



Fitness challenge

Actor and fitness enthusiast Shilpa Shetty shares a new fitness challenge centered on balance

LEISURE | **P2**



Trump in Japan

Trump receives a royal welcome in Japan during his Asia tour, aiming to secure a trade war truce with China's Xi Jinping

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Mcx bull dex

MCX of India Ltd launches monthly options contracts on its bullion index as it seeks to offer more hedging tools to investors

BUSINESS | **P11**



Strong seven

India's Senior Men's Rugby Sevens team finishes as runners-up at Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Trophy in Muscat

SPORTS | **P12**



STORM BREWS: Boats parked on Puri beach, Monday, as a precautionary measure against Cyclone 'Montha', which is expected to make landfall in Andhra Pradesh coast Tuesday

MoUs worth ₹50K-crore inked for port-led devpt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday invited investors to participate in the state's "port-led" economic transformation, asserting that the state is emerging as a key driver of India's eastern maritime resurgence. He said this at India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai, which was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The state government also signed multiple memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth ₹50,000 crore, covering infrastructure, port development, and ship-building projects.

Majhi said Odisha is committed to developing a strong port-based economy and transforming its ports into engines of trade, industry, and employment to drive India's growth over the next 25 years.

On the occasion, the state government signed seven MoUs worth ₹50,000 crore, including a proposal for development of



an all-weather Satellite Major Port at Bahuda Muhana (₹21,500 crore) and establishment of National Mega Ship Building Cluster (₹22,700 crore). "Odisha is committed to building a strong port-led and port-based economy and will transform its ports into engines of trade, industry, and employment — driving India's growth journey for the next 25 years," the CMO issued a statement quoting Majhi.

The event, hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and organised by the Indian Ports Association (IPA), brought together leaders from over 100 countries to deliberate on the future of the global maritime sector and India's growing leadership within it.

Odisha braces for 'MONTHA'

Deploys 140 ODRAF, NDRF, and Fire Services teams

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: The state government geared up evacuation of people from vulnerable places amid inclement weather in eight southern districts where a 'red alert' has been sounded, as the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal Monday intensified into cyclonic storm 'Montha' (meaning fragrant flower) and rolling towards east coast at a speed of 15 kmph, officials said.

The government, which had earlier deployed 128 rescue teams from NDRF, ODRAF and Fire Service, further augmented it to 140 teams keeping in view of the requirement,

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said after reviewing the situation in the evening.

He said 3,000 people and 1,496 pregnant women were shifted to the safer places by 5pm Monday ahead of the cyclone hitting the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh coast near Kakidana Tuesday evening or night.

"We've a target of evacuating 32,528 people from vulnerable areas and hilly terrains as the government has set the 'zero casualty' target in the impending calamity. The state government has opened 1,445 cyclone shelters to house the people when the storm passes through Odisha," the minister said.

SC on stray dogs: India shown in poor light

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court Monday slammed the states and Union Territories (UTs), including Odisha, which have not filed their compliance affidavits in the stray dogs case, and said continuous incidents were happening and the country was being shown in poor light in foreign nations.

The apex court directed the chief secretaries of the states, except West Bengal and Telangana, to remain present before it November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court's August 22 order.

The top court said except West Bengal, Telangana and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), none of the other states and UTs have filed their compliance affidavits.

"It is October 27 today. No response, nothing. And continuous incidents are happening. Your country is being shown as down in foreign countries," a three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria said. It noted that pursuant to its August 22 order, only three compliance affidavits were filed.

"Notices have been issued



to all the states and UTs. As they have not responded, let the chief secretaries of all the states, other than... remain present before this court next Monday at 10:30am along with their respective explanations as to why the compliance affidavits were not filed," it said.

The bench noted that during the hearing, there was no representation from states which have not filed their affidavits.

The apex court was hearing a suo motu case relating to stray dogs. The court August 22 expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-NCR, and directed that all states and UTs be made parties in the matter.

