barriers wherever they exist," the minister said in an informal interaction with reporters here.

Vaishnaw said the ministry is exploring ways to improve the television rating system to ensure fair revenue to television channels from government advertisements.

"Television Rating Point (TRP) guidelines are being formulated. The first round of consultation is complete, feedback has been received. and a second consultation paper will be published soon,"



the minister said. The government is also

Television Rating Point (TRP) guidelines are being formulated. The first round of consultation is complete, feedback has been received, and a second consultation paper will be published soon

ASHWINI VAISHNAW UNION INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

considering increasing the advertisement rates for print and television media

Vaishnaw said the government is also working on the integration of the Regisimprove coordination across media outreach and regulatory functions. He said the PIB has intensified its outreach efforts issuing backgrounders and

trar of Newspapers for India

(RNI), Central Bureau of Com-

munication (CBC), and Press

Information Bureau (PIB) to

research-based documents on key topics regularly. He said a chatbot for

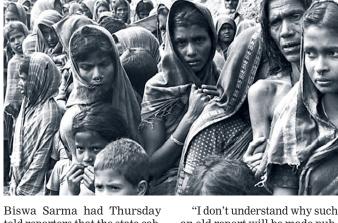
fact-checking is being developed for verifying the authenticity of videos and online content.

Assam govt faces criticism over plan to table 1983 Nellie massacre report

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had Thursday told reporters that the state cabinet decided to table the Tewary **Commission Report** in the next assembly session in November

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 25: Two days after the Assam government announced plans to make public the Tewary Commission Report on the Nellie massacre of 1983, a cross-section of people Saturday voiced apprehension that the move could jeopardise peace among communities.



told reporters that the state cabinet decided to table the Tewary Commission Report in the next

assembly session in November. During the Assam Agitation from 1979 to 1985 against infiltration, over 2,100 people were butchered, mostly Muslims, in

an old report will be made public after almost 43 years of the incident. When the wounds have already healed, why scratch those now? Is it being done to instigate people ahead of the assembly elections?" Leader of the Opposition De-

babrata Saikia told PTI. He said when people are living in harmony in the greater Nellie area, tabling of the report may destabilise the prevailing peace and trust among communities

"It seems the CM is frustrated with people of all castes and religions uniting after

Zubeen Garg's death. ple from all communities are demanding jus-

tice for him and showing allegiance to Garg's ideology,

which was against commu-

nalism," Saikia said. Nellie (in Morigaon) is a cluster of around 16 villages. Asvillages and killed over 2,100 people in a span of about six hours February 18, 1983. The attacked residents pri-

marily belonged to the Bengali-speaking Muslim community whose predecessors had migrated from former **During**

East Bengal from as early as the **Agitation from 1979 to** The As-

sam gov-1985 against infiltration, ernment over 2,100 people were had set up a combutchered, mostly Muslims, mission in a single night in the under the leadership infamous Nellie massacre of TP Tewary July 14,

> 1983. The 551-page report was submitted to

a full-length feature film on the massacre - 'The Nellie Story - opined that bringing out the report at a time when the en tire state is grieving Garg's death is "surprising and disappointing". "The time is not conducive

now. The people are emotionally broken. We expect the government to unearth the truth behind Garg's death in the first place," he said.

Baruah also said tabling and discussing the Tewary report is likely to divert the entire attention from Garg's case.

Against the popular notion of killing only Bengali Muslims in the massacre, ma ny tribal locals also died in the incident in Raha area. I have shown that angle in my film, which surprisingly was not discussed in society," he said.

Chief Minister Himanta

a single night in the infamous Nellie massacre of 1983.

samese Hindus and indigenous tribal neighbours attacked the

the erstwhile Hiteswar Saikia government in May 1984, but never tabled or made public. Parthajit Baruah, who made

the Assam

of 1983

"There is another aspect.

international



gion around Japan, military activities and other actions from our neighbours China, North Korea and Russia are causing

TRUMP'S ASIA TRIP

Southeast Asian foreign ministers held talks Saturday ahead of a landmark ASEAN summit that will formally welcome East Timor as the bloc's 11th member and mark US President Donald Trump's first trip to Asia since returning to the White House



international ingly dominated by

vision rather than dialogue, ASEAN finds itself at a crossroads

MOHAMAD HASAN I FOREIGN MINISTER, MALAYSIA

He's (Russian **President Vladimir** Putin) rejected the opportunity for



not taken by force VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE



of Pakistanis



TAHIR ANDRABI FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESPERSON, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

US sanctions Petro

Washington: The US Friday imposed sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, as President Donald Trump sharply escalated a feud with Washington's longtime Latin American ally over accusations that Petro has refused to stop the flow of cocaine into the United States. Tensions between Washington and many countries in the region have been mounting for weeks. The US military has ratcheted up activity in the southern Caribbean, striking vessels in international waters that it has alleged without evidence are carrying drugs. Trump this week called Petro an "illegal drug leader" after the leftist president accused the US of committing "murder" with the strikes.

Indian nurse jailed

Singapore: An Indian national Singapore premium hospital was sentenced to a year and two months' jail, and two strokes of the cane after he pleaded guilty to a molestation charge, Elipe Siva Nagu, 34, molested a male visitor to the Raffles Hospital in June. after claiming that he wanted to "disinfect" the victim, The Straits Times reported. He was suspended from his nursing duties soon after the offence. The offence caused the victim to have flashbacks of the incident, the court heard. **Deputy Public Prosecutor** Eugene Phua said that the victim was at the hospital in North Bridge Road on June 18 to visit his grandfather, who

PIA resumes UK flights

had been admitted there.

