

Cyclone: 8 dists in Red Zone

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: The state government Sunday put all 30 districts on alert as the depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a deep depression and is slowly moving towards the east coast, officials said, adding that eight south Odisha districts have been put in Red Zone.

The state will experience very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall October 28 and 29, they said.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the deep depression has been moving north-westward at a speed of 6km per hour over the last six hours. Due to its impact, eight southern Odisha districts — Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, and Nabarangpur — are likely to be the most affected and have been categorized as Red Zone areas. Kakinada and Machilipatnam, where the cyclone is expected to make landfall, are only about 200 km away from Malkangiri.

►Evacuation begins P3



East Timor 11th ASEAN member

Kuala Lumpur: East Timor's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao told leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that it was a "dream realised" for his nation to be admitted to the bloc and an opportunity as it seeks to boost its struggling economy. "Today, history is made," the Prime Minister told the other leaders as the flag of East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, was added to the other 10 on the stage at a formal ceremony in Kuala Lumpur. It was the ASEAN's first expansion since the 1990s and was more than a decade in the making.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



New online game helps imagine life on Earth in 2100

What will the world look like in 2100? This question is central to a new free online game called FutureGuessr. Launched in June 2025, this new form of climate communication combines gameplay with visual climate imagery and encourages players to explore future scenarios.

Players are shown an image from the future and asked to guess the location. Information is revealed about how close they are, what the climate change consequences would be, what will happen if no action is taken and how things could be different.

Available to play in English and French, the game takes inspiration from GeoGuessr, the online geography game that has enabled millions of people to travel virtually from their phone and guess where they are.

FutureGuessr uses pictures to give users a visual representation of how familiar landscapes will look in 2100 as a result of climate change.

FutureGuessr is part of a broader trend in the use of games in climate communication. Creative



RESCUE ACT: The wreckage of a cargo aircraft that skidded off a runway at the Hong Kong International Airport is prepared for removal Sunday

PTI PHOTO

8K zero enrolment schools

West Bengal tops the chart with 3,812 such schools, says Education Ministry data

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 26: Close to 8,000 schools having more than 20,000 teachers across the country had zero enrolments during the 2024-25 academic session, with West Bengal accounting for most such schools, followed by Telangana, according to Union Education Ministry data.

According to the Ministry of Education's statistics, 20,817 teachers were employed in the schools with zero enrolments. In a peculiar case, West Bengal accounted for 17,965 such teachers, along with the highest number of schools without enrolments (3,812).

A total of 7,993 schools had zero enrolments, down by over 5,000 from the previous year's count of 12,954. Haryana, Maharashtra, Goa, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura had no such schools. "School education being a State Subject, states have been advised to address the issue of zero enrolments in schools. Some states have merged some schools for optimum utilisation of resources such as infrastructure as well as staff," a senior official said.

There were no schools with zero enrolment in the UTs of Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu,



Odisha improves tally

According to the Education Ministry data, Odisha has three schools with zero enrolments for 2024-25 academic session. The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report for the session released by the ministry revealed that 76.4 lakh students enrolled in 61,565 schools in the state. As per 2023-24 academic session report, Odisha had eight such schools.

and Chandigarh, according to the data. Delhi also had no schools with zero enrolments.

The second highest number of such schools was in Telangana (2,245), followed by Madhya Pradesh (463). While Telangana had 1,016 teachers employed in these schools, Madhya Pradesh employed 223.

Similarly, Uttar Pradesh had 81

such schools. The Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UP Board) had announced that it is preparing to revoke the recognition of its affiliated schools across the state that have recorded zero student enrolment for the past three consecutive academic years.

The data also revealed that over 33 lakh students across the country are enrolled in more than 1 lakh single-teacher schools, with Andhra Pradesh recording the highest number of these schools, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Lakshadweep.

However, when it comes to student enrolment in schools with a single teacher, UP tops the list, followed by Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh. The number of single-teacher schools decreased from 1,18,190 in 2022-23 to 1,10,971 in 2023-24, recording a drop of around six per cent.

Fake currency racket busted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Binika, Oct 26: Subarnapur Police Sunday arrested three miscreants from Binika area for their alleged involvement in a large-scale counterfeit currency racket and seized 803 pieces of fake 500-rupee notes, officials said.

According to Subarnapur Superintendent of Police (SP) Narayan Nayak, officers received a tip-off about suspects distributing fake currency notes in Phulmuti and Pati Kara Poda villages. Acting on the information, police apprehended Abhishek Hota, 23, and Ashok Nayak, 28, when they were waiting for customers with counterfeit notes.



A third accused, Jay Narayan Bastia, 27, from Rengali under Lachhipur police limits, was also arrested later.

Authorities seized 803 fake currency notes of ₹500 denomination (amounting

Majhi to attend IMW meet in Mumbai today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday left for Mumbai to attend the prestigious India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025 event, scheduled to be held from October 27 to 31.

The CM will participate in the inaugural session Monday as the Guest of Honour and later attend the Odisha Special Session in the afternoon. The session will focus on the state's port-led investment opportunities and its export potential through a robust network of sea ports.

A delegation from the Odisha government has already arrived in Mumbai to attend the summit, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). The delegation will highlight investment opportunities in port-based industries, logistics, fisheries, and maritime technology, reaffirming Odisha's commitment to strengthening India's maritime trade and export ecosystem, it said.



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ARIES



Today, you may want to wear your power suit, says Ganesha. If you notice people bending and bowing a bit, understand that your hard work has paid off! If not, then you need to get more organised. Either way, there's work to be done.

TAURUS



The competitive streak in you might relent today as you look for a lifestyle that is more relaxed and laid-back. The rat race is tiring and you will feel the urge to get away, far from the maddening crowd and the never-ending routine. Matters pertaining to your home may also occupy some of your time today, says Ganesha.

GEMINI



An extremely productive and fulfilling day awaits you. Alongwith your daily routine, you will also concentrate on your household issues. You will feel the need to have someone to call your own. You may find yourself in two minds over things like marriage and partnership. It is a good day to sell something, says Ganesha.

CANCER



An awareness of optimism and idealism will mark your activities this day. You may benefit by traversing from one terrain to another. You will be liberal and generous with ideas; your internal beauty will blossom.

LEO



You are fond of travelling. You will make plans for a trip or a journey and will include your family and friends in your schemes. For those in artistic fields, you will receive critical acclaim. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesha.

VIRGO



It is not the time to rest on your past laurels, and you will have to carry on with your work unabated. You will have to keep your focus steady and remain organised to get the same level of success that you had in the recent past. Ganesha advises you not to neglect your relationships, as they are the cornerstones of your success and tranquillity.

LIBRA



If there's a knock on your door today, there's a very strong possibility it might be a marriage proposal. Don't get startled, and grab opportunities that come knocking (literally!). The stars send you a partner who shall be your match in every way. Have a long and happy married life, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO



You are in a dilemma and feel like standing at a crossroads of life. Some important decisions of life need time and that's what you want right now. However, keep personal life and work separate to avoid confusion and disturbance. As per Ganesha's advice, it's all right if decision making takes some time, but avoid taking hasty decisions.

SAGITTARIUS



The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. A small party at home may see a group of friends and relatives dine together. This may find you in a chatty mood. Ganesha says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN



The day will sail smooth, but your mind will wreak havoc by forcing you to act on the spur of the moment, says Ganesha. However, this will not ruin your reputation with bosses and peers. You may also see some of your dreams come true, but don't fly too high; you may climb up the ladder of success but with every step you leave behind there is always one more to go. Concentrate on your work a little more and the goal will certainly seem closer.

AQUARIUS



Your dream house or car may well be on its way! The stars proclaim that it's a good time to acquire new assets. So bring out those attractive brochures and check out your loan prospects. A perfect way to end an exciting day will be an evening at a quiet temple, says Ganesha.

PISCES



A good day awaits you. You will finish your work and beat your deadlines by miles on account of the luck favouring you. There are chances that a family holiday, which has been in the planning for a long time, will eventually come to fruition today, says Ganesha.



I'D RATHER DIE: GUILLERMO DEL TORO ON USING AI

Oscar-winning filmmaker Guillermo del Toro is fiercely against the revolutionary tech of artificial intelligence (AI). He asserted that he would “rather die” than use artificial intelligence, “particularly generative AI”, in any of his future films, reports *Variety*.

KATY PERRY, JUSTIN TRUDEAU CONFIRM RELATIONSHIP

Singer Katy Perry and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have officially confirmed their relationship, weeks after speculations that they are dating. As Katy turned 41, she and Trudeau made their first public appearance in Paris to celebrate her birthday.



JANHVI on tackling male ego

MUMBAI: Janhvi Kapoor recently opened up about how she deals with male egos in the film industry, revealing that she sometimes pretends to be “dumb” just to avoid offending others. Appearing with Karan Johar on the talk show *Two Much With Twinkle and Kajol* the actress candidly discussed the challenges she faces in her professional space.

“I understand that I come from a place of privilege,” Janhvi said, “but for me, it’s been about navigating egos — especially male egos.” She explained that while she now finds herself in rooms where she can speak freely, there have been times when she’s had to downplay her intelligence or capability to ensure her opinions

don’t upset anyone. “You have to pick your battles,” she added, emphasising the need for tact and emotional intelligence in an industry driven by personalities.

Twinkle Khanna agreed with her perspective, recalling her own early experiences with diplomacy and gender dynamics in Bollywood.

On the work front, Janhvi was last seen in *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*, alongside Varun Dhawan, Sanya Malhotra, and Rohit Saraf, which grossed Rs 96.64 crore worldwide. She will next appear opposite Ram Charan in *Peddi*, her second Telugu film after *Devara: Part 1*.

AGENCIES

MUMBAI: Ibrahim Ali Khan, son of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, is steadily carving his path in Bollywood while candidly addressing the weight of expectations tied to his illustrious lineage. In a recent interview, the young actor admitted to battling self-doubt, saying, “I usually always have self-doubt. Whenever I feel unsure, all this is a reminder of who’s at home — you’re Saif Ali Khan’s kid, Bebo’s in your family. You should be able to do it.” His words reflect both the privilege and pressure of belonging to one of Bollywood’s most respected families.

Determined to build his identity beyond his surname, Ibrahim emphasised his focus on hard work and authenticity. While comparisons with his father are inevitable, he seems intent on earning recognition through his performances rather than familial ties.

Industry insiders are keeping a close eye on Ibrahim’s promising journey, confident that he could carry forward the Khan family legacy with a fresh perspective. The actor made his debut with *Nadaan-yan* opposite Khushi Kapoor on Netflix, followed by *Sarzameen*, where he played Kajol and Prithviraj Sukumaran’s son. Up next, he will star in *Diler*, directed by Kunal Deshmukh and produced by Dinesh Vijan, marking his highly anticipated big-screen debut.

AGENCIES



Ibrahim talks about battling self-doubt

MUMBAI: Adah Sharma, who made her debut with *1920*, is now starring in the Kannada-Hindi bilingual film *Devi*. Reflecting on her journey, she says, “Life has come full circle. After playing a devil in my first film, I’m now portraying a Devi in BM Giriraj sir’s film.” With roots in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Adah proudly identifies as a “pan-Indian actor,” having worked across Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, and Tamil cinema. She believes filmmaking transcends geography, saying, “The difference lies in the director, not the language.” Chennai holds a special place in her heart. “It feels like

Adah’s full circle moment

home,” she says. “When I’m here, my relatives ensure I eat home-cooked food — rice and sambar are my favourites. I love everything that has coconut. My aunt even makes payasam with brown jaggery since I’ve cut down on sugar.”

Despite her success, Adah calls herself an “outsider” who values every opportunity but draws a clear line when it comes to comfort: “I once declined an international project due to a nudity requirement.”

After *The Kerala Story* won a National Award, Adah called the recognition “validating and encouraging.” Addressing criticism, she added, “In every story, the villain is never happy when the hero wins. I just take my work, not myself, seriously.”

AGENCIES



Fashion tips by Palak

MUMBAI: Palak Tiwari continues to make waves as a Gen Z fashion icon, and her recent rapid-fire chat with *Vogue* only reaffirmed her effortless sense of style. Known for her chic yet minimal aesthetic, Palak described her personal style in three words — “Minimalist, Street, and Chic.” She explained that her fashion philosophy revolves around keeping things clean, practical, and cool.

When it comes to making a statement, Palak swears by color-blocking, calling it “fun and fearless” — a mix of creativity and confidence. She also revealed the oldest piece in her wardrobe: a Stella McCartney top her mother, Shweta Tiwari, bought on her first London trip. “It’s evergreen and still super cute,” she said, highlighting her family’s timeless fashion sense.

For those discovering their own style, Palak’s advice is simple: “If you can put it together in five minutes at 5 a.m. or 5 p.m.,

it’s your personal style.” She also believes that confidence is key — “If you’re even 0.5% unsure of your outfit, change it.” In the fun rapid-fire segment, Palak chose nude glow over winged eyes, loved both gold and silver jewellery, and preferred solo trips to group holidays — embodying effortless glamour with a personal touch.

AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

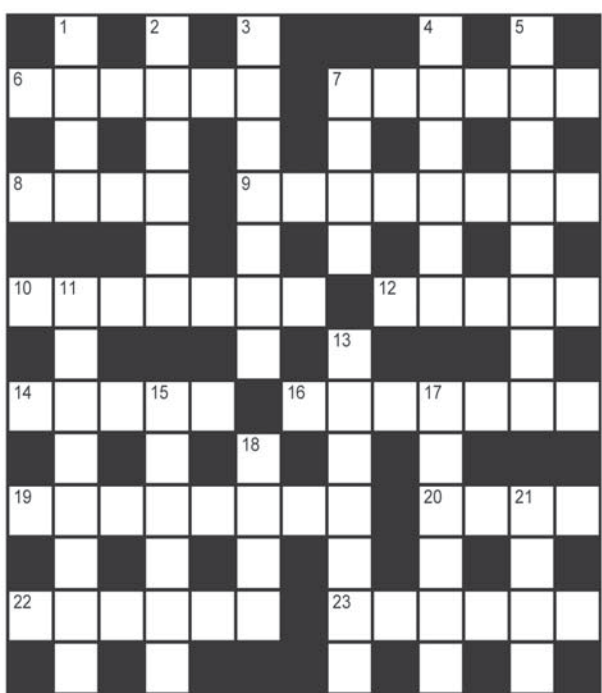


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across

6 Fox or jackal

7 Medic

8 Prepare for takeoff

9 Snarl

10 Accelerate (5,2)

12 “Vamoose!”