It directed the municipal authorities to file an affidavit of compliance with complete statistics of resources like dog pounds, veterinarians, dog-catching personnel, and specially-modified vehicles and cages available as on date for the purpose of compliance of the Animal Birth Control Rules.

The bench also impleaded all the states and UTs in the matter while observing that application of ABC Rules was uniform all over India.

During the hearing Monday, when one of the advocates referred to some guidelines, the bench said, "Let the authorities come and point that out." It said notices were issued to all the states and UTs August 22, and it was widely reported as well.

"Your officers don't read newspapers? They don't read social media? They want a formal notice to be issued to them? The order (of August 22) mentioned everything. Don't come up with all these excuses," the bench said.

When one of the lawyers referred to cruelty against stray dogs, the bench said, "What about the cruelty to humans?"

GMDC on land grab spree

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Oct 27: Residents of seven villages in Chhendipada block of Angul district have accused the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) of grabbing hundreds of hectares of their land by making false promises of jobs and development of the region.

Locals said GMDC — a state-owned company of Gujarat — took over Baitarani-West coal block in Chhendipada, which was earlier allotted to Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) and abandoned following protests. They said the state government has handed the project over to GMDC, along with 1,196 hectares of land for open-cast coal mining. However, villagers, lo-



cal leaders, and activists from Talcher-Anugul Banchao Andolan and Regional Suraksha Mancha alleged that the company, with the support of certain political leaders and officials, is exploiting the area's resources while displacing locals.

If the project proceeds, it will affect seven villages including Chhendipada jungle, Tentilol Kodasahi, Podapada forest, Machakuta, and Podapada village. They fear the project will devastate their live-

lihoods, destroy forests, and pollute local water and air. Although a public hearing on environmental clearance has already been held, GMDC has begun survey work. Locals have filed complaints with the administration.

Handigoda village head Bhagat Nayak alleged GMDC officials entered the village with the help of a few influential people and conducted a survey without consulting the villagers. Sasmita Behera, an adviser to Regional Security Forum, said locals have launched protest to protect their ancestral land. "If mining starts here, nearby residents will be engulfed in dust and smoke," she said.

When contacted, GMDC's CSR in-charge Prashant Dehuri said he is not authorised to speak on the issue.

2nd phase SIR from Nov 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Election Commission (EC) will conduct phase two of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union Territories (UTs) between November and February, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced Monday.

The states and UTs are: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Among these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026. Kumar clarified that in Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of electoral rolls will be announced separately.

Phase two of the SIR exercise will begin November 4 with the enumeration state and continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls December 9, and the final electoral rolls will be published February 7.

Kumar said a separate provision of the Citizenship Act was applicable to Assam.

Shreyas Iyer hospitalised

New Delhi: India ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer has been admitted to a hospital in Sydney and is currently in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after suffering internal bleeding resulting from a rib cage injury sustained during the third match against Australia. Iyer, who had taken a brilliant catch while running backwards from backward point to dismiss Alex Carey, appeared to have injured his left rib cage in the process. According to sources, Iyer fainted in the dressing room and his vital parameters were alarmingly low. He was rushed to the hospital soon after with scans revealing he sustained a "laceration injury to the spleen".

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Gavai recommends Justice Surya Kant as next CJ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai has recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI. Justice Surya Kant, the second senior-most Supreme Court judge after the incumbent CJI Gavai, is set to become the 53rd chief justice of India November 24 after CJI Gavai's retirement November 23.

CJI Gavai, who was sworn in May 14 this year, recommended to the Union law ministry to appoint Justice Surya Kant as the next CJI.

Justice Surya Kant, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court May 24, 2019, would have a tenure of nearly 15 months as the CJI. He is due to retire February 9, 2027.

Extremely rare Roman-era tomb discovered

AGENCIES

Munich, Oct 27: Archaeologists in Germany's Bavaria have unearthed an elaborately constructed but empty circular stone grave they suspect to be an "extremely rare" Roman-era burial mound. The stone circle was uncovered during construction work next to an old Roman road in the town of Eichstätt, researchers said.