Islamabad: State-run Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Saturday resumed its flight operations to the UK after a five-year suspension following a ban imposed over a fake pilot licence scandal. The "first flight from Islamabad to Manchester since July 2020 departed with 284 passengers" on board in the presence of Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the PIA said. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the UK Civil Aviation Authority had banned PIA flights in 2020 after a tragic air crash in Karachi that left around 100 passengers dead and subsequent revelations by then aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan that a large number of Pakistani pilots held fake licences. While EASA lifted the ban in November last year, the UK removed Pakistan from its Air Safety List in July this year, allowing Pakistani airlines to apply to operate flights in Britain.

Democracy 'alien concept' for Pak, says India at UN The strong of the s

United Nations, Oct 25: Asserting that democracy is an "alien" concept for Pakistan, India has called upon Islamabad to end grave human rights violations in territories under its illegal occupation, where the population is in "open revolt" against military occupation, repression, brutality and exploitation.

Responding to references made by Pakistan's envoy at the UN Security Council's open debate on 'The United Nations Organisation: Looking into the Future' Friday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN. Ambassador Parvathaneni Har-

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir exercise their fundamental rights in accordance with India's time-tested democratic traditions and constitutional framework. We, of course, know that these are concepts alien to Pakistan," he said.

The envoy reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir "has been, is, and will always be" an integral and inalienable part of

Strongly rebuking Islamabad, Harish said, "We call upon Pakistan to end the grave and ongoing human rights violations in the areas illegally occupied by it, where the population is in open revolt against Pakistan's military occupation, repression, brutality and illegal exploitation of resources."

Harish also emphasised that the UN must undertake "real, comprehensive reforms," say-



ing that the 80-year-old Security Council architecture no longer reflects contemporary geopolitical realities

"An outdated Council architecture that mirrors the geopolitical realities of 1945 is not equipped to handle the challenges of 2025," he said, calling for expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories through "time-bound" and "text-based negotiations"

He underlined that the Global South must have a greater voice in global decision-making, adding that "postponing reforms indefinitely does immense disservice to our citizens, especially in the Global South'

"This bloc of countries represents the overwhelming proportion of humanity and has its unique set of challenges, particularly in the areas of development, climate and financing. Harish said, adding that global decision-making must be more democratic and inclusive.

Highlighting India's commitment to multilateralism, he said the world must move

We call upon Pakistan to end the grave and ongoing human rights violations in the areas illegally occupied by it, where the population is in open revolt against Pakistan's military occupation, repression, brutality and illegal exploitation of resources

PARVATHANENI HARISH | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

beyond "pennies and posts" to craft a new vision for the UN that is more agile and responsive to global challenges such as pandemics, terrorism, economic instability, and climate

Harish noted that the world's largest multilateral body faces questions of "relevance, legitimacy, credibility, and efficacy"

He cautioned that international cooperation is increasingly being viewed as charity and that prosperity is being "ring-fenced amid shrinking access to resources and technologies necessary for growth". He said progress that is not universal is "neither sustainable nor tenable in moral terms or on a practical basis"

Harish also called for making UN mechanisms more agile, noting that peacekeepers face "newer challenges every day' and need realistic mandates, adequate resources, and technological support.

"Structural adjustments of different UN bodies are welcome, but not enough," he said, urging that UN80, the 80th anniversary of the organisation, should aim for "real, comprehensive reforms of the UN and its principal organs.



Connolly set to be Ireland's next prez

London: Left-wing independent Catherine Connolly is set to

Ireland's next president after her rival conceded defeat in the country's presidential election Saturday.

Vote counting was still underway but ahead of the official result being declared, Heather Humphreys, of the centre-right party Fine Gael, told reporters that she "wanted to congratulate Catherine Connolly on becoming the next president of Ireland." "Catherine will be a president for all of us and she will be my president, and I really would like to wish her all the very, very best," she said. Polls have suggested consistent and strong voter support for Connolly, 68, over Humphreys, 64, for president, a largely ceremonial role in Ireland.

Trump okays contentious drilling, mining in Alaska

The decision marked the latest development in the long-standing battle over the future of the refuge's coastal plain, a pristine 1.56-million-acre area believed to contain billions of barrels of oil, yet serving as vital habitat for polar bears, caribou, migratory birds, and other wildlife

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 25: US President Donald Trump's administration has authorised oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, effectively disturbing the pristine condition of one of America's largest wildernesses.

During his first term, Trump signed a 2017 tax bill that allowed two oil and gas lease sales in Alaska, but they were later cancelled by Joe Biden during his presidency.

The Interior Ministry Thursday announced plans to hold an oil and gas lease sale during the winter in the coastal plain. The agency also said that it would reinstate the old leases that were approved by the previous Trump administration but cancelled by Biden's government two years later. What's the plan?

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said, "This land should and will be supporting responsible oil and gas leasing.

Burgum also revealed that the Interior Department has finalised an agreement permitting construction of a controversial gravel road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Alaska. He further reaffirmed the agency's plan to approve an industrial road cutting through untouched wilderness to access a proposed copper and zinc mine in northern Alaska

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, designating most of the refuge as wilderness and effectively prohibiting drilling. How ever, congressional Republicans pushed to lift the ban and seized an opportunity in 2017, when they passed a tax bill mandat

ing two lease sales in the coastal

plain by the end of 2024. We will fight this'

The contentious plan has sparked concerns among environmentalists. According to a report by the New York Times Kristen Miller, executive direc tor of the Alaska Wilderness League, said, "We will fight any attempt to industrialise the fragile coastal plain of the Arctic refuge and every option

is on the table." In fact, despite Trump's 'drill, baby drill' spree, major oil companies have shown little interest in setting up bases in Alaska, largely because of the great expense and some concerns about public relations.

Patrick Lavin, an Alaska policy adviser at Defenders of Wildlife, said, "One of the worst things you can do for conserving polar bears is to industrialise their denning habitat."