14 The press

16 Nudged
- 19 Small fatty

20 Bistro

22 Thin crisp biscuits

23 Songbird
- Down

1 Big party

2 Conquer’s pal

3 Proceeds

4 Reversed by many

5 Lover, usually (4,4)

7 Tariff

11 Kind of care

13 Cavorts

15 Printer type (3-3)

17 Pour out

18 Greek war god

21 Terrarium plant

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

K	I	L	L	J	O	I	S	T	E	E
I	O	U	I	I	N	E				
N	U	N	J	O	E	S	S	A	P	
G	E	I	L	A	U	O				
S	T	R	U	T	D	A	L	L	I	E
S						N	I			
G	Y	P	S	U	M	S	L	I	G	H
A						S	E			
S	U	N	D	I	A	L				
L	O	M	A	N	R	H				
A	S	P	A	S	C	O	T			
M	L	G	K	O	T	A				
P	A	Y	E	E		S				

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

BMC HAS SET UP A SYSTEM FOR FASTER WASTE COLLECTION AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL, WITH COMPLAINTS VIA 1929 TRACKED IN REAL-TIME USING GPS-ENABLED 'SAFAI GADIS'

TWO RESPONSE TEAMS OPERATE FROM 5AM TO 10PM, AND 455 GPS-ENABLED VEHICLES CURRENTLY COLLECT SEGREGATED HOUSEHOLD WASTE ACROSS THE CITY

BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana urged citizens to make active use of this facility for better waste management. "With citizens' cooperation, this initiative will make waste collection and road sweeping more efficient and user-friendly," he said.



AGENCIES

“The safety and well-being of citizens is our foremost priority. All ULBs have been directed to remain fully alert and take immediate preventive and relief measures. The Department is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the State Emergency Operations Centre for timely intervention,” Mohapatra said.

During the Odisha spe-

BJD alleges MCC violation

Devdas Chhotray receives Sarala Puraskar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Sunday filed a complaint with Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), alleging violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its candidate Jay Dholakia, in the upcoming Nayapada Assembly bye-election.

A delegation of senior BJD leaders, including Lenin Mohanty, Sumitra Jena, Mihir Ray and others, submitted a detailed memorandum to Deputy CEO (DCEO) Laxmi Prasad Sahu, outlining the nature of the violation. Besides, they alleged that BJP violated Model Code of Conduct by holding a political meeting October 25, under the guise of ‘Subhadra Shakti Samabesh’ – a government beneficiaries’ programme.

The event, attended by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida and other BJP leaders, allegedly promoted party using government resources.

BJD urged CEO to take immediate cognizance of the violation, institute an impartial inquiry into the use



NUAPADA BYPOLL

BJD alleges that BJP violated the Model Code of Conduct by holding a political meeting October 25 in guise of Subhadra Shakti Samabesh

of government beneficiaries, officials or resources in organising the event and initiate strict action against those responsible. The party also requested that directions be

issued to all political parties and administrative authorities to prevent the recurrence of such misuse during the ongoing bye-election.

Speaking to the media after submitting the memorandum, Jena said, “The party has no right to conduct government programme in election bound region. Besides, the attendance of the Deputy CM in the programme should also be questioned. We demand a stringent probe into the matter. It is not ethical to conduct such programmes during election to gain voters”.

Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman for Ramhari Das and Baladev Maharatha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: The 46th Sarala Puraskar, instituted by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), offered annually for the best literary achievement, was conferred upon notable poet and writer Devdas Chhotray here Saturday.

Hindi poet Savita Singh presented the award to Chhotray, which comprises of a copper plaque, citation and award amount of ₹7 lakh for his short-story collection ‘Matinee Show’.

On the occasion, Odissi musician and vocalist Guru Ramhari Das and painter Baladev Maharatha were conferred with ‘Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman’. Both the artists received a citation, plaque and ₹2.5 lakh each. Sharing his thoughts, Chhotray said, “I do not write for any uninformed audience, in whom I have no faith. I write only for myself and for a few of my friends. And I write again to ease the pain of passing time. I am eternally grateful to organisers of the Sarala Puraskar



for my ‘Matinee Show’ being considered a collection of short stories.” Presiding over the function, Trustee Paramita Panda said “Devdas Chhotray has always won the respect of readers and listeners for his unique presentation style. In the award-winning collection of short stories, he has taken many common principles of life to extraordinary heights, which are

not only enjoyable to read, but also educational and imitative.”

“For the overall development and prosperity of Odia language and literature, Bansidhar Panda and Ila Panda introduced the ‘Sarala Puraskar’ four decades ago. I feel that this award has represented the ‘Odia Asmita’ in taking the art and literature of Odisha to a respectable height,” she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Savita Singh said, “Literature is made by human beings for their own happiness and felicity. And this happiness seeks beauty and social justice for all in the universe. Love is in the centre of all this social work which poetry performs freely. I am so very happy that one of my favourite poet Devdas Chhotray has received this award.”

Experts call for stronger legal protection for docs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Medical experts expressed concern over growing violence, false cases and public mistrust on practicing doctors that push them towards defensive practices, increasing healthcare costs and affecting patient care, during the 8th national conference of Indian Academy of Paediatrics – Medicolcon 2025), which concluded here Sunday.

The two-day conference saw participation of around 200 doctors from different parts of the country. Dignitaries including Justice DP Choudhury, retd Justice Durga Charan Mishra, State Forensic Science Laboratory Director Santosh Bala, Aditya Mohapatra and others attended the conference.

Jointly organised by IAP Bhubaneswar, IAP Odisha and IMA Bhubaneswar, the conference brought together

judges, legal experts, doctors, journalists, police officers and child rights activists to discuss medicolegal challenges faced by the medical professions.

At the event, IAP Medicolegal Chapter (IAPMC) national president Doctor JK Gupta moderated a session titled ‘Defensive Medical Practice amid Violence and Litigation – A Costly Price for Society’.

A special session with UNICEF emphasised on the legal duties of doctors’ to report cases of child abuse within 24 hours. Experts also discussed simplifying regulatory procedures and protecting clinical establishments from excessive legal complications.

Gupta urged authorities to ensure adherence to Supreme Court guidelines before implicating doctors in criminal cases. IAPMC national secretary Dr Satish Sharma demanded a central Medical Protection Act to make assaults on doctors’ non-bailable offense.



CAPTIVATING MOVE: Artistes perform Odissi at 7th Lasya Labanya Dance Festival organised by Biswanath Sangeetatalaya, Cuttack at GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Hunger strike against illegal dump yard near Sainik School

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Members of ‘Sainik School Banchao Alia Gada Hatao Abhiyan’, Sunday resolved to stage indefinite hunger strike in front of Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) from October 29.

The decision was taken during an emergency meeting by the outfit, reaffirming its long-standing demand to shut down the illegal dumping yard near Sainik School.

The members of the outfit alleged that for over the past 20 years, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has been illegally dumping solid waste near the Sainik School area, subjecting nearby residents to unbearable stench, severe air pollution and multiple health hazards including respiratory ailments, skin infections and potential cancer risks.

The group accused the OSPCB of failing to take any action despite repeated complaints and clear evidence of violations.

According to the outfit, a joint inspection by BMC and OSPCB September 9 had revealed that the waste processing unit lacked valid documents.



Later, OSPCB allegedly issued Consent to Operate (CTO) to BMC August 12, 2025, permitting operation of the windrow composting, micro-composting, recycling and effluent treatment plants in the area, all in violation of environmental norms.

“The regional officer of OSPCB issued CTO without proper field verification, ignoring the serious environmental and health risks,” the outfit stated. “This area is densely populated and surrounded by educational and research institutions, including Sainik School, Central School, Utkal University and the Regional Research Laboratory. Granting permission for

a waste processing unit here is a blatant violation of pollution control laws,” it added.

The meeting was attended by the outfit convenor Dillip Dash Sharma, secretary Sandipta Das, chief advisor Bhikshakari Tripathy, joint convenors Shankarshan Barik, Sanjay Malik, and Lalat Keshari Jena, associate secretaries Chintamani Barik, Sandeep Patnaik, Basudev Bhatt, Ashok Paikarar, and Prasanna Bishoyi.

The members asserted that the indefinite hunger strike will continue until the illegal dumping yard is permanently shut down and those responsible for issuing unlawful permissions are held accountable.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

16 ‘CYBER RATHS’ ROLL OUT IN STATE

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: In a major step to promote public awareness on cyber security, Odisha Police has deployed 16 Cyber Raths (awareness vans) across urban and rural areas of the state.

These specially designed vans, equipped with LED panels, display informative videos on cyber safety—drawing keen interest, especially from students, and significantly increasing awareness and enthusiasm among the public.

According to Odisha Police sources, more than 2.5 lakh citizens have so far participated in various awareness activities, including rallies, seminars, workshops, and public meetings held across districts, contributing to the creation of a safer cyber environment in the state.

The Cyber Rath campaign



Cyber Security Rath at Tundla HS, under Kesinga PS, Kalahandi district, sharing awareness about cyber security



Malkangiri Police inaugurating the Cyber Safety Campaign

was launched October 18, 2025, by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, where 16 awareness vans were flagged off to mark the beginning of the initiative.

All 34 Police Districts of Odisha are actively participating in the campaign, organising diverse awareness programmes in both urban and rural areas.

Over 50 inaugural events have already been conducted, along with workshops in schools, colleges, and public spaces.

Pamphlets containing key information on cyber safety are being distributed at prominent locations, while LED screens on the vans continuously play educational videos on cyber security.

In Puri district, a walkathon

was organised to promote cyber awareness, drawing participation from thousands of citizens. Similarly, in Mayurbhanj, a large-scale cyber security event featured street plays by local artistes that effectively conveyed cyber safety messages and drew enthusiastic public participation.

In Balasore district, more than 20,000 participants took

part in cyber awareness programmes — the highest among all districts — while Kalahandi and Sambalpur reported participation of over 15,000 and 12,000 citizens respectively.

These initiatives have received an overwhelming public response and appreciation for the proactive steps taken by Odisha Police in ensuring cyber safety across the state.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.4°	32.0°	Light to moderate rain or Thunderstorm
Min Temp	23.2°	22.8°	
Humidity	85%	79%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

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2-yr-old Odisha girl, abducted by uncle, rescued from Bengal



**JENA
ALLEGEDLY
KILLED HIS 42-YEAR-
OLD WIFE, SUDESHNA,
AT THEIR HOME IN
DANRA VILLAGE UNDER
HATAHI BLOCK OF
KEONJHAR DISTRICT
OCTOBER 2**

Police said Jenna, who had been absconding since the October 2 incident, arrived by train from Puri and got down at Jajpur Road. From there, he bought a bicycle and was heading toward his home by the Akhuapada river embankment. However, instead of returning home, he was seen heading toward Nasirpur village via the Gedama road.

DSP Behera said the accused was produced in court following his arrest.



The baby has been reunited with her family, the SP said.

The Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute in Gujarat had earlier iden-

The Centre owns 1,472 acres of land in this region. Of this, 729 acres fall under the Humma and Binchanapalli Salt Cooperative Societies. These lands were leased to the societies for salt farming, with lease renewals scheduled every 20 years. The last renewal was carried

POST NEWS NETWORK

According to sources, the census will be carried out across six forest ranges under the division, beginning with the Jarapada range. Forest guards, section officers, and squad members are being trained on various aspects of the process, including

SONEPUR: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police Sunday apprehended two wildlife criminals and recovered a leopard skin from their possession. According to STF sources, based on intelligence inputs, a raid was conducted Sunday morning near Arjunpur Chowk on the Sonepur-Barpalli road (NH-126A) under the jurisdiction of Sonepur police station. The operation targeted illegal dealings in leopard skins by criminals from Boudh district. During the search, two persons, identified as Prakash Kanhar and Ranjit Bhokta, both residents of Boudh district, were arrested. One leopard hide, stored in an air bag, along with other incriminating materials, was seized from their possession. The accused were unable to produce any valid license or authorisation for the possession of the leopard skin.

JAPUR: A 45-year-old man, who went missing while visiting his in-laws' house in Japur district, was found dead in a canal Sunday, police said. The incident took place near Gogal village in Dharmasala police station area. The deceased, identified as Sunakar Barik, visited his in-laws' house in Choramuhan village Saturday with his wife and son to attend a family end ceremony. Sunakar fell gone to the afternoon market at Jaraka on a motorcycle to buy medicines for his son Saturday evening. The in-laws launched a search for him after he did not return till 10pm. His mobile phone was also found switched off as his wife and other family members tried to contact him, police said. His wife filed a missing complaint at Dharmasala police station late Saturday night. On Sunday morning, locals spotted his body and the motorcycle floating in the canal. Police retrieved the body and the motorcycle from the canal. The body was sent for post-mortem examination. "We are waiting for the autopsy report on the basis of which further action will be taken," Dharmasala police station IIC Ranjan Kumar Mahli said.

Forest officials said the use of technology and trained manpower is expected to make this year's census more accurate and comprehensive than previous exercises.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. eT-M-KUR-MRDL-313-2025

Name of the Work: RAKE EXAMINATION
ACTIVITIES OF WAGONS AT TATA
SIDING, BHUSAVAL JN. (BSL),
MERAMANDOLU (MRDL) FOR A PERIOD
OF TWO YEARS.

Accepted Money: ₹ 2,49,47,639.61,
Estimated Money: ₹ 2,74,700.00, Period of
Completion: 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 31.10.2025.

Date & time of tender closing: At 1530
hrs. on 14.11.2025.

Manual offers are not allowed against this
tender, and any such manual offer received
shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-tender
documents are available in website :
www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer,
PR-722/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

POST NEWS NETWORK

According to reports, the baby, estimated to be seven to eight days old and weighing 2.1 kg, was spotted Saturday afternoon when a middle-aged woman allegedly dropped a bag and left the place. Two brothers working as carpenters nearby spotted the ba-

However, Childline (1098) was alerted about the incident following which district administration officials and Childline workers located the infant at Dura village. The man initially refused to hand over the baby, but officials, with the assistance of police, rescued the child and shifted him to MKCG Medical College and Hospital where he is being treated at Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) at the hospital.

District Child Protection Officer

Authorities believe the child might have been delivered at a private hospital, as a medical tag was found attached to the umbilical cord. "Based on the tag, we are verifying recent childbirth records at both private and government hospitals to identify the mother and determine the circumstances of the abandonment," Das said.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

27th October to 2nd November 2025

“VIGILANCE: OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY”

➤ AN APPEAL TO CUSTOMERS ◀

- PLEASE DO NOT PAY ANYTHING OVER AND ABOVE THE LEGITIMATE CHARGES.
- PLEASE INSIST ON RECEIPT/TICKET FOR THE PAYMENT MADE BYYOU.
- IF YOU COME ACROSS ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE RAILWAY DEMANDING BRIBE OR INDULGING IN MALPRACTICE, PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLAINT TO SR. DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (SDGM), EAST COAST RAILWAY, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR-751017, TELEPHONE NO.: 0674-2300230, FAX NO.: 0674-2301328 AND E-MAIL ID: sdgm@ecor.railnet.gov.in
- PLEASE SIGN THE COMPLAINT AND PROVIDE PROPER ADDRESS. THE EMAIL COMPLAINT SHOULD NECESSARILY ENCLOSE A SIGNED COPY WITH COMPLETE POSTAL ADDRESS.
- IN CASE YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR NAME SECRET, PLEASE MENTION THE SAME IN YOUR COMPLAINT AND SEND IT IN A CLOSED/SECURED ENVELOPE, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION, SATARKATA BHAWAN, BLOCK-A, GPO COMPLEX, INA, NEW DELHI-110023, DULY SUPERSCRIBING “COMPLAINT UNDER THE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE AND PROTECTION OF INFORMERS” OR “PIDPI” ON THE ENVELOPE.
- IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINT REGARDING CORRUPTION IN RAILWAYS, YOU CAN RING UP & INFORM ON VIGILANCE HELPLINE NO.: 8455885031.