Describing about the rare discovery, Curator General of Bavarian State Office for Monument Preservation Mathias Pfeil, in a translated statement, said, "The tomb was both a place of remembrance and an expression of social status. We hadn't expected to discover a funerary monument of this age and size here."



The Wolkertshofen stone circle (IMAGE: MANFRED WOIDICH)

The tomb was discovered during construction work in the fall of 2024 in the village of Wolkertshofen, located in the southern German state of Bavaria. Archaeologists working alongside the builders noticed fragments of ceramics during the excavation, before reaching a massive stone foundation

with a diameter of 39 feet (12 metres). Abutting the circle was a stone square that probably once held a statue or grave marker.

According to the Bavarian State Office for Monument Preservation, the circular tomb was built next to a Roman road. The shape and arrangement of the carved stones also suggest that the burial mound dates to Roman times, when the area was part of the province of Raetia.

Similar Roman burial mounds have been found in Central Europe and Italy, but this discovery is "highly unusual" and "extremely rare" for Germany, the Bavarian State Office for Monument Preservation noted in the statement. Burial mounds found in this area are typically from a

much earlier date.

Additionally, the Wolkertshofen tomb is unusual because no bones, urns or grave goods were recovered at excavation. Because of this absence researchers believe the structure functioned as a cenotaph. A cenotaph honours the dead but does not contain their remains or internment. The idea challenges typical Roman burials where bodies and goods were deposited carefully.

"The tumulus (burial mound) was located directly on an important Roman traffic route, and the family thus created a widely visible memorial for the deceased," Pfeil said.

Further research into the tomb and the surroundings will help experts better understand Roman life in Bavaria, according to the statement.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you will turn an attentive ear to your inner voice. As a result, you will able to execute all your plans with precision. Besides being cheerful, you will even take disappointments with a pinch of salt. Why just today, says Ganesha, you can have this rare quality for keeps.

TAURUS
As a manager, you may able to outclass your colleagues by a great margin, predicts Ganesha. You will soften your approach with time and move towards a more democratic style of decision-making rather than the arbitrary protocol that you are used to. With this, you will taste success and prove your mettle in adverse situations, feels Ganesha.

GEMINI
You will receive unprecedented love and affection from all your friends and family members today. It is a good day to conduct important personal or professional meetings. A lot of joy and happiness awaits, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You may donate to a charity organisation, for your mental happiness. On the job front, stick to your routine, rather than taking a new bold step, says Ganesha. A good day on the financial front.

LEO
A fun-filled day awaits you. You will enjoy all the activities that you take up today. At the work-place too a progressive day awaits you. You will be worried about the fruits of your labour, but they are likely to be sweeter than you thought they will be, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You will pen down the things to be done today. However, Ganesha suggests that just making a note of them is not enough; you need to set practical goals according to priority. Moreover, Ganesha warns that items you mark on the top of the list will demand immediate action.

LIBRA
Ganeshi says that today you shall make your competitors and enemies envious of your success in business. Beware, as they shall try to hurt or put down your reputation in varied ways. Instead of having a fight with them you should try to be politically correct and take care of matters using your intelligence.

SCORPIO
Negative thoughts are likely to surround you today, try to avoid it. You may feel lonely and left-out when the day begins. However, a long list of activities and responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout the day. There are possibilities that you may land up in tricky situations, but you have the knack of handling things gracefully.

SAGITTARIUS
Today is a curiously interesting day for you. While you are always well-groomed, today, you may take that extra bit of care to look best and attract a lot of praise for that too, especially from those glam hounds around you. That immaculate charm you are carrying today will enhance your business fortunes.

CAPRICORN
A penny saved is a penny earned. Your strong belief in this will make you scrutinise your requirements and rearrange the priority list, so that you know where and how to utilise the resources. Your choice of friends will represent your approach and outlook towards life. Ganesha advises you to choose your friends wisely.