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit passes away

Bangkok, Oct 25: Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit, who brought glamour and elegance to a postwar revival in the country's monarchy and who, in later years, would occasionally wade into politics, has died aged 93, the Thai Royal Household Bureau said Saturday. Sirikit had been out of the

public eve since a stroke in 2012. The palace said she had been hospitalised since 2019 due to several illnesses and developed a bloodstream infection October 17 before passing away late Friday.

A mourning period of one year has been declared for members of the royal family and household.



The government said public offices would fly flags at halfmast for a month and asked government officials to observe mourning for one year.

STYLE ICON Sirikit's husband, King Sirikit's fashion sense charmed global media

Sirikit supported rural development, revitalised

Death prompts one-year

Bhumibol Adulyadej, was Thailand's longest-reigning monarch, with 70 years on the throne since 1946. She was at his side for much of that, winning over hearts at home with their charity work.

When they travelled abroad, she also charmed the world's media with her beauty and fashion sense.

During a 1960 visit to the

a state dinner at the White House, Time magazine called her "svelte" and "archfeminist." The French daily L'Aurore described her as "ravishing". Born in 1932, the year Thai-

United States that included

land transitioned to a constitutional monarchy from an absolute monarchy, Sirikit Kitiyakara was the daughter of Thailand's ambassador to France and led a life of wealth and privilege

Always stylish, Sirikit collaborated with French couturier Pierre Balmain on eye-catching outfits made from Thai silk. By supporting the preservation of traditional weaving practices, she is credited with helping revitalise Thailand's silk

LOUVRE MUSEUM: THE HEIST AND AFTER

he high-profile heist at the Louvre in Paris October 19, 2025, played out like a scene from a Hollywood movie: a gang of thieves steal an assortment of dazzling royal jewels on display at one of the world's most famous museums.

But with the authorities hot in pursuit, the robbers still have more work to do: How can they capitalise on their haul?

Most stolen works are never found. In the art crime courses, it is often pointed out that the recovery rate is below 10 per cent. This is particularly disturbing when you consider that between 50,000 and 100,000 artworks are stolen each year globally the actual number may be higher due to underreporting - with the majority stolen

That said, it's quite difficult to actually make money off stolen works of art. Yet the types of objects stolen from the Louvre – eight pieces of priceless jewellery - could give these thieves an upper hand.

from Europe.

A narrow market of buyers

Pilfered paintings can't be sold on the art market because thieves can't convey what's known as "good title," the ownership rights that belong to a legal owner. Furthermore, no reputable auction house or dealer would knowingly sell stolen art, nor would responsible collectors purchase stolen property. But that doesn't mean stolen

paintings don't have value.

In 2002, thieves broke into Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum through the roof and departed with "View of the Sea at Scheveningen" and "Congregation Leaving the Reformed Church in Nuenen" in tow.

In 2016, Italian police recovered the relatively unscathed artworks from a Mafia safehouse in Naples. It isn't clear whether the Mafia actually purchased the works, but it's common for criminal syndicates to hold onto valuable assets as collateral of some sort. Van Gogh's 1884-85 oil on

canvas painting 'Congregation Leaving the Reformed Church in Nuenen' was one of two of the artist's works stolen from Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum in 2002. Other times, stolen works

do unwittingly end up in the hands of collectors.



have unique historic and cultural value. But even if each one were broken to bits and sold for parts, they would still be worth a lot of money

Some people do knowingly buy stolen art. After World War II, stolen works circulated on the market, with buyers fully aware of the widespread plunder that had just taken place across Europe.

Jewels and gold easier to monetise

The Louvre theft didn't involve paintings, though. The thieves came away with

bejewelled property: a sapphire diadem; a necklace and single earring from a matching set linked to 19th-century French queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense; an opulent matching set of earrings and a necklace that belonged to Empress Marie-Louise, Napoleon Bonaparte's second wife: a diamond brooch: and Empress Eugénie's diadem and her corsage-bow brooch.

Thieves can peddle the precious gemstones and metals to unscrupulous dealers and jewellers, who could reshape and sell them. Even at a fraction of their value - the price received for looted art is always far lower than that received for legitimately sourced art the gems are worth millions of dollars. While difficult to sell stolen

goods on the legitimate market, there is an underground market for looted artworks. The pieces may be sold in backrooms, in private meetings or even on the dark web, where participants cannot be identified. Studies have also revealed

that stolen – and sometimes forged - art and antiquities often appear on mainstream e-commerce sites like Facebook and eBay. After making a sale, the vendor may delete his or her online store and disappear.

A heist's sensational allure

While films like "The Thomas Crown Affair" feature dramatic heists pulled off by impossibly attractive bandits, most art crimes are far more mundane.

Art theft is usually a crime

of opportunity, and it tends to take place not in the heavily guarded halls of cultural institutions, but in storage units or

while works are in transit. Most large museums and cultural institutions do not display all the objects within their care. Instead, they sit in storage. Less than 10 per cent of the Louvre's collection is ever on display at one time - only about 35,000 of the museum's 600,000 objects. The rest can remain unseen for years, even decades.

According to the FBI, around 90 per cent of museum heists are inside jobs.

The biggest mistake the thieves made wasn't abandoning the crown they dropped or the vest they discarded, essentially leaving clues for the authorities. Rather, it was the brazen nature of the heist itself – one that captured the world's attention, all but ensuring that French detectives, independent sleuths and international law enforcement will be on the lookout for new pieces of gold, gems and royal bling being offered up for sale in the years to come.