VIGILANCE
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DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules")

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. (the Secured Creditor) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is / are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being affected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-

Sr. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s	Loan Amt.	Dt. of Demand Notice & O/s. Amt.	Description of the Property / Secured Asset
1.	Loan A/C. No(s) : LAP3BL5000108330 1st/Mr/s. Rajendra Sahoo 2nd/Mr/s. Gita Sahoo Addr:- C/O Sarbeswar Sahoo, Khageswarpur, Kakhada, Baleswar, Odisha - 756039, Near Chandimata Temple, Baleswar, Orissa - 756039 Also At: Plot No. 51, Mouza-Chandisinghpur, Tah: Bhograi, Ps- Bhograi, Dist. Baleswar, Odisha. Pin- 756085, Chandisinghpur, Chandisinghpur, Baleswar, Odisha - 756085.	Rs. 30,00,000/-	30.09.2025 Rs. 20,22,143/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Three Only) as on 24.09.2025	Conversion District Balasore, Tahasil Bhograi, SRO Jaleswarpur, P. S. Bhograi, P. S. No. 31B, Mouza-Chandisinghpur, Settlement Khata Khata No. 92/43, Plot No. 51, Area-A, C 0.220 dec. Kisan-Homestead, Corresponds to Consolidation as under- No. 76, Plot No. 51, Area-A C 0.220 dec. Kisan- Non-Homestead, Status - Stiltban, bounded Bounded as under:- (As per Regd. Sale Deed) North: Road and Madhusudan Road and others and Plot No. 53, South: Talei Rasta, East: Talei Rasta and seller, Plot No. 52, West: Road and Madhusudan Road and others.

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the Demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove **within 60 days** from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd.** is a secured creditor and the loan facility available by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all its rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured asset(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to **ATTACH AND / OR SEAL** the secured asset(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured asset(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law.

The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(3) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Secured Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place : Balesore, Odisha
Date : 30.09.2025

Authorized Officer
For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR Email : eewbnjr@gmail.com <u>NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement</u> <u>Identification No. Online Tender / 18 / RWDBNJ / 2025-2026</u> Ltr. No. 5110 Date : 13.10.2025					
Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / RWDBNJ/18/2025-2026	Building Work	07 Nos.	50.43 Lakhs to 50.84 Lakhs	"B" Class as applicable	09 (Nine) Calendar months
Procurement Officer		Bid Identification No.		Availability of tender online for bidding	
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhanjanagar		Online Tender/18/ RWDBNJ/2025-2026		From	To
				28.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	06.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in					
				Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Bhanjanagar	
OIPR-25174/11/0048/2526					

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA e_mail : rw_mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in <u>e_Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 05/RWD/BPD/2025-26</u>					
No.O-1191					
1. Name of the work : Building works 2. Total No. of works : 20 Nos. 3. Estimated Cost : Approx Estimated Cost Rs.22.29 lakhs to Rs.33.60 lakhs 4. Class of Contractor : 'C' & 'B' 5. EMD : EMD@1% of Estimated Cost Put to tender 6. Period of completion : As per Annexure 7. Other details :					
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender in the office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada
1	2	From	To	3	4
S.E.R.W Division, Baripada	05 (Online) /RWD-BPD of 2025-26	28.10.25 at 11.00 A.M.	03.11.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	03.11.25 up to 3.00 P.M.	03.11.25 up to 5.30 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in					
				Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada	
OIPR-25057/11/0027/2526					



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He who chooses the infinite has been chosen by the infinite.

SRI AUROBINDO



Cronies Take It All

A recent report published in the American daily The Washington Post has once again brought the pervasive issue of crony capitalism and rent-seeking in India into focus. According to the report, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), at the behest of the government of India, made huge investments in Adani Group's securities after they took a big beating in the stock markets.

Government officials "drafted and pushed through a proposal in May to steer roughly \$3.9 billion in investments to Adani's businesses from the Life Insurance Corporation, or LIC," The Washington Post reported on 25 October 2025. In its response, the insurance behemoth issued a firm denial, stating that the allegations are "false, baseless, and far from truth." According to the report, two officials familiar with the situation revealed that "The investment plan was crafted by officials at DFS (Department of Financial Services) in coordination with LIC and India's main government-funded think tank, Niti Aayog, the documents show, and approved by the Finance Ministry." The article further stated that documents and interviews suggest the plan was part of a broader strategy by Indian authorities to direct taxpayer money into the Adani Group, a conglomerate led by one of India's most politically well-connected billionaires.

The report kicked up a political storm in India with the principal Opposition party, the Congress, demanding an investigation by the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee into the matter.

Allegations that LIC, one of the world's largest institutional investors, was coerced by the government to make huge investments in a particular conglomerate, raises critical questions about state influence in the country's financial markets. Also, for many Indian policyholders, who entrust LIC with their life's savings, it is a question of their financial security. Despite publicly stating that its investments were guided by "prudent financial strategies" and "due diligence," LIC's holdings in the Adani companies have ballooned over the years, making the insurer one of the largest institutional investors in the group. In 2022 alone, LIC's exposure to Adani companies crossed Rs 30,000 crore, a whopping sum for a public institution managing policyholders' money.

The Adani Group, with interests in infrastructure, energy, and mining, saw its stock prices soar during the pandemic era, attracting global attention. However, the group's rapid rise has been shadowed by concerns regarding its corporate governance, financial transparency, and its close ties with the government at Centre. The group's fortunes took a dramatic turn in early 2023 after a report by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research alleged that the group had inflated its financials and engaged in stock manipulation. The report sent shockwaves through Indian financial markets, causing Adani shares to plummet and triggered massive erosion in shareholder value. LIC, already heavily invested in Adani's publicly traded companies, similarly saw a sharp decline in the value of its holdings. India's markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), however, cleared the Adani Group's name from allegations of stock manipulation made by Hindenburg, concluding that fund transfers between group companies did not violate any regulations.

Crony capitalism and rent-seeking are all too common in India, no matter whichever party is in power, as here political connections and favouritism often shape economic outcomes. In this system, businesses with ties to influential politicians secure lucrative deals, bypassing market competition. This not only undermines fair competition, but also discourages innovation. Likewise, rent-seeking behaviours, such as seeking monopolistic advantages from government, greatly contribute to wealth inequality and concentration of wealth. Adding to this, the clear lack of transparency and accountability in our system further exacerbates the problem, reinforcing a cycle of corruption, even as the broader population remains deprived of opportunities for growth.

WISDOM CORNER

- When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

KAHLIL GIBRAN
- How is it possible that a being with such sensitive jewels as the eyes, such enchanted musical instruments as the ears, and such fabulous arabesque of nerves as the brain can experience itself anything less than a god.

ALAN WATTS
- It is possible to live happily in the here and the now. So many conditions of happiness are available - more than enough for you to be happy right now. You don't have to run into the future in order to get more.

THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1492: Christopher Columbus sailed to Cuba and claimed the island for Spain.
- 1682: City of Philadelphia founded. The historical city in the State of Pennsylvania was founded by English entrepreneur, William Penn. Penn received the land as a payment to fulfill a debt that King Charles II owed to Penn's father. Philadelphia is the only UNESCO-declared World Heritage City in the United States and it was temporarily the capital of the United States in the 1800s.
- 1795: Pinckney's Treaty, an agreement between the United States and Spain, was signed, giving the United States navigation rights on the Mississippi River.
- 1932: American poet and novelist Sylvia Plath—whose best-known works are preoccupied with alienation, death, and self-destruction—was born.
- 1961: The first Saturn rocket was successfully launched, and years later the Saturn V was the launch vehicle used in the Apollo Moon-landing flights.
- 1978: Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin awarded Nobel Peace Prize. On this day in 1978, Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Menachem Begin of Israel were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for negotiations that resulted first in the Camp David Accords, then in a peace treaty between their countries.
- 1979: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, an island country lying within the Lesser Antilles in the eastern Caribbean Sea, achieved its independence.

FOCUS SOCIETY

LEARN FROM THE PAST

Every generation believes that it is living in an unprecedented era with unique challenges. But time and again, the same patterns and motivations have weakened and even destroyed civilisations, or strengthened them and enabled them to flourish. To learn from the past requires recognising its symmetries and resonances.

For example, the rise and decline of powers over the centuries has established some basic tenets. Chief among them is that when a dominant power faces two rivals, the rival that does not enter into conflict with the dominant power is usually the one that triumphs.

In the late 18th century, Great Britain prevailed over the Netherlands (the dominant power of the period), while France, the other contender, who went to war against the Netherlands, never became a superpower. In the early 20th century, the United States prevailed over Great Britain largely because of the wars between the United Kingdom and its other rival, Germany.

Another lesson is that empires collapse when they can no longer afford to finance the security of their hinterlands and trade routes. Spain's Golden Age came to an end when it could no longer fund the military expenditure required to defend its colonies. Great Britain's empire depended on naval supremacy that could not be maintained. The Soviet Union fell because it confused greatness with over-armament.

A third lesson is that, even when civilisations are set up for success, they can collapse under the weight of unforced errors. For example, at the start of the 20th century, the West seemed primed for prosperity: with the advent of electrification, the automobile, the telephone, the radio, and air travel, technological progress was accelerating, while the vicious cycle of poverty and war appeared to be broken.



Jacques Attali

THE INTERESTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS SHOULD COME FIRST, WHICH IMPLIES A NEW EMPHASIS ON ALTRUISM



The cycle of rise and decline over the centuries has established some basic tenets of power, including that civilisations can still collapse even when they are set up for success. This lesson is relevant for today's world, in which short-termism and populism risk derailing what should be a bright future

Global trade was booming (particularly between Great Britain and Germany), democracy was advancing (even in Russia, where the 1905 revolution heralded a new era of freedom), and European rulers were on good terms – George V was a first cousin of Wilhelm II and Nicholas I (who were third cousins). And by 1908, an institutional architecture for resolving global conflicts had been designed.

But World War I disrupted this golden age. Inventions designed to liberate mankind became weapons of destruction, and the illusion of progress died in the trenches. For decades, Europe convulsed with war and hatred, unbearable humiliation, and barbaric revenge. Despite the certainty that this time would be different, the continent went up in flames.

The world is experiencing something similar today: We should be on the cusp of a prosperous future. Never has humanity's potential been so immense. The shift to cleaner power could bring the fossil-fuel era to a close. Scientific breakthroughs could drastically change our lives by curing diseases that have defied treatment, developing a

near-limitless source of clean energy, freeing humans from the most arduous tasks, and much more.

Many countries have recognised the importance of addressing climate change and protecting the planet. Millions of hectares – from Kivu to the Amazon – are being reforested. The High Seas Treaty seeks to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030. Banks are incorporating biodiversity considerations into their balance sheets. GDP is slowly giving way to other measures that value health, equality, and well-being. The world's youth are making themselves heard, women are gaining access to decision-making positions, and societies, acutely aware that they face shared challenges, are engaging in dialogue.

And yet, as in the beginning of the 20th century, the worst-case scenario is unfolding. Authoritarianism has become ever more widespread, subverting even the most established democracies. If we are not careful, AI could destroy billions of jobs, power new weapons, and erode cognitive skills. The environment continues to deteriorate, and the climate crisis is deepening, owing to the millions of tons

of greenhouse-gas emissions still being released into the atmosphere. Rising sea levels, drying rivers, and failing crops have forced millions of people to migrate. Wars are multiplying around the world, and conflicts over food and water are set to rise.

Most democratic governments are paralysed, postponing necessary reforms until after the next election. As globalisation comes under attack, fear of the other, nostalgia for a nonexistent purity, and disdain for knowledge have resurfaced. This has resulted in division, exclusion, and mistrust – the conditions on which populism thrives. Collective intelligence gives way to individual anger, exactly as occurred at the beginning of the 20th century.

More worryingly, and with no precedent, we face common challenges – climate change, poverty, epidemic risks, and misuse of technology, in particular AI – that affect humanity as such. Saturated with screens and video games, and still obsessed with national rivalry, we forget to think about the global future and allow powerful national interests to dominate policymaking. This is how civilisations die. This is how human civilisation may die.

To avert this outcome, we must not forget the lessons of the past. We must understand that it is time to think as one human species and to fight common challenges. We must build on global cooperation and not the geopolitical selfishness of nation-states. The interests of future generations should come first, which implies a new emphasis on altruism. Perhaps one day we will look back at 2025 as the year when humanity could have taken a turn for the worse, but instead, for the first time in centuries, chose life.

The writer is Founding President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

Need for a greener tag on green crackers

The air quality in Delhi on Diwali night this year deteriorated significantly owing to the indiscriminate bursting of crackers. The Air Quality Index plunged on that night to 488 micrograms per cubic metre which could be labeled in a 'Very Poor' category as firecrackers kept on lighting the Delhi skies pushing the dangerous PM 2.5 particle levels to their highest since 2021. Although this year there was a drastic drop in stubble burning in adjacent states, local emissions from fireworks dominated the spike.

Since 2021, the Supreme Court has imposed a ban on bursting of crackers in Delhi during Diwali. However, this year, the Court relaxed the ban and allowed people to use green crackers that release 30% less particulate matter. But it seemed from the sharp rise in the AQI level on Diwali night that green crackers did not get popular among people as they still chose conventional crackers due to their easy availability and low pricing. It is also believed that the



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

ALTHOUGH GREEN CRACKERS DO REDUCE EMISSIONS, POLLUTANTS ARE NOT COMPLETELY ELIMINATED AS THEY STILL PRODUCE PARTICULATE MATTER

green crackers available in the market still have a substantial amount of emissions like conventional ones and, hence, are not totally pollution free. Also, people kept on bursting crackers beyond the stipulated time till midnight.

It is shocking to note that the average PM2.5 levels reached a whopping value of 488 micrograms per cubic metre which is a catastrophic 212% increase from pre-Diwali levels. This is nearly 100 times the safe exposure limit advised by the WHO.

Generally, the burning of farm wastes in neighbouring Punjab and Haryana was blamed for the seasonal high in the levels of particulate matter in Delhi. However, there was a 77.5% drop in stubble burning this year in these states due to the devastating floods that destroyed much of the crops earlier in the region. This, to the delight of the Delhites, coincided with a 15.5% decline in Delhi's average PM2.5 levels in the same period. However, the sudden rise of particulate matter in

Delhi during the festive seasons indicates that not merely the stubble burning, but other local factors had also a hand in the spike. Firecrackers are considered the main culprit for Delhi's poor air quality during the festive period of Diwali in particular.