AQUARIUS
There is nothing like having a good time with your brothers and sisters. Generally, you plan out your routine and activities by yourself, but it is a different day today. Your siblings will make plans for you and you will just go along with the flow, predicts Ganesha. Spontaneity is something new to you, and you will enjoy the change.

PISCES
Some unknown fear could haunt you today. You will direct your energies to discovering the source of your worries and eliminate them. Lovers will find some precious time to cozy up with their partners. You will find yourself going out to the movies or to a concert. On the whole it will be a productive day for you, says Ganesha.



MARTIN, TURNER SPARK DATING RUMOURS
Reports suggest a new romance between *Game of Thrones* star Sophie Turner and Coldplay's Chris Martin, following their recent breakups. The duo was reportedly spotted on a secret London date. Turner, a known Coldplay fan, and Martin, currently in London for tour dates, are said to have connected after their respective splits.

CAMILA MENDES, RUDY MANCUSO GET ENGAGED
Hollywood star Camila Mendes announced her engagement with musician and actor Rudy Mancuso. Mendes and Mancuso shared a joint post on their respective Instagram handles. The post comprised pictures from the proposal where Mancuso was seen with a ring on one knee in a room filled with white flowers.



Nitanshi's dream moment

Mumbai: Actor Nitanshi Goel, who rose to fame with *Laapataa Ladies*, recently won the Best Debut Actress Award at the Filmfare Awards held in Ahmedabad. While basking in her big moment, she almost tripped on the staircase but was gallantly rescued by none other than the king of romance, Shah Rukh Khan, who was hosting the show. Recalling the incident, Nitanshi shared, "Walking up to receive an award for such a special performance was already an unforgettable moment, but being saved by Shah Rukh Khan sir made it magical. Getting the award from my idols — Shah Rukh sir, Akshay sir, and Karan sir — is something I'll cherish forever."

Laughing about the viral moment, she added, "Girls all over the world dream of being held by Shah Rukh sir, and it actually happened to me! He even held my gown's trail so I wouldn't trip again. I'll never forget that chivalrous gesture."

Fans quickly compared her near-fall to Jennifer Lawrence's iconic tumble at the 2013 Oscars. Reacting to the comments, Nitanshi said, "I read them all! Now I completely understand Jennifer's 'kick walk' advice — sometimes our excitement overtakes all the instructions!"

AGENCIES



Fitness challenge by Shilpa

Mumbai: Actress and fitness enthusiast Shilpa Shetty started the week on an inspiring note by sharing a new fitness challenge centered on balance.

Promoting strength, focus, and stability, the *Dhadkan* actress encouraged her followers to test how long they can stay steady. Monday, Shilpa took to Instagram to share a video showcasing her impressive balance and flexibility. The fitness enthusiast effortlessly demonstrated a yoga pose, inspiring her followers to focus on strength, stability, and mindfulness as part of her Monday Motivation challenge.

In the caption, Shetty emphasised the importance of balance as a key aspect of fitness and mindfulness. She explained that practicing balance yoga helps strengthen the feet, ankles, calves, knees, and thighs by engaging stabilising muscles. It also improves concentration and enhances one's sense of balance through focused awareness.

Strengthens the feet, ankles, calves, knees, and thighs by engaging stabilising muscles during balance and increasing mobility. Improves concentration and sense of balance through focused awareness while holding the posture. Stimulates the Muladhara (root) chakra, grounding and stabilising the mind. Challenge thrown to you, how long can you stay steady? #MondayMotivation #SwasthRahoMasRaho #FitIndia #yogasehihoga."

IANS



Raveena talks about inner balance

Mumbai: Bollywood's timeless diva, Raveena Tandon, recently turned 53, and when told she looks more like her daughter Rasha's elder sister, she bursts out laughing. "I can't be competing with my daughter for roles!" she says with a smile. For Raveena, looking good isn't about vanity but self-care and inner balance. "A healthy lifestyle reflects on you," she explains. "What you eat, how you sleep, your heart and soul — it all shows on your face. It's about living a wholesome life."