Agencies

business



remains committed to strengthening regulations and enforcement mechanisms against unfair trade practices, while simplifying compliance to build a reliable and trustworthy environment for all

The government

HUDCO, JNPA TO COLLABORATE FOR PORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

HUDCO has signed an initial pact with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) to collaborate for port infrastructure projects worth Rs 5,000 crore. In a regulatory filing Friday, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) informed that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JNPA





India's etha-Rs 1,07,580 crore to while saving Rs

foreign exchange by curbing crude



ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAYS MINISTER

India currently operates 164 airports and aims to add approximately 200 more by 2047, but the challenge is

not about constructing airports but about "how to bring in more aircraft to India'

K RAMMOHAN NAIDU | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Kotak Bank profit falls

New Delhi: Kotak Mahindra Bank Saturday reported a 3 per cent decline in standalone profit to Rs 3,253 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The private sector lender had recorded a net profit of Rs 3,344 crore in the same quarter a year ago. The bank's total income increased to Rs 16,239 crore during the quarter under review, from Rs 15,900 crore in the same period last year, Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank earned interest income of Rs 13,649 crore during the quarter, compared to Rs 13,216 crore in the same period a year ago. Net Interest Income (NII) improved to Rs 7,311 crore, from Rs 7,020 crore in the second quarter of the previous year, registering a 4 per cent growth. However, Net Interest Margin (NIM) moderated to 4.54 per cent, from 4.91 per cent at the ena of the secona quarter of the last financial year. The bank reduced gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to 1.39 per cent of gross loans by the end of September 2025, from 1.49 per cent a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans too declined 0.32 per cent, from 0.43 per cent at the end of the second quarter of the previous fiscal. On a consolidated basis, the bank

NCC bags order

reported an 11 per cent

dip in net profit to Rs 4,468

crore, as against Rs 5,044 crore in Q2FY25.

from Coalfields New Delhi: NCC Ltd Saturday said it has bagged a Rs 6,828.94 crore order from Coal India arm Central Coalfields to extract and transport coal and overburden from one of the mining projects in Jharkhand. In a regulatory filing, the company said it has received a letter of acceptance dated October 24 from Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) regarding this. The extraction and transportation of overburden and coal will have to be done from the Amrapali open-cast project of CCL in the Chandragupt area of Jharkhand, NCC said in the regulatory filing. NCC will hire Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) for the removal of 413.59 M CuM of OB (overburden), extraction of 233.325 MT coal and transportation to Shivpur siding and surface stock yard under different lead slabs and wagon loading of 139.995 MT of coal at Shivpur siding at

Amrapali OCP, Chandragupt

Area, the filing said.

RBI draft norms to help banks fund acquisitions



Mumbai, Oct 25: The Reserve Bank Friday came out with draft norms to enable banks to fund acquisitions by Indian companies and raise the loan amount to individuals to purchase shares through IPOs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to implement the rationalised norms from April 1, 2026, a move that will open up more funding avenues for corporates.

The central bank said the draft 'Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Capital Market Exposure) Directions, 2025' seeks to rationalise and consolidate the applicable regulations governing such expo-

The central bank said Capital market exposures (CME) by regulated entities (REs) carry higher risk and are therefore

subject to sectoral exposure limits, purpose-specific lending caps, and loan-to-value (LTV) ratios. It has invited comments on the draft from stakeholders by November 21, 2025

CME includes direct exposures (investments in securities) and indirect exposures (lending against securities, financing to capital market intermediaries like stockbrokers and custodians).

The existing guidelines have been comprehensively reviewed to align with evolving market practices and provide a more enabling framework for bank financing of CME, the draft said.

"Acquisition finance may be extended by banks to Indian corporates for acquiring equity stakes in domestic or foreign companies as strategic investments, i.e. those investments, which are driven by the core objective of creating long-term value for the acquirer through potential synergies, rather than mere financial restructuring for short-term gains," it said.

This has been a long-pending demand of Indian banks. Recently, the State Bank of India Chairman CS Setty also made a strong case for permitting banks to provide funding for mergers and acquisitions, as done by global lenders.

Acquisition finance can be extended directly to the acquiring company, or its step-down special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up specifically for acquiring the target firm, the draft said.

"A bank may finance at most 70 per cent of the acquisition value, with at least 30 per cent of the acquisition value to be funded by the acquiring company in the form of equity using its own funds," it added.

The draft further said banks may grant loans to individuals for subscribing to shares under an initial public offer (IPO), follow-on public offer (FPO), or under an employee stock option plan (ESOP) up to Rs 25 lakh per individual, subject to certain conditions. The current limit is Rs 10 lakh.

"...the loan amount shall not exceed 75 per cent of the subscription value, i.e., borrowers shall contribute a minimum cash margin of 25 per cent," the draft said

A lien should be created on the shares to be allotted under the IPO/FPO/ESOP, and such shares should be pledged to the lender upon allotment, the draft

Investments made with integrity: LIC



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 25: The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Saturday denied reports by The Washington Post, reaffirming all investments are made with integrity and due diligence.

In a rebuttal to the article. LIC said the allegations leveled by The Washington Post that the investment decisions of LIC are influenced by external factors are "false, baseless." and far from truth"

"No such document or plan as alleged in the article has ever been prepared by LJC, which creates a road map for infusing funds by LIC into Adani group of companies," the company said in a statement.

The article had claimed that officials allegedly fast-tracked a proposal in May this year to direct approximately \$3.9 billion in investments from the LIC to an Adani group firm.

LIC said that the investment decisions are taken independently as per Board approved policies after detailed due diligence.

"Department of Financial

Services or any other body does not have any role in such decisions. LIC has ensured highest standards of due diligence and all its investment decisions have been undertaken in compliance with extant policies, provisions in the Acts and regulatory guidelines, in the best interest of all its

in the statement. LIC said that these purported statements in the article "appear to have been made with the intentions to prejudice the well settled decision-making process of LIC and also to tarnish the reputation and image of LIC and the strong financial sector foundations in India".

stakeholders," it further stated

LIC, the country's largest life insurer, reported a 3.91 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in its consolidated net profit for the June quarter of the current financial year (Q1 FY26). The profit rose to Rs

10,957 crore from Rs 10,544 crore recorded in the same period previous year (Q1 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing.