The health risks associated with the increase of fine particulate matter in air are immense. These PM2.5 particles are so fine that they could easily travel deep into our respiratory tracts settling in the lungs causing severe breathing problems. Exposure to such fine particles can cause short-term health effects such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing, sneezing, running nose and shortness of breath. The long term hazards include elevated susceptibility to respiratory diseases, including acute respiratory disorders like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and even lungs cancer.

Green crackers developed by CSIR-NEERI aim to replace conventional crackers by reducing emissions, ash content,

toxic metals and noise level by modifying the composition, shell size and additives. While conventional crackers typically contain many heavy metals and colour imparting substances (like barium, lithium, lead and arsenic) and high amount of fuel oxidiser mixture (like potassium nitrate, sulfur), green crackers, on the other hand, greatly reduce these hazardous metals and use cleaner oxidiser and dust suppressing additives. Although green crackers do reduce emissions, pollutants are not completely eliminated as they still produce particulate matter.

However, in a country like India, it is a challenging task to convince people to totally refrain from conventional fireworks and go for more expensive green ones during the festive season. Further, the efficiency of green crackers should be improved by research and rigorous testing so as to deserve a green tag.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Letters

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Faith betrayed

Sir, This refers to "Sabarimala gold theft: SIT conduct searches," Orissa POST, Oct 26. The reported theft of gold from the sacred Sabarimala temple has sent shockwaves across Kerala and beyond, deeply distressing millions of devotees who revere the shrine as a symbol of purity and faith. The incident is not just a criminal act but a grave breach of trust that exposes alarming lapses in the temple's administrative and security mechanisms. That such a theft could occur in one of India's holiest pilgrimage centres, which attracts crores of devotees annually, reflects systemic negligence and an erosion of accountability. The Travancore Devaswom Board, entrusted with managing the temple and safeguarding its assets, must take full responsibility for this shocking failure. Mere statements of regret will not suffice; a transparent and time-bound investigation is urgently needed to trace the culprits, recover the stolen gold, and ensure justice. Beyond this, a complete overhaul of temple management practices is imperative—ranging from installation of advanced surveillance systems to regular auditing of offerings and assets. To restore trust, the administration must demonstrate integrity, transparency, and unwavering commitment to protecting the sanctity of this revered shrine.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Whither safety norms

Sir, It is shocking that a multi axle Scania sleeper bus caught fire and was charred beyond recognition near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh killing 20 passengers. The bus reportedly collided with a motorcycle causing fuel leak from the latter that ignited due to friction. Non fire-retardant interior materials, limited emergency exits and locked exit door could be the contributing factors. The provision to have rear windshield emergency exit has not materialised in many night sleeper buses. Curtains and railings in high-end buses aid in fanning of fire. Another fact to be noted is that while most of the state owned luxury buses have speed restriction devices, private bus owners are loathe to have them. A law mandating the presence of two drivers in every night bus irrespective of the distance to be covered is crucial.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Inmates in WB sell food, handicrafts outside jail gates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 26: Every afternoon, the aroma of potato fritters and cutlets wafts through the air outside the tall walls of the Alipore Women's Correctional Home in Kolkata. Passersby stop to buy snacks, unaware that the women frying and packing the food are inmates still serving sentences.

For these women inmates, the small stall just outside the jail gate is more than a workplace; it's a bridge between confinement and community.

It offers them a chance to rediscover themselves, interact with the outside world, and regain dignity often lost in isolation.

They are part of 'Abhinno' (Integrated), an innovative initiative launched in July by the West Bengal Correctional Services Department to help inmates earn livelihoods and rebuild confidence while in prison.

Under the programme, prisoners prepare and sell food, handicrafts, and other goods prepared by them directly to the public from stalls located outside correctional home entrances, a move officials describe as "rehabilitation with dignity".

West Bengal Correctional Services Minister Chandranath Sinha said "Abhinno" is setting a new benchmark in prison reform.

"The products made by inmates are sold through these

outlets outside jail premises. An NGO trains them, and the earnings go into the prisoners' welfare fund. The inmates also get wages, which are handed over after release," Sinha told PTI.

What began as a modest experiment at Alipore Women's Correctional Home is soon turning into a model across Bengal's prisons.

Around 25 inmates are part of the initiative at Alipore, with eight running the stall daily - handling cooking, serving, selling handicrafts and accounts under supervision.

Though surrounded by high walls, the scene buzzes with life and laughter as the women trade recipes, count earnings, and call out to customers with quiet pride.

The idea, officials say, was born from a simple conversation. "We were discussing how inmates' work could sustain them after release," said Debashis Chakraborty, DIG (Prisons), Presidency Range. "That led to the idea of creating a structured platform for their skills."

The proposal sent to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee received an instant nod. "She not only approved it," Chakraborty said, "but also named it herself-Abhinno." Banerjee virtually inaugurated the project in July this year.

Initially, four correctional homes-Alipore Women's, Presidency, Dum Dum, and Suri-were chosen, he said.



FROM PRISON CELLS TO STALLS

Alipore became the starting point as it already had ready-to-use stalls near its gate. The initiative has since expanded to the other three prisons, where inmates have been shortlisted to manage stalls.

Encouraged by its success, officials plan to introduce 'Abhinno' stalls in all major jails, creating a sustainable rehabilitation model. For the inmates, the day begins before dawn. They knead dough, chop vegetables, and prepare trays of 'ghugni', 'cutlets', and 'samosas'. Some decorate cakes while others pack rolls and pastries. By late afternoon, customers from

nearby offices and educational institutions line up for lunch.

Behind the smiles and services, women are learning teamwork, responsibility, and the basics of running a business. "Inside prison, we follow strict schedules, but when we work here, we feel free, not because we can go outside, but because people from outside come to us," said one inmate.

Earnings from the stall go into the West Bengal Prisoners' Welfare Fund, while the inmates receive wages saved

For these women inmates, the small stall just outside the jail gate is more than a workplace; it's a bridge between confinement and community

Official: EC likely to appoint volunteers for SIR in Bengal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 26: The Election Commission of India (ECI) may appoint volunteers to assist booth-level officers (BLOs) during the probable special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, a senior official said Sunday.

The volunteers are likely to be drawn from among government employees in each block for the exercise that may be launched soon, he said.

"This is at the planning stage... These assistants will

help the BLOs fill out enumeration forms and may also be deployed as substitutes, if required," the official told PTI.

The volunteers will primarily be assigned to polling stations having more than 1,200 voters, he added.

"As a result of this cap on the number of voters per booth, the number of polling booths in the state is likely to increase by around 14,000, from the existing 80,000 to around 94,000," the official said.

For the exercise, the block development officers (BDOs) in several districts have written to school inspectors seeking lists of permanent teachers, clerks, and other government staffers who can be assigned as volunteers, he said, adding that the lists, with contact details, are to be submitted by October 29.

Asked what their allowance would be, the official said that the poll body was yet to finalise it.



A man sleeps on a tree branch in the afternoon in Kolkata, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

Bengal to begin paddy procurement from Nov 1



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 26: The West Bengal Food Department will start buying paddy from farmers at the beginning of the kharif season November 1, said a senior government official Saturday.

It has been informed that if the paddy is sold in the government buying centre, the farmers will get the price of paddy within a maximum of three working days. The money will directly enter the bank account of the farmers. This initiative has been taken to ensure that there is no delay in getting money for the farmers after the sale of paddy, according to the official.

The government will buy paddy for the 2025-26 season across the state from November 1. To collect this paddy, the Food Department is launching 620 permanent buying centres. In addition, about 179 mobile permanent purchase centres, which will mainly travel to remote areas, will buy paddy from farmers.

These mobile centres will play a major role especially

where it is difficult for the farmers to reach the nearby permanent buying centres.

At the same time, temporary paddy procurement camps will be conducted at various places during the kharif season. These camps will be managed by various government agencies.

According to the guidelines issued by the Food Department, the agencies should inform the Food Department the day after the purchase of paddy in the temporary camp. The Food Department will verify that information and send the money to the farmer's bank account quickly.

Farmers will get ₹2,369 per quintal if they sell paddy this season. Besides, the state government has decided to give an additional bonus of ₹20 in case they sell paddy in government purchasing centres. Therefore, a total of ₹2,389 per quintal will go to the farmer.

However, online registration has been made mandatory for the sale of paddy by the Food Department. Farmers have to go to the designated purchase centre and sell paddy on the appointed day.

7 trucks of wheat seeds sent to Amritsar farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, Oct 26: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Sunday flagged off seven trucks to provide two lakh quintal wheat seeds free of cost to farmers who lost their crop during the recent floods.

He said the recent floods submerged more than 2,300 villages and destroyed crops across five lakh acres of land.

Farmers of the state have faced unimaginable hardships due to the floods, and the government is firmly with them in this hour of grave crisis, the chief minister said. He said the farmers of Punjab suffered a whopping loss during the recent floods, due to which the state government decided to provide two lakh quintal seeds

worth ₹74 crore free of cost to them. Mann said the process to distribute seeds free of cost to farmers of the flood-affected districts has started and will be completed soon. Hard-working and resilient farmers of the state played a key role in making the country self-sufficient in food production, he added.

Farmers of Punjab are facing a major crisis due to the floods, but the state government will leave no stone unturned to bail them out, Mann said.

He said the state government is providing free wheat seeds to these farmers to help them sow the upcoming Rabi crop. Mann said the destruction caused by these floods is unimaginable and unprecedented, as Punjab had never seen such damage before.

Polyhouse farming in Punjab can earn ₹14L

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 26: After shifting from conventional farming, farmer Harbir Singh is cultivating seedless cucumber, coloured capsicum, melon and potato by setting up a 'polyhouse' or a greenhouse and earning an average annual profit of ₹12 to ₹14 lakh.

Director Horticulture Shailender Kaur Sunday said that taking advantage of the government's schemes, Singh, a farmer from village Saraba in Ludhiana district, is earning handsome profits through polyhouse farming and has become an inspiration for other farmers.

After obtaining a degree in electrical engineering, Singh chose farming as his profession instead of taking a job, setting new benchmarks by integrating traditional farming with modern technology. The department is working to promote crop diversification and enhance farmers' income across the state. The farmer-centric schemes are proving to be a boon for cultivators, ensuring every possible support to help them adopt modern farming practices.

In 2014, farmer Singh shifted from conventional vegetable cultivation and received specialised training from the Centre of Excellence for Vegetables in Kartarpur. He said under the



National Horticulture Mission Scheme, he availed subsidy support to set up his polyhouse and started growing coloured capsicum and seedless cucumber. He regularly consulted officials of the Horticulture Department to resolve farming-related challenges. Singh believes hard work, dedication, understanding problems minutely and consistent guidance from the Horticulture Department officials have been the key factors behind his success.

According to Ludhiana-based Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), greenhouses are framed structures covered with UV-stabilised transparent or translucent plastic film to grow crops under partial or fully controlled environmental conditions to get maximum productivity and

quality produce. It says crops can be grown in any season of the year depending on the demand and market.

The result: excellent quality produce, free from any blemishes. Also, it is easy to protect crops against pests and diseases and extreme climatic conditions.

The site for the polyhouse should be well drained and fairly shadow-free. It should be away from obstruction (east, west and south directions) at least three times the height of the obstruction. The crops suitable for cultivation in poly or greenhouse are capsicum, tomato, cucumber, leafy vegetables, etc. Flowers such as rose, gerbera, liliium, etc., are suitable for cultivation in a polyhouse.

‘Vote for Cong for peace, prosperity in Punjab’

Addressing a public meeting in support of Congress candidate Karanbir Singh Burj, Warring cautioned people against any emotional exploitation. He pointed out that now the people of Punjab have seen the rule and working of all the three governments -- the Congress, the Akali-BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tarn Taran (Punjab), Oct 26: Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, while campaigning for the Tarn Taran Assembly bypoll, Sunday appealed to people to vote for the party for peace, progress and prosperity in the state.

Addressing a public meeting in support of Congress candidate Karanbir Singh Burj, Warring cautioned people against any emotional exploitation.

He pointed out that now the people of Punjab have seen the rule and working of all the three governments -- the Congress, the Akali-BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party.

"You are in the best position to make the right choice", he said, adding, "it is the Congress which takes along all sections of people and works for peace, progress and prosperity for everyone".

The Punjab Congress president claimed that the days of the AAP government in the state were numbered as it was now on its last leg.

He said the ruling party was in such a "pitiable" condition that it had to outsource its candidate from the Akali Dal, which has already been rejected by the people of Punjab.

"You can well imagine the plight of AAP that it did not have anyone from within the



TARN TARAN BYPOLL

party to fight the bypoll and had to import it from a party that has been rejected by the people long back," he said.

Warring cautioned people against the emotive slogans raised by supporters of one of the candidates, telling them it is not for the first time that such people have joined the electoral fray.

"You know that there is no benefit in voting for such peo-

ple as public service is the last thing on their mind as they indulge in pointless propaganda which serves no purpose," he said, while telling voters to choose someone who will be in the legislative assembly and not somewhere else.

Warring, while appealing to people to elect Congress candidate Burj, said that it will be the beginning of a new era for the progress and

prosperity of Punjab.

"Let us make a beginning from Tarn Taran now and take it forward across Punjab by 2027," he said.

Polling for the Tarn Taran bypoll will be held November 11 and the results will be announced November 14.

The assembly seat fell vacant following the death of AAP MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal in June.

of the day

note

Before the Assembly polls, he (Omar) had said that he would retain the seat where he would get more votes. However, he left Budgam even after getting more votes from here

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | OPPN PDP PRESIDENT

In response to community requests, a government institution would be named after Sant Namdev Ji Maharaj in the state

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

The BJP and its ally AIADMK are estimating that they can win (the 2026 Assembly polls) by removing the names of working class people, SCs, minorities and women through SIR

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

SHORT TAKES

Wanted criminal held by Delhi cops

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested a wanted criminal involved in a recent armed robbery case was arrested following a brief encounter in Delhi's Badarpur area, an official said Sunday. The accused, identified as Himanshu (23), sustained a bullet injury in his leg during the exchange of fire on late Saturday night and was subsequently taken to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment, he said.

Man accused in rape case beaten to death

Chaibasa (Jharkhand): A 56-year-old man, accused of raping a mentally challenged woman, was allegedly garlanded with slippers, paraded and beaten to death in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, police said Sunday. The incident occurred Friday night in Devambir village under the Sonua Police Station limits when the man had come out of his house to relieve himself.

Delhi's air quality 'poor'

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality improved to the "poor" category on Sunday after remaining "very poor" during the day, while the minimum temperature settled at 15.8 degrees Celsius -- the lowest recorded in October in the last two years. The city recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 292, compared to 324 in the morning.

Man dies as mudslide flattens houses

Idukki (Kerala): A 48-year-old man died and his wife was severely injured after a mudslide, near the National Highway widening work, levelled at least eight houses at Mannamkandam in Adimali, police said Sunday. The incident occurred Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Biju of Lakshamveedu Unnathi.