Raveena refuses to be defined by age, embracing the philosophy that life begins whenever you choose. "Age has no bound

aries for how you should live," she asserts. "I'm the same person I've always been. You start living when you decide, 'I want to live now.'"

Reflecting on her childhood birthdays, she fondly remembers simple celebrations with games, chutney sandwiches, and tiny rasgullas. "Our growing-up years were much simpler," she recalls. Although times have changed, she kept her children's birthdays equally simple. "Now they've grown up and do their own thing, so I'm off the hook," she laughs.

At 53, Raveena embodies grace and passion, redefining aging beautifully while embracing every phase of life with style, strength, and authenticity.

AGENCIES

Ayushmann on picking roles

Mumbai: Bollywood Ayushmann Khurrana, who delivered the biggest opener of his career with *Thamma*, has shared how he approaches his roles.

The actor spoke with this news agency after the film's release as he celebrated its success. When asked if he chooses his films with a warrior mentality or to indulge in the subject of the film, he paused and said, "It's a mix of both. I'm quite ambitious when it comes to my work. I also want to be consistent when it comes to the merit of the film. I'm glad that my success ratio is one of the best in the industry as far as the hit ratio is concerned. At the same time, I'm also a purist as an artist. It's a very thin line I'm treading, being a purist and yet having a commercial mindset which is a lot of fun".

He told, "I love doing films which are unique and which strike a conversation, and also clutter breakers. So, I'm a risk taker. I just have fun as an artiste and that's how I always wanted to be".

Earlier, the actor had said that the film was "tailor-made" for him. *Thamma* raked in INR 25 crore nett on its opening day, and also marked a major departure for the actor in terms of his boy next door image as an actor where he largely essays relatable characters from the heart of India.

IANS



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.

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

SOLUTIONS

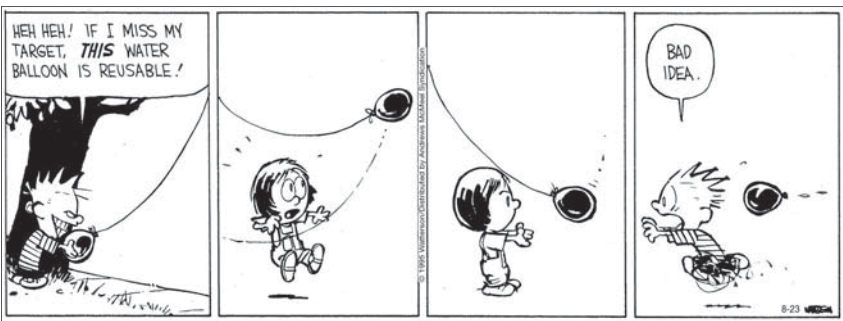
G	D	R	I	S
C	A	N	I	N
L	V	V	U	O
T	X	I	E	N
S	P	E	E	D
R	E	F	E	T
M	E	D	I	A
N	N	A	O	E
M	A	C	K	E
T	J	E	I	A
W	A	F	E	R
L	T	S	T	N