NCLT declines relief to Byjus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 25: The Na tional Company Law Tribunal has declined to grant any interim relief to insolvency-bound edtech firm Byju's, which sought to restrain Aakash Ed ucational Services Ltd (AESL) from convening its extraordi nary general meeting (EGM) for a rights issue.

It rejected Byju's plea to stay the EGM to be held October 29, 2025, observing "acceptance of such plea would lead to an incoherent proposition undermining the independent rights of the company'

"As a shareholder, the Petitioner (Byju's) may validly seek financial documents to be aware of the health of the Respondent No 1 (AESL), but the proposed rights issue infusing funds can not be termed to be unequitable," said the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).



tioned that this is the second pe tition by Think & Learn Pvt Ltd. which operates under the brand name Byju's, filed through its Resolution Professional before the Bengaluru bench of the NCLT on the same issue.

Byju's had requested the proposed EGM to be kept on hold, as the rights issue would reduce its shareholding in Aas kash from 25 per cent to less than 5 per cent.

A two-member bench observed that another petition on a similar issue is pending before it, and detailed arguments are continuing as per the dates scheduled with the consent of the parties. The fact that the petitioner may or may not be able to exercise rights cannot form the basis to assess the efficacy of the

board resolution, said the NCLT "We have considered the rel evant materials without delving further, given the piquant situation, we do not think that the Petitioner (Byju's) should be favoured with the interim order," said the NCLT bench, comprising members Radhakrishna Sreepada and Sunil

The tribunal has directed to list the case for November 12. 2025, when other petitions, on a similar issue, are scheduled for the hearing next month.

Kumar Aggarwal.

"In the meanwhile, let the notice of the petition be issued to the Respondents No 1 to 22 (Aaskash and others)," said the three-page NCLT order passed on October 17. In its petition Byju's has submitted that EGM is in gross violation of the Articles of Association. It is against the order passed by the NCLT on November 19, 2024, as it ignores the participating/veto rights of Think & Learn.

cal revolution, the company's

openness, and continuous ex-

pansion. Each presale mile

stone signifies real adoption

rather than speculative hype.

With verified audits, a clear

roadmap, and ongoing integra-

tions, the project continues to

mature as a long-term ecosys-

tem rather than a short-term

If Ozak AI successfully ex-

ecutes its roadmap and main

tains steady adoption across

AI and DePIN sectors, reach

ing \$1-\$2 per token by 2026 is

within reason. A \$250 invest-

ment today could therefore rep-

resent a potential five-figure

return, reflecting the growing

confidence in decentralized Al

infrastructure as the next fron-

tier of blockchain utility.

token play.

Conclusion

Reliance, Meta announce AI joint venture in India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 25: Reliance Industries on Saturday announced that its subsidiary, Reliance Intelligence Ltd. has established a joint venture with US tech giant Meta's subsidiary to market and distribute enterprise AI in India.

A new company, namely Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL), has been formed as a joint venture with Facebook Overseas, Inc., according to an exchange filing.

The Mukesh Ambani and Mark Zuckerberg-led companies have committed an initial combined investment of around Rs 855 crore in the unit, aimed at "developing, marketing, and distributing enterprise AI services.'

Reliance Intelligence will own 70 per cent of REIL, while Facebook Overseas, Inc., a unit of Meta Platforms, will hold 30 per cent, the filing said.

The partnership will provide an enterprise AI platform-as-aservice, enabling organisations to customise and deploy generative models, along with a suite of pre-configured solutions for industries including sales, marketing, IT operations, customer service, and finance

RIL's AI arm will invest Rs 2 crore towards the initial subscription of 20 million equity shares of Rs 10 each.

The transaction does not fall within related party transaction and none of the company's promoter or promoter group or group companies have any interest in the above transaction. the filing said.

No governmental or regulatory approvals were required for incorporation of REIL, it added.

Reliance announced a joint venture in August that will use Meta's open-source Llama models combined with Reliance's enterprise reach to offer AI tools across sectors.

VIT opens applications for VITEEE 2026

Vellore: Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has announced the opening of online applications for the Vellore Institute of Technology Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) 2026, inviting students across India and abroad to apply for its flagship engineering programs. Candidates can register at the official portal www.viteee.vit.ac.in for admission to VIT campuses located in Vellore, Chennai, Amaravati, and Bhopal. VITEEE 2026 will be conducted in a single phase from April 28 to May 3, 2026. The test will be held across 134 cities in India and at nine international centres, enabling students to choose a location convenient to their place of study or native region. Known for its state-of-the-art infrastructure, strong industry partnerships, and high placement records, VIT continues to be among the most preferred institutions for engineering aspirants in the country.



Jindal Steel wins Rotary India

Jindal Steel has been honoured with the **Rotary India National** CSR Award 2025 (Eastern Region) in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Mega Category for its impactful initiatives

water access and sanitation. The award was presented to Prashant Hota, President and Group Head (CSR & Education)

SNIPPETS

National CSR Award 2025 **Bhubaneswar:**

Jindal Steel, at a ceremony in Kolkata, Wednesday. The event was graced by KP Nagesh, Director, Rotary International, Padma Bhushan awardee Usha Uthup, actor Rituparna Sengupta and other dignitaries. The recognition highlights Jindal Steel's extensive WASH programmes implemented through the Jindal Foundation across Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The initiatives, guided by the vision of Naveen Jindal, Hon'ble MP and Chairman, Jindal Steel, focus on watershed management, groundwater recharge, and community-led sanitation improvements. "We believe that ensuring access to safe water, proper sanitation, and hygienic living is not just a developmental goal but a shared responsibility," saidShallu Jindal, Chairperson, Jindal Foundation. "Through our WASH initiatives, we remain committed to transforming lives and building healthier, more resilient communities across India."