ICG rescues 31 fishermen

Mangaluru (Karnataka): The Indian Coast Guard said it rescued 31 fishermen stranded aboard the fishing boat IFB Sant Anton-I, which had been adrift in the Arabian Sea for 11 days due to a steering gear failure. The Goa-based vessel was reported missing about 100 nautical miles off New Mangalore, prompting swift action from the ICG's Karnataka headquarters.



On this festival, we express our gratitude to nature. We worship the rivers and ponds, and pray for the well-being of our families. This festival also conveys a message of cleanliness and environment conservation

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

'BJP MP SANJAY JAISWAL GETS EXTORTION CALL, FIR LODGED'

Senior BJP MP from Bihar, Sanjay Jaiswal, allegedly received an extortion call with the threat that his son would be killed if he did not cough up ₹10 crore, police said Sunday. Jaiswal, who is currently the BJP chief whip in Lok Sabha, received the call Friday, said SDPO (Bettiah town) Vivek Deep

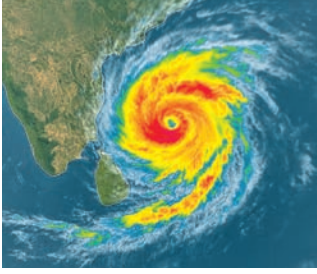


CYCLONE MONTHA

AP govt prepares action plan for relief, essential supplies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Oct 26: The Andhra Pradesh government has prepared an action plan for relief and essential supplies in pre-cyclone preparedness for Cyclone Montha. According to the Meteorological Department, the deep depression over southeast Bay of Bengal is very likely to cross Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam near Kakinada October 28 evening. It is located about 780 km east-southeast of Chennai, 830 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam, 830 km southeast of Kakinada, 930 km south-southeast of Gopalpur, said the Met Department. It is expected to move north-



westwards, then north-north-westwards, intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by morning of October 28, and cross Andhra Pradesh coast in evening. Maximum sustained winds are expected at upto 100 kmph, gusting to 110 kmph along the coast, with very heavy rainfall in some districts, it said. State Civil Supplies Minister

N Manohar said the action plan covers stock positioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities, fuel inventory management, paddy procurement steps, food supply to relief shelters and post-cyclone relief distribution. According to officials, 40 per cent stock movement has been completed in coastal districts, and Global Positioning System (GPS) exemption has been granted for second-stage food grain movement based on requests from district collectors. On fuel preparedness, Manohar instructed the state nodal officer and oil marketing companies to fully stock petrol, diesel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) outlets in vulnerable districts.



People perform rituals during the Chhath Puja festivities, at Babughat, in Kolkata, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

ANDHRA BUS FIRE MISHAP

Bike-borne duo drunk: Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



In the wee hours of October 24, the sleeper bus ran over a two-wheeler, which had already met in an accident, at Chinna Tekuru village in Kurnool district

Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), Oct 26: Andhra Pradesh police Sunday confirmed that the two bike-borne persons connected to the Bangalore-bound bus fire accident, which claimed the lives of 19 passengers, were drunk.

In the wee hours of October 24, the sleeper bus ran over a two-wheeler, which had already met in an accident, at Chinna Tekuru village in Kurnool district. There were 44 passengers on the bus and several managed to escape.

The two-wheeler was dragged forward underneath the bus, leading to the bursting of its fuel tank and subsequent ignition and intensification of the blaze with the explosion of the bus's two 12 KV batteries.

"We just received the forensic confirmation that the two bike-borne persons (Siva Shankar and Erri Swamy) were drunk," Kurnool Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Koya Praveen told PTI.

Though police were aware that the duo was in an inebriated condition, they did not confirm this fact as they were waiting for forensic evidence.

The DIG on Saturday night said that the duo had food in a dhaba and Swamy had admitted to consuming liquor.

According to police, Shankar and Swamy had started off on the two-wheeler from Lakshmiapuram village around 2 am October 24 to drop the latter at Tuggali village in Kurnool district.

En route, the duo had halted at the HP petrol bunk near Kia car showroom to fill petrol at 2.24 am, said Kurnool Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil.

A video of their halt at the petrol bunk went viral and Shankar was seen riding the two-wheeler rashly.

Shortly after resuming their journey, the two-wheeler skid-

ded, resulting in Shankar falling to his right and hitting the divider. He died on the spot.

Over the past few days, the southern state witnessed widespread rainfall, leaving wet and muddy roads amid inclement weather.

When Swamy had pulled Shankar from the middle of the road and checked him, he realized that the latter had died on the spot, Patil said.

Since Shankar's body was pulled off the road by

Swamy before the bus could run over it, it was mostly intact and not burnt like the bus victims, enabling the forensic investigation to confirm that he was drunk, said Praveen.

Following the two back-to-back accidents and the bus engulfing in a raging fire, Swamy got scared and left for his native village of Tuggali.

Later, police picked up Swamy and questioned him to unearth crucial details of the ghastly accident.

Further, Miriyala Lakshmaiah (42), the driver behind the wheel during the accident, told police that he "couldn't see until he went near the motorbike".

"The driver's version was that visibility was less. 'I couldn't see till I went near the

motorbike. I couldn't see at all. When I heard the sound, I applied the brakes and pulled over the bus'," said the DIG, quoting Lakshmaiah.

"And when I reversed the bus, the fire started," Lakshmaiah told police, adding that he alighted through the fire and woke up another driver Siva Narayana.

Later, a panicked Lakshmaiah had left the accident spot, police said.

The second driver's version was that the driver's side door got jammed and there was also fire at the main passenger door. Narayana told police that they first broke the emergency door.

Meanwhile, he heard an exploding sound and thought that it was a tyre burst, but that was actually explosion of batteries, the DIG said.

Later, Narayana broke several other windows with a jockey rod and 19 passengers managed to escape from the bus.

Earlier, the DIG noted that the explosion of two 12 KV batteries located behind the passenger door was the major cause of the inferno.

Further, he said that the DNA profiling was completed for all the 19 bodies and they were handed over to their families.

CBI takes over Karur stampede case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The CBI has taken over the probe of the Karur stampede, in which 41 people were killed during a political rally of actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), officials said Sunday.

A special team of the CBI has already visited the site at Velusampuram in Karur, Tamil Nadu, they said.

Forty-one people lost their lives and over 60 injured in the stampede that occurred at the TVK meeting addressed by Vijay September 27.

As per procedure, the CBI has re-registered the FIR of the state police and also informed the local court about the development, they said.

The case was handed over to the CBI by the Supreme Court on a petition filed by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) for an independent probe.

The apex court directed the director of CBI to appoint a



Forty-one people lost their lives and over 60 injured in the stampede that occurred at the TVK meeting addressed by Vijay September 27

As per procedure, the CBI has re-registered the FIR of the state police and also informed the local court about the development

senior officer to take over the investigation and appoint some other officers for the assistance of the officer.

The court also set up a three-member supervisory committee headed by former apex court judge Ajay Rastogi to monitor the CBI investigation.

A bench, comprising Jus-

tices J K Maheshwari and N V Anjarlia, said the September 27 stampede has left an imprint in the minds of citizens throughout the country.

It has wide ramifications with respect to the life of the citizens, and enforcing the fundamental rights of the families who lost their kith and

UK evinces interest in India's e-courts project

The ambitious e-Courts project is currently in its third phase with an aim to upgrade the digital infrastructure of subordinate judiciary across the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The United Kingdom has evinced interest in the e-Courts project that seeks to digitise entire court records, and a delegation from that country would be in the national capital next week to interact with top Union law ministry officials.



The ambitious e-Courts project is currently in its third phase with an aim to upgrade the digital infrastructure of subordinate judiciary across the country.

Officials told PTI that a delegation from the United King-

dom will visit the Department of Justice here on November 6 and interact with top officials and members of the e-committee of the Supreme Court.

The e-committee is the governing body charged with overseeing the e-Courts Proj-

ect conceptualised under the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005".

Under the ongoing phase three of the project, a total of 3,108 crore documents will be digitised.

As part of Phase-III, the system will be migrated to cloud technology and the cost estimated for providing 25 petabytes (according to existing requirement) of cloud storage is ₹1,205.20 crore.

The project also seeks to establish and expand the scope of virtual courts for hearing of cases by creating a robust digital infrastructure. A sum of ₹413.08 crore is the cost estimate for establishment of 1,150 virtual courts.

The phase three of the project was cleared by the Union Cabinet in September 2023.

The project also involves integration of duty holders such as courts, jails, police stations and forensic laboratories with the Inter Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).

Digitisation of court records also enables processes to become more environment friendly by minimising paper-based filings and reducing the physical movement of documents.

Besides, virtual participation in proceedings can reduce costs associated with court proceedings such as travel expenses for witnesses, judges, and other stakeholders, while payment of court fees, fines and penalties can be made from anywhere and anytime.

2020 RIOTS

Top court to hear bail pleas of Khalid, Imam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Supreme Court is slated to hear Monday bail pleas of activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima and Meeran Haider in the UAPA case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots in Delhi.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjarlia is likely to hear the matter. The top court September 22 had issued notice to the Delhi Police and sought its response.

The activists have moved the apex court challenging the Delhi High Court order passed September 2. The high court denied bail to nine people, including Khalid and Imam, saying "conspiratorial" violence under the garb of demonstrations or protests by citizens could not be allowed.

Besides Khalid and Imam, those who faced bail rejection are Fatima, Haider, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa Ur Rehman, Athar Khan, Abdul Khalid Saifi and Shadab Ahmed.

The high court said the Constitution affords citizens the right to protest and carry out demonstrations or agitations, provided they are orderly, peaceful and without arms, and such actions must be within the bounds of law. While the high court said the right to participate in peaceful protests and to make speeches in public meetings was said to have been protected under Article 19(1)(a), and couldn't be blatantly curtailed, it observed the right was "not absolute" and "subject to reasonable restrictions".

Khalid, Imam and the rest of the accused persons were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the erstwhile IPC for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

of the day

quote

All those who completed 30 years in the state will benefit from this scheme. Structures that have completed 15 years as on February 28, 2014 are eligible for the scheme. The state government is giving protection to the houses from litigation

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

Chhath is not just about faith, it symbolises unity, cooperation and our shared cultural values. Our goal is to make it a festival that reflects cleanliness, culture and good governance

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

Accession Day is a celebration of Jammu and Kashmir's eternal bond with India. A day that reminds every citizen of the farsighted leadership, patriotism and courage of the Maharaja, whose historic decision ensured that Jammu and Kashmir became an inseparable part of Bharat

KAVINDER GUPTA | LADAKH LT GOVERNOR

X

POST

OF THE DAY

Voting in Bihar is probably the easiest choice anywhere in India. No other major party even comes close to

@cpimliberation

If they don't have a candidate in your constituency, just back whoever they endorse.

@DearthOfSid

SHORT TAKES

Three held for attack on judge's house in MP

Anuppur: Three men were arrested Sunday for allegedly threatening to kill a magistrate, damaging property and pelting stones at his residence in Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, with police saying it was a "revenge attack" after he rejected the bail plea of one of the accused earlier. As per the complaint filed by Judicial Magistrate First Class and Civil Judge Amandeep Singh Chhabraof Kotma court, at around 12:30am Saturday, a group of persons damaged property, including a lamp at the gate and iron fixtures, before pelting stones into the courtyard.

Tiger kills man in Mysore village

Mysore: Panic has gripped some villages in Mysuru district after a tiger killed another man Sunday, officials said. The incident happened near Mullur village in Saraguru taluk, they added. According to forest officials, 58-year-old Rajashekar Murthy, a cattle herder from Mullur, was attacked by a man-eating tiger while grazing his cattle in an open field in the afternoon.

Man dies after being attacked with iron rod

Kolkata: A man died after being allegedly attacked with an iron rod following an altercation during a drinking session in south Kolkata's Chetla area, police said Sunday. The incident took place near Chetla bus stand on Saturday night when an argument broke out among a group of inebriated persons, which quickly escalated, and one of them attacked the man with an iron rod, a police officer said. Three persons have been detained in connection with the murder, he said.

Waqf Act will be thrown into dustbin: Tejashwi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Katihar/Kishanganj, Oct 26: If the INDIA bloc is voted to power in Bihar, the Waqf (Amendment) Act would be "thrown into the dustbin", the Opposition coalition's CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav said Sunday.

Addressing public rallies in the Muslim-dominated Katihar and Kishanganj districts, Yadav said his father, Lalu Prasad, the RJD chief, never compromised with communal forces in the country.

"But Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has always supported such forces, and it is because of him that the RSS and its affiliates are spreading communal hatred in the state as well as in the country. The BJP should be called 'Bharat Jalao Party'. If the INDIA bloc comes to power in the state, we will throw the Waqf Act into the dustbin," he said.

The Waqf (Amendment) Act was passed by Parliament in April. The ruling BJP-led NDA has hailed the law as a step towards transparency and empowerment for backward Muslims and women in the community, while the Opposition has criticised it, alleging that it infringes upon the rights of Muslims.

On Saturday, RJD MLC Mohammad Qari Sohaib stirred a controversy by stating that if Yadav becomes the CM of Bihar, "all bills will be torn apart, including the Waqf bill", inviting a barrage of attacks from their Opposition, who questioned how a central law could be changed by the chief minister of a state.

Yadav, meanwhile, claimed that this election is a fight to



16 rebel leaders expelled from JD(U)

Patna: Cracking down on rebellion in the party ahead of the Assembly elections, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) expelled 16 leaders, including a sitting MLA and two former ministers, most of whom have entered the fray against official NDA candidates. The expulsions have been announced in two separate communications issued, one on late Saturday and the other on Sunday, in which the rebel leaders have been charged with "anti-party activities" and violation of the ideology of JD(U). Among those who have been expelled is Narendra Niraj alias Gopal Mandal, the sitting MLA from Gopalpur in Bhagalpur district, who remains in the news, mostly for wrong reasons. Mandal had recently staged a dharna in front of the CM's residence in Patna when he learnt that the party was going to drop him from the list of candidates.

protect the Constitution, democracy and brotherhood.

"People of the state are tired of the 20-year-old Nitish Kumar government. The CM is not in his senses. Corruption is rampant in each and every department of the government. The law and order situation has



Madhya Pradesh is number 1 in tomato production in the country

MOHAN YADAV | MADHYA PRADESH CM

PM Modi: 2026 will be ASEAN-India year of maritime cooperation

In a virtual address at the India-ASEAN annual summit, Modi also said that the grouping is a key pillar of New Delhi's Act East Policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday pitched for an early review of the India-ASEAN free trade pact and said the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two sides is emerging as a powerful foundation for global stability in an era of uncertainties.

In a virtual address at the India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) annual summit in Kuala Lumpur, Modi described terrorism as a "serious challenge" to global peace and security, and underlined the importance of unity to combat the menace.

The prime minister also declared 2026 as the "ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation" and reaffirmed New Delhi's strong support to the grouping's centrality in the Indo-Pacific, a region that has witnessed growing Chinese military assertiveness. Modi emphasised that an "early review of the ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA) can unleash the full economic potential of our relationship for the benefit of our peoples and further strengthen regional cooperation", according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). In his remarks, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said there has been "some real progress" in

completely collapsed in the state," he alleged.