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

PEANUTS



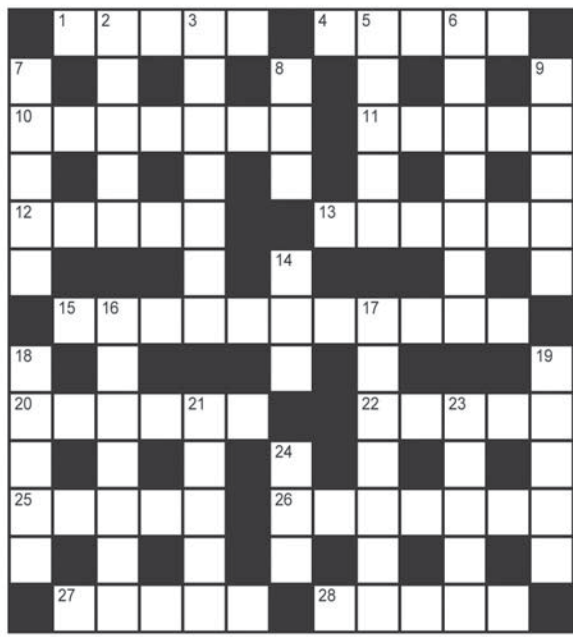
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Rubbish
 - 4 Feather in one's cap
 - 10 Intensity
 - 11 Bolivian capital
 - 12 Hooded snake
 - 13 Jumping rodent
 - 15 Red gun dog (5,6)
 - 20 Appetizer
 - 22 Frigid
 - 25 Staircase post
 - 26 Agitated
 - 27 Gastric woe
 - 28 Antiquated
 - Down**
 - 2 Post-op time
 - 3 Certain correspondents (3,4)
 - 5 Fine thread
 - 6 Ghastly machine
 - 7 Park feature
 - 8 Morning moisture
 - 9 Tooth trouble
 - 14 Petition
 - 16 Magazine purchase
 - 17 Emblematic
 - 18 Bloodhound's clue
 - 19 Fuddy-duddy
 - 21 Throb
 - 23 Carpenter's machine
 - 24 Knowledge

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Man held for ₹1.08cr online gaming fraud

The accused, Sugata Majumder from West Bengal's Nadia district, was taken into custody following an investigation



Majumder, a BSc Zoology graduate and freelance video editor, was found with incriminating materials such as mobile phones, SIM cards, and a hard disk

He was later produced before the OPID Court in Cuttack under relevant sections of the BNS, IT Act, Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, and OPID Act

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: The Odisha Police Crime Branch has arrested a 29-year-old man from West Bengal for allegedly duping people of ₹1.08 crore by promising high returns on investments through an online gaming platform, officials said Monday.

The accused, identified as Sugata Majumder from Nadia district in West Bengal, was taken into custody following an investigation, they added.

Earlier, two others had been arrested in connection with the case, officials said. The Crime Branch launched the investiga-

tion following a complaint from an investor who alleged that a cyber fraudster had duped him by luring him to invest in an online gaming scheme.

The fraudsters, through persuasive communication, lured the victim into trading on illegal online gaming platforms, leading him to transfer ₹1,08,79,420. Despite initial losses, they convinced him to invest further. However, when he tried to withdraw his money, they demanded additional payments and refused to release his funds. Realising he had been cheated, the victim filed a police complaint, officials said.

After analysing transaction

details and other digital evidence, the investigating team traced the suspects to Nadia district in West Bengal and arrested Majumder. He is a native of Sukantapally village under the jurisdiction of Gangnapur police station in Nadia district, officials said.

The accused, a BSc Zoology graduate and freelance video editor, was found in possession of various incriminating materials, including mobile phones, SIM cards, and a hard disk, which were seized by the police.

He was later forwarded to the designated Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Court in Cuttack under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Information Technology Act, Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, and the OPID (in Financial Establishment) Act.

The Crime Branch, in its advisory, urged people to remain cautious about online betting and investment schemes, warning that cybercriminals often use such platforms to defraud unsuspecting users.

It advised citizens to thoroughly verify the authenticity of any online platform before investing money and to avoid sharing personal or financial information with unknown sources. In case of suspicious activity or fraud, people have been asked to immediately report the matter by calling the 1930 Cyber Helpline or visiting the nearest police station.



CHHATH PRAYERS: Members of the Bihari community offer prayers on the occasion of Chhath puja at Kuakhai in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

Devotion marks Chhath celebrations in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: The Capital city glowed with devotion and colour as thousands of devotees observed Chhath puja Sunday evening, offering prayers to the setting sun at riverbanks and ponds. The four-day festival dedicated to the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya was celebrated at Kuakhai, Daya, and Bhargavi rivers, and major city water bodies like Bindusagar Tank, Dumduma Pond, VSS Nagar Pond, and Pokhariput Ghat.