What will \$250 in Ozak AI be worth if the token hits \$1 or \$2 in 2026?

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 25: The rise of Ozak AI (\$OZ) is turning heads in the crypto investment world. Positioned at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and DePIN (Decentralized Physical Infrastructure Network), Ozak AI is not just another blockchain project, it's a pioneering ecosystem that merges AI-powered tools. decentralized computing, and tokenized growth into one seamless model. With investors pouring into

its ongoing presale, the question many are asking is simple: What could a \$250 investment in \$OZ become by 2026 if the token reaches \$1 or even \$2? Presale Momentum and **Investor Interest**

As of the latest presale update, Ozak AI has raised over \$3.97 million, selling more than 964 million tokens at a current price of \$0.012 in Phase 6. The next phase price is set to increase to \$0.014, whereas the target listing price is \$1.00- this signifies a possible steady and natural momentum of the project.

An investment of \$250 at the present presale rate would

worth \$41,666, an impressive the growing ecosystem.

Al Meets DePIN Ozak AI operates on a

centralizes the physical computing layer—ensuring faster, more scalable, and more reliable execution. **Strategic Partnerships**

distribution. Its AI layer man-

ages smart data optimization,

while the DePIN structure de-

Ozak AI's progress has been further energized by a series

ances aimed at deepening the technological footprint and enhancing

the market

position. Through its alli-

The partnership with We-

blume brings Ozak AI's market intelligence to creators and developers via a no-code Web3 builder, enabling real-time AI data integration into dashboards and dApps without technical barriers In collaboration with Me-

ganet, a bandwidth-sharing network with 6.5 million nodes and 77,000+ community members, Ozak AI leverages decentralized compute pow-

er to enhance AI processing speeds and reduce infrastructure costs.

Additionally, strategic tie-up with SINT, a "one-click AI upgrade platform," al-

lows seamless embedding of Ozak AI's real-time market signals into autonomous agents, voice tools, and crosschain systems, enabling intelligent execution across digital ecosystems

The Investor Perspective:

calculating the bullish future

For investors, the attrac-

Ozak AI's presale journey isn't just a sign of investor enthusiasm-it's evidence of a powerful, real-world fusion of AI and decentralized infrastructure that could redefine data, analytics, and compute economics.

gain of more than 8,000 per the same investment would be cent from the present prices. The investors from the first stages (\$0.001) have already profited more than 1100 per cent, which is evidence of the

yield approximately 20,833 \$OZ tokens for the investor. If Ozak AI achieves \$1 in 2026, then the amount of \$250 could escalate

to \$20,833; in case it reaches \$2,

figure. These numbers not only indicate speculative math but also the increasing trust in Ozak AI's basic value and

THE NEW FRONTIER IN CRYPTO PAYRO

unique fusion of AI-powered infrastructure and DePIN architecture, enabling efficient automation, predictive analytics, and decentralized compute of significant alli-**CALCULATING BULLISH**

OUTCOMES

ance with Hive Intel (HIVE), Ozak AI gains access to multichain blockchain data APIs that empower its predictive AI agents to analyze wallet behavior, NFT activity, and DeFi trends in real time. This integration enhances Ozak AI's analytics precision and predictive reliability

tiveness of Ozak AI consists in the mixture of technologi-

Ro-Ko: Sydney showstopper BCCI left red-faced after

Centurion Rohit. Kohli turn back the clock and play vintage knocks as Men in Blue get consolation nine-wicket win over Australia after series loss

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Oct 25: Rohit Sharma struck his 50th international hundred and Virat Kohli played time-bending knock in possibly their last outing in Australia, propelling India to a consolation nine-wicket victory in the third ODI here Saturday.

After Harshit Rana-led bowlers restricted Australia to a below-par 236, Rohit (121 not out) and Kohli (74 not out) stitched a 168-run alliance in just 170 balls for the second wicket to take India to 237 for one in 38.3 overs. Australia won the three-

match series 2-1 but Rohit and Kohli gave the ecstatic Sydney crowd precisely what they wanted, while unfurling archetypal innings and in the process saved the team from an embarrassing whitewash.

Rohit was all fluency and wholehearted shot-making, and Kohli resembled a mathematician solving a puzzle with meticulousness.

Once skipper Shubman Gill returned to the hut after helping his senior partner to milk 69 runs for the opening wicket, Rohit took over the chase in his inimitable manner and went on to produce his 33rd ODI century. He has 12 Test and five T20Is hundreds to his name.

Starting with a couple of silken-smooth drives and flicks off Mitchell Starc, Rohit slipped into his punishing self once Adam Zampa was introduced.

The 38-year-old slog-swept Zampa for a six to nullify Australia's already weakened spin department, and followed it up with a wonderful inside out six over covers off the leg-spinner.

Kohli played trademark preceding successive ducks. But soon Kohli found his

straight drive off Starc for a four after getting off the mark with a single, which he celebrated with a smile and punch. a small atonement for the two

groove, galloping for those quick singles interspersed with occasional boundaries. He made his fifty off 56 balls, soon had his old mate a tight embrace as Rohit went past his

ROHIT SHARMA

We've loved

coming to this

played some

Before the two old boys went about their business in their respective ways, the Indian bowlers led by Rana (4/39) limited the Aussies to a sub-par total.

33rd ODI hundred in 105 balls.

The catch Kohli took at backward point to get rid of Matthew Short off Washington Sundar could be counted among the best reflex catches.

But Shreyas Iyer bettered that effort with a running catch to oust Carey. The wicketkeeper batter tried to loft Rana, but a leading edge took the ball to the opposite direction.