He claimed that the NDA government has done nothing for the development of the Seemanchal region.

"If we come to power, we will set up the Seemanchal Development Authority for the overall development of the region. A world-class university will be built here, besides a super-speciality hospital and a centre of the Aligarh Muslim University," he said.

Yadav alleged that even after Kumar as CM for 20 years and Narendra Modi as PM for 11 years, Bihar has remained the most backward and poor state in the country.

"Seemachal is the poorest region of the state. This is the time to teach them a lesson," he added.

The region, comprising Purnia, Araria, Kishnaganj and Katihar districts, has a significant Muslim population.

The RJD leader alleged that the NDA government was copying the election promises he was making.



Women winnow grains using traditional method, tossing the grain into the air from winnowing baskets to separate it from chaff in Nadia district, West Bengal



ISRO TO LAUNCH SATELLITE NOV 2

The ISRO Sunday said its LVM3 launch vehicle is scheduled to lift off with the CMS-03 communication satellite November 2, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota



the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and that the grouping wants to conclude it by this year. The AITIGA came into force over 15 years ago. The ASEAN-India summit saw both sides discussing initiatives to strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership, especially in areas of food security, resilient supply chain, tourism and education.

The two sides also unveiled a statement on sustainable tourism, noting that tourism has become one of the important drivers for economic growth for both ASEAN and India. PM Modi also extended support for implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026-2030).

The prime minister also proposed to organise the second ASEAN-India defence ministers' meeting and the second ASEAN-India maritime exercise for a secure maritime environment. India will continue its role as a first responder in times of crisis in the neighbourhood, and further strengthen cooperation in disaster preparedness, he said. Modi also announced that India will impart training to 400 professionals in renewable energy, for supporting the ASEAN power grid initiative. It was his 12th participation in the India-ASEAN summit.

In his address, Modi congratulated Timor Leste on becoming the 11th member of ASEAN.

Mob attacks customs officer in his Kolkata residence; four held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 26: A Customs officer was injured when a mob allegedly barged into his residence and beat him up, following a reported altercation with an autorickshaw driver over rash driving in Rajpur area near Kolkata, police said.

Four people have been apprehended in connection with the alleged assault on Customs Inspector Pradeep Kumar Saturday, they said.

Kumar said he had an altercation with the autorickshaw driver after the latter's vehicle dashed against his car.

"Subsequently, a large group of men broke into my flat, beat me up and heckled my wife. As the assault continued, we thought our end was near," the Customs officer claimed.

Kumar said he suffered injuries on the forehead, neck and chin, and was taken by his colleagues to AIIMS-Kalyani in Nadia Sunday for further treatment.

He also alleged that police did not arrive on time Saturday even after frantic calls for help.

CCTV footage from the flat showed the officer with a bloodied forehead, as household materials lay scattered around.

PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the footage.

A police officer said an investigation into the incident is underway, and four people have been arrested.

"All four were granted bail by a court in Baruipur. A counter case of assault was lodged against the Customs officer," he said.

'BJP hijacked local body polls in Dadra and Nagar Haveli'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26:The Congress Sunday accused the BJP of hijacking the local body polls in Dadra and Nagar Haveli by conspiring with officials to get about 80 per cent of its candidates' nomination papers rejected.

The Opposition party said it will raise the matter with the poll authorities responsible for local body polls in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and also approach the Bombay High Court on the issue.

Congress' in-charge for Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Manikrao Thakare, alleged that electoral "rigging" is taking place in the UT.

There was no immediate reaction from the UT election commission or the BJP on the Congress' claims.

"A major scam has been exposed in the local body elections. Going beyond vote theft, the entire election has been stolen in this region. The BJP planned so well that no one contested against it, thus hijacking the entire election," Thakare said at a press conference here.

J'khand shocker: 5 thalassemia kids get HIV after blood transfusion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 26: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Sunday ordered the suspension of the West Singhbhum Civil Surgeon and other officials concerned after five children suffering from thalassemia tested HIV-positive following blood transfusions.

The action came after the family of a seven-year-old thalassemia patient alleged that the local blood bank in Chaibasa, the district headquarters of West Singhbhum, had transfused HIV-contaminated blood to their child.

During an inquiry by a five-member medical team from Ranchi Saturday, four more children were found to be HIV-positive.

"Instructions have been issued to suspend the civil surgeon of West Singhbhum,

along with other responsible officials, following reports of HIV-infected blood transfusion to children suffering from thalassemia in Chaibasa. The state government will provide financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to each affected family and will bear the complete cost of treatment for the infected children," Soren posted on X.

Terming the incident extremely heartbreaking, the CM ordered the health department to conduct an audit of the blood banks in the state.

"The Health Department should conduct an audit of all blood banks located in the state and submit the report within five days. Lax arrangements in the health process will not be tolerated under any circumstances," the CM said in another post.

Following the initial allegation by the child's family, the state government constituted a medical team to investigate how the infected blood was transfused.



tion by the child's family, the state government constituted a medical team to investigate how the infected blood was transfused.

According to officials, approximately 25 units of blood

had been transfused to the child since treatment began at the Chaibasa blood bank.

District Civil Surgeon Dr Sushanto Majhee earlier confirmed that the child had tested HIV-positive more than

"Instructions have been issued to suspend the civil surgeon of West Singhbhum, along with other responsible officials, following reports of HIV-infected blood transfusion to children suffering from thalassemia in Chaibasa," CM Soren posted on X

a week ago. He also said that HIV transmission could occur through various means, including exposure to contaminated needles.

The five-member investigation team, led by Director

of Health Services Dr Dinesh Kumar, inspected the blood bank at Sadar Hospital and the paediatric intensive care unit, collecting details from children currently undergoing treatment.

"Preliminary investigations suggest that contaminated blood was transfused to a thalassemia patient. Certain irregularities were detected at the blood bank, and officials have been instructed to address these issues immediately," Dr Kumar stated.

West Singhbhum district currently has 515 HIV-positive cases and 56 thalassemia patients.

The probe team comprised Dr Dinesh Kumar, Director, Health Services, Dr Shipra Das, Dr SS Paswan, Dr Bhagat, District Civil Surgeon Dr Majhee, Dr Shivcharan Hansda, and Dr Minu Kumari.

of the day

quote

They (US) promised they would never again get involved in a war and they are fabricating a war that we will avoid



NICOLÁS MADURO | PRESIDENT, VENEZUELA

I am not done. I have lived my entire career a life of service and it's in my bones. And there are many ways to serve. I've never listened to polls



KAMALA HARRIS | FORMER VP, US

Despite the various nuances voiced by the president of the United States, we must still be oriented towards our interests. Our interests are to build good relations with all countries, including the United States



VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

SHORT TAKES

Three hovercrafts inducted in Pak navy

Islamabad: Pakistan inducted three state-of-the-art hovercrafts in its navy to augment the naval capability and strengthen the sea frontier, while its top military leaders visited regional countries to promote defence ties, according to the army. The induction of the 2400 TD Hovercraft was carried out on Saturday during the visit of the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, to forward posts in Creeks Area to review operational preparedness and combat readiness, a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the army, said.

Trump slaps 10% hike in tariffs on Canada

Washington: President Donald Trump said Saturday that he plans to hike tariffs on imports of Canadian goods by an extra 10 per cent because of an anti-tariff television ad aired by the province of Ontario. The ad used the words of former President Ronald Reagan to criticize US tariffs, angering Trump who said he would end trade talks with Canada. Ontario Premier Doug Ford said he would pull the ad after the weekend, and it ran Friday night during the first game of the World Series. "Their Advertisement was to be taken down, IMMEDIATELY, but they let it run last night during the World Series, knowing that it was a FRAUD," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.



I don't think anything we're doing with Pakistan comes at the expense of our relationship or friendship with India, which is deep, historic, and important

MARCO RUBIO | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

Hurricane Melissa rapidly strengthened into a major Category 3 hurricane as it unleashed torrential rain in the northern Caribbean and threatened catastrophic flooding and landslides in Jamaica and southern Haiti. US forecasters warned that the slow-moving Melissa is expected to strengthen further and be a major hurricane when making landfall in Jamaica early next week



Trump headlines ASEAN summit

REUTERS

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 26: The leaders of Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire deal Sunday watched over by US President Donald Trump, who landed in Malaysia for the ASEAN Summit and to oversee a series of pivotal trade talks.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and his Cambodian counterpart Hun Manet signed the agreement at a ceasefire ceremony in front of a backdrop covered in US insignia and the words "Delivering Peace", building on a truce signed three months ago.

"This declaration, if fully implemented, will provide the building blocks for a lasting peace, but more importantly, it will begin the process of mending our ties," Hun Manet said. "Our border communities have been divided by conflict, and innocent civilians have suffered immense losses."

Trump helped broker an end to the five-day conflict in July by calling the then-leaders of the two countries and urging them to end hostilities, their worst fighting in recent history, or risk their respective trade talks with Washington being put on hold.

"The United States will have a robust commerce and cooperation, transactions, lots of them, with both nations, as long as they live in peace," Trump said.



- US prez lands in Malaysia for first leg of Asia tour
- Thailand-Cambodia sign ceasefire deal
- US signs critical minerals deals with Malaysia, Thailand
- Trump says he expects a deal with China

CHINA NEGOTIATIONS

On arriving in Malaysia, Trump was greeted by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and a troupe of ceremonial dancers at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. He stopped on the red carpet to dance with the performers before taking a US flag in one hand and a Malaysian flag in the other and jumping into his limousine to travel to the city with Anwar.

As Trump mingled with other leaders, US and Chinese negotiators met on the sidelines

India cutting back Russian oil 'completely', says US president

US President Donald Trump once again claimed that India is going to stop buying oil from Russia, emphasising that India is cutting back Russian oil purchases "completely" while China will cut back "very substantially." Talking to reporters onboard Air Force One on his way to Malaysia, Saturday, Trump said that "India is cutting back" Russian oil purchases "completely." While responding to a question about raising the issue of Russian oil with Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meeting, Trump said he might discuss Russian oil purchases with Xi. "I may be discussing it, but you know China, you probably saw it today. China's cutting back very substantially on the purchase of Russian oil," Trump said. Trump is set to meet Xi on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in South Korea. The US president and his administration have been claiming for the past few days that India has assured that it will significantly reduce its oil imports from Russia. However, India has been maintaining that its energy policy is guided by its own national interest, especially ensuring affordable and secure supplies for its consumers.

to avert further escalations in a trade war between the world's two largest economies.

US negotiators said the meeting had built a "successful framework" ahead of talks between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in South

Korea next week. "I think we're going to have a deal with China," an optimistic Trump told reporters at the sidelines of the summit, while China's negotiators said they had reached a preliminary consensus. China's stranglehold over

PART OF DISARMAMENT

Kurdish PKK militants withdraw from Turkey

REUTERS

Qandil Mountains, Oct 26: The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group said Sunday it was withdrawing from Turkey as part of a disarmament process being coordinated with the government, pressing Ankara to move ahead with steps allowing it to enter politics.

The PKK, which has waged an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, decided in May to disarm and disband after a call to end its armed struggle from its jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan. The fighting has killed more than 40,000 people.

In July, the outlawed group, which is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the US and European Union, burned some weapons in a symbolic act of good faith.

In a statement read during an event in the Qandil Mountains, the group's stronghold in northern Iraq, the PKK said it had decided to withdraw all of its militants from Turkey to lay the foundations for a "free, democratic and brotherly life".

global supplies of rare earths is at the heart of the negotiations, and Washington has sought to diversify supply chains.

Within hours of landing in Malaysia, Trump had finalised trade agreements with four countries, including deals involving critical minerals with Thailand and Malaysia, amid competing efforts from Beijing in the rapidly growing sector.

TRADE DEALS

Malaysia Sunday agreed to refrain from banning or imposing quotas on exports to the United States of critical minerals or rare earth elements, the countries said in a statement. They did not specify whether Malaysia's pledge applied to raw or processed rare earths.

He also announced a wider trade deal with Cambodia while the White House said an agreement had also been reached with Vietnam to allow "both countries' exporters unprecedented access to each other's markets".

The US would maintain a tariff rate of 19% on most exports from Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia, while a 20% rate on Vietnam will also be retained, the White House said.

To the leaders of one of the regions hardest hit by tariffs, Trump said: "Our message to the nations of Southeast Asia is that the United States is with you 100% and we intend to be a strong partner for many generations."

Russia tests N-powered Burevestnik missile



The test sends a message that Russia, in Putin's words, will never bow to pressure from the West over the war in Ukraine as US President takes a tougher stance against Russia to push for a ceasefire

REUTERS

Moscow, Oct 26: Russia has successfully tested its nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile, a nuclear-capable weapon Moscow says can pierce any defence shield, and will move towards deploying the weapon, President Vladimir Putin said Sunday.

Russia's top general, Valery Gerasimov, chief of the general staff of Russia's armed forces, told Putin that the missile travelled 14,000 km (8,700 miles) and was in the air for about 15 hours when it was tested October 21.

Russia says the 9M730 Burevestnik (Storm Petrel) - dubbed the SSC-X-9 Skyfall by NATO - is "invincible" to current and future missile defences, with an almost unlimited range and unpredictable flight path.

"It is a unique ware which nobody else in the world has," Putin, dressed in camouflage fatigues at a meeting with generals overseeing the war in Ukraine, said in remarks released by the Kremlin on Sunday.

Since first announcing the 9M730 Burevestnik in 2018, Putin has cast the weapon as a response to moves by the United States to build a missile defence

Suspects arrested over theft of crown jewels from Louvre museum

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 26: Suspects have been arrested in connection with the theft of crown jewels from Paris' Louvre museum the Paris prosecutor said Sunday, a week after the heist at the world's most visited museum that stunned the world.

The prosecutor said that investigators made the arrests on Saturday evening, adding that one of the men taken into custody was preparing to leave the country from Roissy Airport.

French media BFM TV and Le Parisien newspaper earlier reported that two suspects had been arrested and taken into custody. Paris prosecutor Laure Beccau did not confirm the number of arrests and did not say whether jewels had been recovered.

Thieves took less than eight minutes to steal jewels valued at 88 million euros (\$102 million) last Sunday morning. French officials described how the intruders used a basket lift to scale the Louvre's facade, forced open a window, smashed display cases and fled.

Beccau said investigators from a special police unit in charge of armed robberies, serious burglaries and art thefts made the arrests. She rued in her statement the premature leak of information, saying it could hinder the work of over 100 investigators "mobilised to recover the stolen jewels and apprehend all of the perpetrators."



Female elephant Mo Mo, second right, eats a cake made of fruits, vegetables and sugar canes together with her friends during a ceremony to mark her 72nd birthday at the Yangon Zoological Gardens Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Amid talks, Pak-Afghan border clash kills 30

REUTERS

Karachi, Oct 26: Five Pakistani soldiers and 25 militants have died in clashes near the border with Afghanistan, the military said Sunday, as delegations from both countries met to try to defuse tensions after the deadliest fighting in years.

The militants tried to cross

over from Afghanistan on Friday and Saturday in Kurram and North Waziristan districts, rugged areas along Pakistan's northwestern frontier, the Pakistani military's media wing said.

It said the attempted infiltrations cast doubt on the intentions of the government in Afghanistan in "regards to addressing the issue of terrorism

emanating from its soil".

In Afghanistan, the Taliban government's chief spokesman and the defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the reported attacks. The Taliban denies accusations of sheltering militants and says Pakistan's military operations violate Afghan sovereignty.

SUCCESSOR TO 'PANDA DIPLOMACY'

China's rare golden monkeys debut at European zoos

The golden snub-nosed monkeys now at zoos in France and Belgium are so far the only ones outside of Asia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Oct 26: With their distinctive shaggy orange manes, pale blue faces and dense fur covering their hands and feet, it's hard to mistake China's endangered golden snub-nosed monkeys for any other animal. These rare and charismatic monkeys, unique to the frigid mountains of central China, have recently joined the country's famous pandas as furry envoys to zoos in Europe for the first time — on loan for 10 years from the same government-overseen group that coordinates official panda exchanges.

As with "panda diplomacy",



some observers cheer new opportunities for scientific and conservation collaboration, while others raise concerns about the welfare of individual animal ambassadors transported around the world.

Three golden monkeys ar-

rived at France's Beauval Zoo in the city of Saint-Aignan this April, following an agreement to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and France.

Another trio of golden mon-

keys arrived at the Pairi Daiza zoo in Hainaut, Belgium, in May. The zoo distributed Belgian and Chinese hand flags to visitors on the day the monkeys arrived.

After a month long quarantine, the two sets of monkeys made their public debuts. So far, they appear to be in good health, according to the two zoos, adapting to new climates outside Asia for the first time.

At Pairi Daiza, the habitat enclosure for Liu Yun, Lu Lu and Juan Juan includes traditional Chinese gazebos with red columns and gray-tiled roofs, where the monkeys spend much of their time jumping between logs and rope ladders and scrambling over roofs.

Both giant pandas and golden snub-nosed monkeys are endangered animals that are unique to China and they can only be moved outside the country with approval from

the central government, said Elena Songster, an environmental historian at St Mary's College of California.

While both species are considered national treasures, only monkeys have deep roots in Chinese art and culture, appearing in countless paintings and as characters in classic literature, including the wily Monkey King in the 16th century novel "Journey to the West".

Within China, the golden snub-nosed monkeys today live across a swath of central and southwestern China that includes parts of Sichuan, Shaanxi, Gansu and Hubei provinces. At the Shennongjia National Park in Hubei, conservation efforts since the 1980s have helped increase the region's population threefold to around 1,600 monkeys today, said Yang Jingyuan, president of the Academy of Sciences at the park.

PUTIN SIGNALS TO WASHINGTON

For Trump, who has cast Russia as a "paper tiger" for failing to swiftly subdue

Ukraine, the message is that Russia remains a global military competitor, especially on nuclear weapons, and that Moscow's overtures on nuclear arms control should be acted on.

Putin's message for the broader West, after the United States moved to provide Ukraine with intelligence on long-range

energy infrastructure targets in Russia, is that Moscow can strike back if it wants to.

After The Wall Street Journal reported that the Trump administration has lifted a key restriction on Ukraine's use of some long-range missiles provided by Western allies, Putin said Thursday that if Russia was attacked, the response would be "very serious, if not overwhelming."

Russia tests nuclear-capable Burevestnik missile

Missile flew for 14,000 km, 15 hours

Putin says it can pierce any missile defences

of the day

quote

The monthly review meetings with airlines definitely help in communicating, having better coordination with the airlines and addressing issues

K RAMMOHAN NAIDU | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

One day, not too far off, we will be looking at a situation where there will be alternative forms of energy, which will increasingly matter more to us in terms of the incremental demand satisfaction, than fossil fuels, or the way we use fossil fuels itself is going to change

PANKAJ JAIN | PETROLEUM SECRETARY

The visit comes at a crucial stage in the ongoing India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, as both sides intensify efforts to conclude a comprehensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial trade agreement at the earliest

PYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Lenskart IPO

New Delhi: Eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions is gearing up to launch its initial public offering (IPO) October 31, aiming to raise ₹2,150 crore through a fresh issue of shares. This marks its much-awaited entry into the public markets. The company's maiden public offering would conclude on November 4, and the bidding for anchor investors would open for a day October 30, according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP). Apart from the fresh issue, there would be an offer-for-sale (OFS) component, in which promoters and investors would offload over 12.75 crore equity shares. Lenskart proposes to utilise the proceeds from the IPO for various strategic initiatives, including capital expenditure for setting up new company-operated, company-owned (CoCo) stores in India, and general corporate purposes.

CESL tender

New Delhi: State-owned Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) will open a mega tender next month to procure 10,900 electric buses for cities including Hyderabad, Surat, Ahmedabad, Delhi and Bengaluru. This tender marks a significant milestone in India's journey toward sustainable, zero-emission public transport systems under the National Electric Bus Programme (NEBP). This mega tender encompasses multiple cities and Union Territories, including Hyderabad, Surat, Ahmedabad, Delhi, and Bengaluru. It covers both AC and Non-AC buses across various categories, including Standard Floor, Low Floor, and BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) models.

AlchoBev industry expects rise in biz

New Delhi: The alcoholic beverage industry is on a high, with nearly double-digit growth in festive season sales, and now expects an upswing of around 20 per cent in the October-December period, driven by the premium spirits category. The industry witnessed a spike in sales across categories, whether it's IMFL or Scotch in the whisky segment, or rum or white spirits such as vodka, white rum, gin and tequila in the almost one-and-a-half-month festive season, which is now in its conclusion. This festive season, the industry has witnessed higher growth in the premium category, as well as in smaller tier II & III markets, alongside the developed markets.

India is the fourth-largest and among the fastest-growing markets for Canva globally, and the popular graphic design platform hopes to make it number one market in the coming years, driven by strong traction from creators, students, and growing use of AI tools

CHANDRIKA DEB | CANVA INDIA HEAD

OLA ELECTRIC BOARD GIVES NOD TO FUNDRAISE

Ola Electric Saturday said its board has approved raising up to ₹1,500 crore via an issue of securities. The company's board has considered and approved a proposal for raising funds by issue of shares, or convertible securities including warrants via rights issue, qualified institutional placement, private placement and/ or any other permitted modes under applicable laws for an aggregate consideration of up to ₹1,500 crore, the Bengaluru-based firm said in a regulatory filing



PV exports rise 18% in Apr-Sept; Maruti Suzuki leads segment

Passenger car shipments rose to 2,29,281 units in the period under review, an increase of 12 per cent as against 2,05,091 units in the April-September period of 2024-25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Total passenger vehicle exports in the first half of the current fiscal year rose to 4,45,884 units as compared with 3,76,679 units in the year-ago period, an increase of 18.4 per cent. Passenger car shipments rose to 2,29,281 units in the period under review, an increase of 12 per cent as against 2,05,091 units in the April-September period of 2024-25. Similarly, utility vehicle exports to overseas markets rose 26 per cent year on year to 2,11,373 units in the April-September period of the current fiscal. Van shipments rose 36.5 per cent year on year to 5,230 units in the first half of the current financial year. Maruti Suzuki's exports rose to 2,05,763 units in the period



under review, an increase of 40 per cent as compared with 1,47,063 units in the same period a year ago Hyundai Motor India shipped 99,540 units in the April-September period, up 17 per cent from 84,900 units in the year-

ago period. Nissan Motor India exported 37,605 units in the period under review as against 33,059 units in the year-ago period. It was followed by Volkswagen India with shipment of 28,011 units; Toyota Kirloskar

Motor with 18,880 units; Kia India with 13,666 units and Honda Cars India with 13,243 units. SIAM has attributed the growth in passenger vehicle exports to stable demand across global markets, particularly robust performance in the Middle East and Latin America. Reflecting a clear trend of market diversification, Indian exporters have registered a positive growth in 24 countries during the first half of the current fiscal year, even as shipments to the US declined due to high tariffs in September. These 24 countries include Korea, UAE, Germany, Togo, Egypt, Vietnam, Iraq, Mexico, Russia, Kenya, Nigeria, Canada, Poland, Sri Lanka, Oman, Thailand, Bangladesh, Brazil, Belgium, Italy and Tanzania.

SEPT QUARTER Global FMCGs face disruption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Multinational FMCG companies selling soap to soft drinks in the Indian market reported some impact on their sales in the September quarter from disruption owing to GST reforms, along with unusually heavy rains in parts of the country, but they see growth in the coming quarters, helped by favourable macro-economic conditions.

Leading global marketers, including Unilever, Reckitt, Heineken, PepsiCo, and Coca-Cola, in their respective earnings calls, have mentioned challenges they faced due to disruptions in trade channels in September. "Our emerging market performance is improving; India, in particular, is very well positioned over the medium term. The GST reform has had some impact in the short-term, but we believe it is very good news for 40 per cent of our portfolio with close to a 10 per cent price reduction," Unilever CEO Fernando Fernandez said. British FMCG major Reckitt said its net revenue growth in India was impacted in the September quarter due to the implementation of new GST slabs; however, it reported volume-led growth in its germ protection brand Dettol.

Dutch brewing major Heineken NV, which owns United Breweries Ltd (UBL) said its India beer volume has been impacted with a decline of "mid-single-digit" in the September quarter of 2025 on account of unusual heavy rains in parts of the country during the monsoon.

However, its organic net revenue grew by a 'mid-single-digit', which is largely supported by price hikes in some of the key states along with a portfolio mix. Hienekin CFO Harold van den Broek said: "In India, organic net revenue (beia) 4 grew by a mid-single-digit, while beer volume fell by a mid-single-digit, impacted by the monsoon season. We outperformed the market."

American Cola majors Coca-Cola and PepsiCo also reported disruptions from rain in the September quarter. PepsiCo Inc Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Ramon L Laguarta said the September quarter was impacted because of weather conditions. Without naming any rivals, he said the beverage market is witnessing competition that may impact growth in the next few quarters.

The Coca-Cola Co Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President Henrique Gnani Braun said on earnings calls that its volumes declined in Asia Pacific markets, including India, due to "Inclement weather" during the monsoon season. French spirits major Pernod Ricard CFO Hélène de Tissot. India sees strong sales growth, both on Royal Stag and especially on international brands led by Jameson. "For the full year, we are expecting the excise policy change to continue to weigh on our overall sales performance.

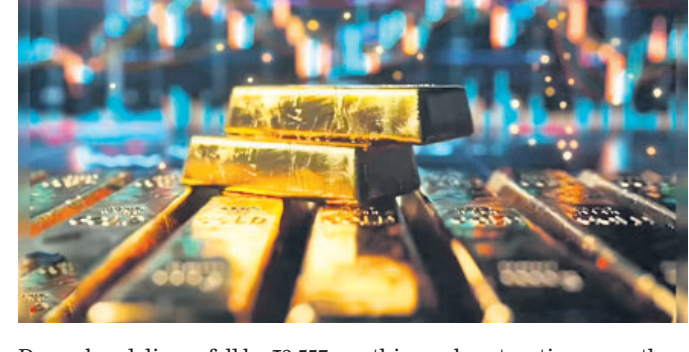
AMID RBI MEETS & TRADE

Gold braces for turbulence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Gold prices are likely to witness some consolidation in the domestic markets next week as investors brace for a series of key central bank meetings and global trade developments, analysts said.

Investors will keenly follow the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) policy outcome and remarks from Fed Chair Jerome Powell for cues on the interest rate decision. The US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's meeting in South Korea, and the European Central Bank's policy review on Thursday are also expected to steer the trajectory of precious metal prices, they added. "Gold prices closed in negative for the first time in ten trading weeks, on profit-book-ing at recent tops, weakening physical demand in Asian centres like India & China, and further weighed by a stronger US dollar," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said. He said physical demand in India weakened in the latter part of the week as buyers trimmed purchases in anticipation of a deeper price correction while lower prices sparked buying interest in China and Singapore. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for



December delivery fell by ₹3,557, or 2.80 per cent, during a holiday-shortened week. The latest selloff in gold prices follows profit-taking by investors amid a record run in the bullion market. "Additionally, signs of a thaw in US-China trade relations and a possible positive outcome in trade talks between New Delhi and Washington have also bolstered the risk-off sentiment, pushing gold prices lower," Prathamesh Malliya, DVP - Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, said. On the global front, Comex gold futures dropped \$75.5, or 1.8 per cent, over the week. The yellow metal hit an all-time high of \$4,398 per ounce on Monday but tumbled by USD 266.4, or 6.11 per cent, on Tuesday, marking its biggest one-day fall in over a decade. "Gold witnessed its sharpest one-day decline in over a decade

this week, retreating more than 6 per cent as investors booked profits following a prolonged record-setting rally. The selloff was largely technical, with prices failing to hold above the USD 4,300 an ounce level," Riya Singh -- Research Analyst, Commodities and Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services, said. She added that renewed optimism about US-China trade discussions and a firmer dollar also capped safe haven flows to gold. Silver, too, succumbed to profit-taking after its recent record-setting rally. On the MCX, white metal futures for December delivery crashed by ₹9,134, or 5.83 per cent. In the international markets, silver futures shed 3.02 per cent in the past week. It had hit a record of \$53.76 per ounce October 17. The white metal suffered losses by over 8 per cent, marking its steepest one-day fall since 2021, to touch \$47.12 per ounce October 21.

Push for next-gen communication

Sixth-generation or 6G technology will be the next major upgrade in wireless communication, following 5G. It is expected to be 1,000 times faster than 5G, with almost zero delay in data transfer

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Government is taking major steps to make the country a global leader in next-generation communication technologies, according to official data released Sunday.

Building on the rapid rollout and adoption of 5G, the government is now focusing on developing 6G technology under its "Bharat 6G Vision," which aims to make India a hub for advanced telecom innovation by 2030. According to the government, India's 6G vision is based on the principles of affordability, sustainability, and universal access. The goal is to ensure that every citizen benefits from high-speed connectivity while promoting indigenous research, innovation, and collaboration with global partners. The initiative is closely linked with the national goal of

building a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047. Sixth-generation or 6G technology will be the next major upgrade in wireless communication, following 5G. It is expected to be 1,000 times faster than 5G, with almost zero delay in data transfer. This will enable real-time applications such as remote surgeries, advanced robotics, smart cities, and immersive virtual experiences. To support the development of 6G, the government has launched several initiatives. It has funded two advanced testbeds the 6G Terahertz (THz) Testbed and the Advanced Optical Communication Testbed to boost research and innovation. Additionally, 100 5G labs have been set up in academic institutions across India to prepare the ecosystem for 6G and strengthen collaboration between industry and academia. As of now, 104 research proposals related to 6G network ecosystems have been approved, aligning India's R&D efforts with the global 6G roadmap. The government has also launched the 'Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)' to promote indigenous R&D in telecom technologies. So far, 115 projects worth over ₹310 crore have been approved under the scheme, focusing on both 5G and 6G technologies.