Shreyas hared off from point and covered a fair bit of distance to make a diving catch, though he had to leave the field for medical assessment to know the extent of a left rib cage injury after that.

A couple of cameos down the order took them to 230s, but just enough for Rohit and Kohli to unleash a vintage performance.

The Sydney crowd also had their fill while watching Rohit tinge of sadness in their hearts. They might not get another look at them on these shores. But the last sighting of RoKo was worthy to freeze forever in their memories.

and Kohli, but there will be a

The two teams will now face each other in a five-match T20I series, commencing October 29.

Only Sachin to go: Kohli now 2nd-highest ODI run-scorer

getter in the ODI format. Kohli, who endured a subdued form in the first two ODIs against Australia, broke

the shackles and announced his return on the international stage. The No 3 batter, who is famously known

During the course of his innings, Kohli surpassed Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara's tally of 14,234 runs

(in 404 ODIs) in his 293rd ODI innings. The former India captain is now only behind legendary batter Sachin

Tendulkar, who is sitting at the top of the table with a massive tally of 18,426 runs. However, Kohli boasts a

better average than Tendulkar or any of the top 10 batters in the list. He averages 57.69 in 305 ODIs played

so far, while Tendulkar's average stood at 44.83 in his 463-match ODI career. With Kohli at the fag end of his

career and only playing in the 50-over format, it is likely that the Delhi batter will finish his ODI career as the

as 'Chase Master', hammered his 75th ODI fifty and also completed 2500 runs against Australia in the format.

Indian batting stalwart Virat Kohli Saturday broke another record as he became the second-highest run-

Brief Scores:

Australia 236 all out in 46.4 overs (Matt Renshaw 56, Mitchell Marsh 41, Matthew Short 30, Harshit Rana 4/39, Washington Sundar 2/44, Axar Patel 1/18. Mohammed Siraj 1/24) lost to India 237 for 1 in 38.3 overs (Rohit Sharma 121 not out, Virat Kohli 74 not out).

Oz cricketers molested

This disturbing event has cast a shadow over what has otherwise been a highly competitive Women's ODI World Cup, reigniting international concerns about the safety of women athletes in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Oct 25: The BCCI Saturday strongly condemned the alleged stalking and molestation incident involving two Australian women's team cricketers promising to revisit its safety protocols and further tighten the security ahead of the knock-out stage of the World Cup.

The two players had stepped out of their hotel and were walking towards a café when a man on a motorcycle started following them. He allegedly touched one of them inappropriately and rode off, according to the Sub-Inspector of the area Nidhi Raghuvanshi.

The police have arrested the man involved in the incident that occurred on the Khairana Road area of the city Thursday morning. "It is a very condemnable but stray incident. India is known for its hospitality and care. We have zero tolerance for such incidents. We appreciate the State Police (Madhya Pradesh) for their prompt action to nab the culprit," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement.

"Let the law take its course to



punish the culprit. We assure to revisit our safety protocols if required to further tighten the security," he said.

BCCI vice president Rajiv Shukla also expressed regret over the incident of molestation of Australia's women cricketers after the event unfolded recent ly in Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Commenting on the situation and expressing distress over the matter, Shukla said, "This is a deeply regrettable incident No one could have anticipated something like this, and it should never happen to anyone. While a robust security system is already in place for all visiting teams during the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, we will further strengthen it to ensure such incidents are not repeated. The police have arrested the accused and we trust that the law will take its proper course to deliver justice. We are confident that the remainder of the World Cup will proceed smoothly and safely."

The Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association has also expressed its shock and anguish over the deplorable incident, stating that "no one should ever have to endure such trauma".

The disgraceful incident has triggered global outrage. Following the episode, the Australian team has reportedly been provided with enhanced security measures.

🗄 INDIA VS BANGLADESH 📱 Eves aim to iron out flaws in semis clash

Navi Mumbai: India will have a final opportunity to iron out any flaws, especially while responding to pressure situations, when they face Bangladesh in their final fixture here on Sunday ahead of Women's World Cup semifinals. The winner of Saturday's clash between Australia and South



Africa at Indore will top the points table and subsequently meet India in the semifinal here October 30. A win over Bangladesh will not alter the World Cup hosts' fourth-place finish in the league stage. India can get to a maximum of eight points with triumph over Bangladesh but will remain behind England, who are placed third with nine points and can take that tally to 11 if they defeat New Zealand Sunday.

SHORT **TAKES**

Shriya secures silver

Riffa: India's Shriya Milind Satam Martial Arts (MMA) category at the Asian Youth Games in Manama, Bahrain, Saturday. India have so far won 16 medals. including two gold, six silver and eight bronze medals. Shriya lost the final to Kazakhstan's Amelina Bakiyeva. This was India's second medal in MMA, which made its debut at the Asian Youth Games, following Veer Bhadu's bronze in the boys' 80kg category Friday. India had earlier secured gold medals in both the boys' and girls' kabaddi events.

Shuttlers dominate

Chenadu: Talented shuttlers Diksha Sudhakar and Lakshya Rajesh set up a summit clash to assure India of a gold medal in the girls u-17 category of the Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Championships here Saturday. With top seed Shaina Manimuthu also reaching the girls U-15 final, India will have a chance to bring home two gold medals. The Indian contingent was already assured of five medals ahead of Saturday's semifinal matches.

India edge past SL

Ranchi: India's gold medal rush continued on the second day of the fourth edition of the South Asian Athletics Championships here at Birsa Munda (Morabadi) Stadium Saturday. Home team won as many as seven gold medals on the second day, swelling their medal tally to 12. Sri Lanka trailed in second place with eight gold medals. Neeru Pathak (400m), Sanjana Singh (1500m), Nandhini K (100m hurdles) and Seema (discus throw) were winners of gold medal in the women's group while Arjun Waskale (1500m), Manav R (110m hurdles) and Kirpal Singh (discus throw) were victorious in the men's section.