Mcap of top 7 firms jumps by ₹1.55L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms jumped by ₹1,55,710.74 crore in the holiday-shortened last week, with Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers, amid a positive trend in domestic equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 259.69 points or 0.30 per cent. Thursday, the 30-share BSE Sensex hit its

52-week high of 85,290.06. From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers, while HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Hindustan Unilever saw their valuations erode. Reliance Industries added ₹46,687.03 crore, taking its market valuation to ₹19,64,170.74 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS jumped by ₹36,126.6 crore to ₹11,08,021.21 crore.

OVL seeks legal advice post US sanctions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has sought legal opinion after the United States imposed sanctions on a Russian oilfield in which a consortium of Indian companies holds a 49.9 per cent stake, sources said. US President Donald Trump October 22 announced new sanctions against two of Russia's largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, in a bid to pressure Moscow into ending



its war with Ukraine. As part of these, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated a number

of Russia-based Rosneft and Lukoil subsidiaries in which they, directly or indirectly, held a 50 per cent or more stake. The list of subsidiaries thus blocked includes CJSC Vankorneft, in which OVL has a 26 per cent stake, and an Indian consortium comprising Oil India Ltd (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat PetroResources Ltd, which holds 23.9 per cent. The remaining 50.1 per cent is with Rosneft.

Equal work, unequal wages: pay gap persists for gig workers

The report found that nearly half of the workforce believes that the gig workers are paid less than their permanent counterparts, revealing a persistent disparity that continues to shadow India's festive hiring landscape.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 26: Even as festive hiring for the year surged, wage parity between gig and permanent employees remained unresolved, with 47 per cent of respondents believing there is a pay gap, a report has revealed. When asked how the hourly pay of gig or freelance workers compares to that of permanent employees for the same role, 11 per cent respondents said earnings were up to 10 per cent less, 23 per cent said wages were 10-25 per cent lower and 13 per cent revealed the gap exceeds 25 per cent, according to the report by Genius HRTech (formerly Genius Consultants).

Collectively, the report found that nearly half of the workforce believes that the gig workers are paid less than their permanent counterparts, revealing a persistent disparity that continues to shadow India's festive hiring landscape. The report by workforce staffing services and HR Solutions provider is based on a DigiPoll survey among 1,550 professionals across industries during September 1-30, 2025. The festive economy thrives on the agility and contribution of gig workers, yet our data shows they continue to operate on unequal terms. The principle of 'equal pay for equal work' must extend beyond permanent



contracts. Fair compensation, skill-building, and transparency are key to creating a

future-ready, motivated gig workforce that can truly power India's seasonal demand, Genius HRTech Chairman and

Managing Director R P Yadav added. The report further revealed that 73 per cent of respondents believe that festive gig workers should receive the same hourly pay as permanent employees for identical work, underscoring a clear sentiment across the workforce in favour of pay parity. From the employer's perspective, however, most justify gig-permanent pay gaps by citing flexibility. Over 56 per cent of employers cited the absence of long-term benefits or obligations as the main reason, followed by 24 per cent who pointed to short-term employment duration and

10 per cent who attributed it to perceived lower skill or training levels. However, only 3 per cent have confirmed there has been no difference in pay between gig and permanent employees, said the report. When asked about non-monetary benefits that would improve satisfaction among gig workers, 43 per cent voted for skill development for future roles, it said. This was followed by 31 per cent preferring flexible shifts, 13 per cent citing transport and meal facilities, and 9 per cent calling for career transition opportunities to permanent employment, it stated.

India tops SAAF C'ships

FIELDING A SECOND-STRING TEAM, INDIA ENDED THE CHAMPIONSHIPS ON TOP WITH 58 MEDALS (20 GOLD, 20 SILVER, 18 BRONZE)



Odisha's rising sprinter Pratik Maharana bags bronze in men's 200m event with a timing of 21.44s



Odisha's Sarun Payasingh secures bronze medal in men's long jump event with a jump of 7.52m

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 26: Sri Lanka's star javelin thrower Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage lived up to the expectations as he easily won gold with a meet record effort even as India topped the final medal table in the 4th South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) Senior Athletics Championships here Sunday. India and Sri Lanka shared the spoils with eight gold each on the third and concluding day at the Birsa Munda Stadium.

GOLDEN COMEBACK: The SAAF Senior Championships have made a return after 17 years, the last edition being held in Kochi in 2008. India had also topped the table in 2008 with 57 medals -- 24 gold, 19 silver, 14 bronze, while Sri Lanka had accumulated 7 gold, 9 silver, 15 bronze

um. Fielding a second-string team, India ended the championships on top with 58 medals (20 gold, 20 silver, 18 bronze). Sri Lanka finished second with

40 medals (16 gold, 14 silver, 10 bronze). The championships ended on a pulsating note with the Indian women's 4x400m relay

quartet picking up the gold in the last event with the last-leg runner Neeru Pathak overtaking her Sri Lankan rival at the final stretch after the home team was trailing Sri Lanka for most part of the race.

The 22-year-old Pathirage, who had finished seventh in the World Championships in September, dominated the four-man field with his third-round throw of 84.29m to clinch the gold and better the previous meet record of 75.37m set in the 1998 edition in Colombo.

Pathirage, who had finished third in the NC Classic javelin competition hosted and won by India's two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra in July, has a personal best of 86.50m.

Compatriot Sumedha Ranasinghe took the silver with an effort of 81.62m while India's Uttam Patil got the bronze with 76.30m. "It was my final event of the season and it went well with the gold in my pocket. I am hoping to improve further in the next season," Pathirage said after the event.

Sri Lanka's Mohammad Yamick ended with sprint double as she won the 200m gold with a time of 23.58 seconds, adding to the 100m top spot she had secured on the opening day Friday.

India's Sakshi Chavan (23.91 seconds) and Neeru Pathak (245.06 seconds) took the 200m silver and bronze respectively.

ASIAN YOUTH GAMES

Odisha's pride Preetismita makes weightlifting history



POST NEWS NETWORK

RECORD-BREAKING RUN

■ **Asian Youth Games (October 2025):** At the 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, Bhoi won a gold medal in the 44 kg weight category. During her medal-winning lift, she set new world and Asian records with a 92 kg clean and jerk and a total lift of 158 kg

■ **Commonwealth Championships (August 2025):** At the 30th Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships, she won a gold medal in the 44 kg women's category, lifting a total of 150 kg

cessful lift of 66kg, she failed in her next two attempts of 68kg and 69kg. Union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan congratulated the Odisha girl for making India proud.

"Preetismita Bhoi from Dhenkanal, Odisha makes India proud at the 3rd Youth Asian Games 2025 being held at Bahrain. Bagging Gold Medal in the 44 kg category, she has also scripted a new Asian

and World record in Clean & Jerk with a massive 92 kg lift. Congratulate her for the record-smashing performance. May she continue to shine and make India proud," Dharmendra posted on X.

With this performance, India took its medals tally to 23, including three gold, nine silver and 11 bronze. On Saturday, India had won 17 medals, including two gold, six silver and nine bronze.

CONTINENTAL GLORY

Young shuttlers shine



India finish with best medal haul of two golds, one silver and two bronzes in Badminton Asia U17 & U15 C'ships

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chengdu, Oct 26: Shaina Manimuthu (U15) and Diksha Sudhakar (U17) clinched gold medals in their respective age categories as India registered their best-ever performance in the Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Championships 2025 Sunday.

In the U15 girls' singles final, Shaina defeated Japan's Chiharu Tomita 21-14, 22-20 before Diksha Sudhakar got the better of compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9 in the U17 girls' singles final.

Diksha also became the first Indian singles player ever to win a U17 title at the Junior Asian Championships. Sunday's results meant that the India contingent will return home with two gold, one silver

HISTORIC FEAT

- Diksha now the first Indian singles player ever to win a U17 title
- Shaina fourth Indian girls singles player to clinch the U15 crown

and two bronze medals.

The last time India won two gold medals was in 2013 when Siril Verma won the U15 boys' singles title while Chirag Shetty and MR Arjun claimed the U17 boys' doubles crown.

On Sunday, Shaina became the fourth Indian girls singles player to clinch the U15 crown as she dominated Tomita in the opening game and then staved off a late challenge in the second game to close out the match in 44 minutes. Jagsher Singh Khangura, in boys' singles, and the mixed doubles pair of Jangjeet Singh Kajla and Jananika Ramesh had bagged bronze medals Saturday after falling in the semi-finals.

Sujeet storms into final at U23 Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Novi Sad (Serbia), Oct 26: Sujeet Kalkal pulled off a stunning two-point throw in the dying moments of his semifinal to trump Japan's Yuto Nishiuchi 3-2 and secure his place in the men's freestyle 65kg title clash at the U23 World Championships, here Sunday.

Kalkal trailed till the very end of the bout in which the Japanese did not let the Indian launch any attack but for the fag end.

Trailing 1-2 and just three seconds from the hooter, Kalkal went for a double leg attack and managed to throw Nishiuchi off balance for a winning move in the last-four clash.

Kalkal has never won a world title but has two U23 Asian titles (2022, 2025) and one U20 Asian Championship gold (2022). Nishiuchi led 2-0 at the end of first period, scoring a point on pushout and passivity of his rival.

Kalkal got on board when Nishiuchi was put on clock. Kalkal made two attempts to make a move but the agile Japanese thwarted both attempts. Nishiuchi had almost put his feet in the semifinal but Kalkal didn't give up and finally got the decisive move, leaving his rival crestfallen.

Sujeet had bronze in the same championships last year and has bettered the colour of his medal. He won his first two bouts by technical superiority -- against Moldova's Fiodor Ceavdari (12-2) and Poland's Dominik Jakub (11-0).

India-B'desh WC clash washed out

IN-FORM PRATIKA RAWAL SUFFERS SERIOUS INJURY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Oct 26: Incensant rains forced the abandonment of India's match against Bangladesh but the hosts suffered a major injury scare as opener Pratika Rawal hurt her ankle and knee while fielding in an inconsequential Women's World Cup match here Sunday.

In a rain-truncated 27 overs per-side contest, India were 57 for no loss in 8.4 overs after restricting Bangladesh to 119/9 when rains intervened again,

forcing the officials to call off the game. India's target was revised to 126 from 27 overs.

Smriti Mandhana was on 34 not out and makeshift opener Amanjot Kaur was unbeaten on 15 when the match ended, and the two teams shared a point.

India finished the league stage with three wins from seven matches and the washout gave them seven points along with a fourth-place finish.

Bangladesh leapfrogged Pakistan to move to the seventh

Women in Blue, chasing their maiden World Cup title, will take formidable Australia in the semifinal Thursday

spot despite having similar points (3) as their victory in their previous meet in the tournament putting them one place above.

Earlier, Rawal's right foot got stuck into the turf on the final ball of the 21st over of the first innings when she ran in from deep midwicket to stop the ball, and collapsed immediately grimacing in pain.

Indian players ran towards their teammate while a stretcher was also taken to the spot, but Rawal walked off the field with assistance from the support staff and even sported a smile on her face.

All eyes will remain on Rawal's recovery as India, chasing their maiden World Cup title, will take formidable Australia in the semifinal here Thursday.

In Rawal's absence, chasing a revised target of 126 from 27 overs saw vice-captain Mandhana walking out in company of Amanjot, who opened the innings at this level for the first time.

Earlier, India restricted Bangladesh for a paltry 119 for nine in 27 overs after weather forced reduction of overs.

Shortest match in Ranji Trophy history: Services beat Assam

AGENCIES

Tinsukia, Oct 26: The Ranji Trophy 2025-26 delivered an unprecedented spectacle as Assam and Services clashed in what became the shortest completed match in the tournament's history -- wrapping up in just 90 overs.

The two-day encounter at the Tinsukia District Sports Association Ground, Kachujan, witnessed dramatic collapses, two hat-tricks in a single innings and 32 wickets falling in breathtaking succession.

Services clinched a commanding eight-wicket victory after dismantling Assam twice inside two days. Assam's batting lineup endured a nightmare in their first innings, skittled out for just 103 runs in 17.2 overs.

The destruction was spearheaded by Arjun Sharma (5/46) and Mohit Jangra (3/5), both of whom achieved hat-tricks in the same innings -- a feat never before witnessed in Ranji Trophy or first-class cricket history.

Chasing just 71 runs for victory on the second morning, Services sealed the match in 13.5 overs, finishing at 72/2, with Riyan Parag picking up both wickets.

The one-sided result capped a record-breaking, whirlwind contest that defied conventional first-class expectations.

EL CLASICO

Curse broken: Real Madrid end Barca's dominance

Mbappe, Bellingham strike as Real Madrid crush struggling Barcelona 2-1 in fiery clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Oct 26: Real Madrid ended its four-game losing streak against rival Barcelona with a 2-1 victory in the first clasico of the season Sunday.

Madrid won the Spanish league game with goals by Kylian Mbappé and Jude Bellingham.

The home victory increased Madrid's league lead over Barcelona to five points after 10 rounds. France forward Mbappé, who failed to convert a second-half penalty kick, put Madrid



ahead halfway through the first half. That came after the VAR had reversed a penalty-kick call

and a goal for the hosts in the opening 15 minutes at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Mbappé opened the scoring in the 22nd after an assist by Bellingham. Barcelona equal-

ized through Fermín López in the 38th and Bellingham netted the winner in the 43rd.

Mbappé had his penalty kick saved by Barcelona goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny in the 52nd.

There was a brief scuffle between the bench players from both teams after Barcelona's Pedri was sent off just before the final whistle. The altercation continued after the game ended, with Madrid forward Vinicius Júnior and Barcelona star forward Lamine Yamal -- who was successfully contained by Madrid defenders -- among those involved. Madrid has won 12 of its 13 matches this season, with its lone setback a 5-2 loss at Atletico Madrid in the Spanish league in September.

It was the third loss of the season for Barcelona in all competitions.

India in semis of Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Trophy

Muscat: The Indian men's rugby team has made it to the semifinals of the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Trophy following an impressive opening day of the tournament. After a fighting 14-10 win over Lebanon in the opener, India maintained momentum with a 26-5 victory against Afghanistan, and went on to secure a commanding 21-7 win over Iran in the quarter-final. With three wins from three matches, India face Saudi Arabia in the semifinal Monday. A win will not only send the team into the final but also seal a historic promotion to Division 1 - the Asia Rugby Sevens Series - for the first time ever.



India beat Argentina at International Polo Cup

New Delhi: Hosts India edged past Argentina 10-9 in the KogniVera International Polo Cup at the iconic Jaipur Polo Ground here Sunday. India were led by Sawai Padmanabh Singh of Jaipur. From precision strikes to strategic plays, the match embodied the very essence of international polo with passion, power, and partnership. "Winning against Argentina is an incredible moment for all of us. Every player gave their best, and the energy from the stands pushed us even further. It's a proud day for Indian polo," India captain Simran Singh Shergill said.