Kanpur, Oct 25: Odisha gained the upper hand on the opening day of their Ranii Trophy encounter against Uttar Pradesh on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match here. After electing to bat first, Odisha posted a competitive total of 243 runs in 77.1 overs, thanks to valuable contributions from their middle order.

Govinda Poddar anchored the innings with a composed 64 off 109 balls, striking seven boundaries. He was well-supported by debutant Sambit S Baral, who remained fluent during his 59 off 90 balls, and Sandeep Pattanaik, who grafted a patient 53 from 138 deliveries. Late in the innings. Raiesh Mohanty added a brisk 48 off 57 balls, helping Odisha cross the 240-run mark.



second-highest run getter behind his idol Tendulkar.

In response, Uttar Pradesh reached 17 without loss at stumps, with openers Madhav Kaushik (9 not out) and Abhishek Goswami (6 not out) holding firm in the seven overs before close of play. At the end of Day 1, Uttar Pradesh trail by 226 runs, setting the stage for an intriguing battle on Day 2 as they look to build a solid foundation against a disciplined Odisha attack.

Odisha take early advantage Odisha star Pramod on a gold rush

India dominate Australian para badminton meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Victoria (Australia), Oct 25: Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat bagged two gold medals while Sukant Kadam returned with a gold and a silver as India dominated the Australian Para Badminton International 2025, finishing on top of the medals tally.

The Bargarh-born para-badminton player clinched the men's singles SL3 title after defeating compatriot Manoj Sarkar 21-15, 21–17 in the final, before pairing up with Kadam to win the men's doubles SL3–SL4 crown, beating the Indian duo of Umesh Vikram Kumar and Surva Kant Yadav 21-11, 19-21. 21-18.

"I'm really happy to win two gold medals here in Australia. The match against Manoj was



tough, we know each other's game so well, and it's always a challenge when we face off,' Bhagat said. "I'm also very happy for Manoj winning the silver."

Kadam settled for silver in men's singles SL4, going down fighting 21–23, 21–14, 19–21 to Surya Kant.

L'm really happy to win two lia. It's great to see Indian players performing strongly on the international stage PRAMOD BHAGAT | PARALYMPIC CHAMPION

India's fine run continued as Manasi Joshi grabbed two gold medals -- women's singles SL3 and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 with Ruthick Ragupathi. Ruthick also combined with Chirag Baretha to win the men's dou-

In other results, Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sudarshan Muthuswamy took gold and silver in men's doubles SH6, while Yashodhan Ravankole and Dheeraj Saini claimed the men's doubles SU5 gold.

bles SU5 title.

men's HIL matches

Bhubaneswar to host

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Season two of the revived men's Hock ey India League will commence in Chennai on January 3 with a clash between Tamil Nadu Dragons and Hyderabad Toofans, the organisers announced

Saturday. The tournament, scheduled to be held in three legs across three different cities, will culminate January 26 in Bhubaneswar. The women's HIL will begin December 28 this year in Ranchi with the final January 10 next year.

Hockey India said the opening leg of men's HIL, which will be an eight-team affair, will be held in Chennai from January 3-9 at the Mayor Radhakrish nan Hockey Stadium.

Action will then move to Ranchi for the second leg, scheduled from January 11-16 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Stadium before heading to Bhubaneswar for the final leg from 26 January 17-26 at the Kalinga Stadium, which has become the hub of hockey in the last few years.

As per the format, each team will face the others once in a single round-robin format, with the top-four teams advancing to the playoffs. The knockout stage. comprising Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator January 23, followed by Qualifier 2 January 25 - will all take place in Bhubaneswar.

A total of 33 matches will be played in men's HIL, with international stars from more than 10 countries, including Argentina, Belgium, Germa ny, England, Spain, and Australia taking part in the nearly month-long event.

The other teams in the fray are, JSW Soorma Hockey Club defending champions Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, Vedanta Kalinga Lancers, Ranchi Royals, SG Pipers, and HIL Govern-

No Messi magic as Argentina skips Kerala

Fans left waiting for the G.O.A.T as Argentina cancels November visit to the state

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 25: The Messi conundrum surrounding Argentina's much-hyped visit to India has taken a fresh twist, with sponsors confirming that ace footballer Lionel Messi and his team will not be coming to Kerala in November. The clarification came soon after the Argentina Football Association (AFA) announced that the national team would play

only in Angola next month. The confirmation has poured cold water on weeks of excitement in India with fans eagerly awaiting the football G.O.A.T's arrival in the country and both the Kerala government and private sponsors announcing a

high-profile friendly match in Kochi November 17.

According to reports in the Argentine media, AFA officials attributed the cancellation to Kerala's "lack of readiness" and delays in completing logistical arrangements within the agreed timeline.

While organisers have now suggested that the visit may be rescheduled to March 2026. the latest development has once again raised questions about planning, coordination and communication between the stakeholders.

A political controversy has also erupted, with the Con-



This would have been Messi's first match in India since 2011, when he captained Argentina against Venezuela at

Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium, a landmark game that marked his debut as national captain.

For now, the wait for Messi continues and with it, Kerala's hopes of scripting a historic football moment remain in suspense.

With the next likely date of

"lack of readiness" and delays in completing logistical arrangements within the agreed timeline

given the massive local fan base for Argentina and Messi in Kerala and in the country

March 2026 now surfacing, it in April or latest by May.

Hype to heartbreak

According to reports, the cancellation to Kerala's

For Indian fans, the setback is particularly disappointing,

remains to be seen if that is going to be feasible as during that time Kerala and the entire political leadership will be busy with the Assembly polls which in most likelihood will happen

ing Council.

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