Women devotees, known as vratinis, observed a day-long fast and gathered at the ghats with bamboo baskets

filled with fruits, sugarcane, and thekua, the festival's traditional offering. As the sun set, the ghats came alive with devotional songs, chants, and the warm glow of hundreds of earthen lamps reflecting on the waters. Major sites like Kuakhai Ghat near Palasuni, Daya River bank at Lingipur, and Bhargavi River ghat at Balakati witnessed large crowds, while many devotees opted for artificial ponds at Unit-VIII and Saheed Nagar for convenience and safety.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and city police made extensive arrangements to ensure a safe and smooth celebration.

Temporary barricades, lighting, drinking water stalls, and first-aid camps were set up at major ghats, while sanitation workers maintained cleanliness through the night. Traffic police efficiently managed heavy vehicular flow on routes to Kuakhai and Lingipur, allowing devotees to perform rituals without hindrance.

As devotees offered arghya to the rising sun Monday morning, chants of "Chhathi Maiya ki Jai" echoed across the City, marking the culmination of a festival symbolising discipline, purity, and gratitude to nature.

Puja celebrated at KIIT

Chhath Puja was observed

with devotion and traditional fervour on the KIIT-DU campus Monday. A large number of students, especially from Bihar, participated in the rituals dressed in traditional attire, creating a vibrant spiritual ambience.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta joined the celebration, extending greetings to students and staff. He highlighted Chhath's deep cultural and spiritual roots, noting that Mata Sita observed it after returning from exile. Pro-Vice Chancellor Raju K D, Registrar G R Mohanty, and other officials also attended the event.

OCCL holds 292nd board meeting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: The 292nd Board of Directors meeting of Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd (OCCL) was held Monday under the chairpersonship of Anu Garg, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources department.

During the meeting, it was revealed that projects worth ₹3,673 crore are in the pipeline, including mechanical works worth ₹86 crore and projects from various departments such as Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Science and Tech-

nology, and Tourism. Under the Tourism Department, OCCL will execute the integrated development and upgradation of the Hiraikud reservoir master plan, which includes a light and sound symphony, arrival plaza, and dam museum, with a total cost exceeding ₹100 crore.

The Kusabhadra In-Stream Storage Structure (ISS) project is scheduled for completion by June 2026, while the Kuakhai ISS will be finished by December 2026. The completion of these two major projects will pave the way for the development of a scenic riverfront near Bhubaneswar and contribute to the rejuvenation of the dying Prachi River.

Fire safety awareness meet for passenger buses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: Prioritising passenger safety, the state government organised an awareness meeting on fire safety in public transport Monday. The programme was jointly conducted by the department of Commerce and Transport, Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services, and the State Bus Owners' Association at the Regional Transport Office, Bhubaneswar-I, to prevent fire-related mishaps.

The meeting was chaired by Director General, Fire and

Emergency Services, Sudhan-shu Sarangi, and attended by Transport Commissione Amitabh thakur, senior officials from the Transport department, and representatives of the State Bus Owners' Association.

In light of recent bus fire incidents reported in various parts of the country, the meeting discussed preventive measures and the importance of strict adherence to fire safety protocols in passenger vehicles.

Sarangi stressed that bus operators must take moral as well as legal responsibility for ensuring the safety of passen-



gers. "Bus staff must be trained to detect and respond to any signs of fire immediately. They should know how to use fire extinguishers and emergency exits efficiently," he said.

The Fire DG directed officials to prepare a detailed list identifying buses that

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Kesinga dated 24.10.2025, I, Gokul Majhi, At/PO - Sirol, PS - Kesinga, Dist - Kalahandi (Odisha) declare that I have changed my name from Gokul balam Sai to Gokul Majhi. Henceforth, I shall be known as Gokul Majhi for all purposes.

5-day vocational skill training kicks off at Centurion varsity



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: A five-day residential hands-on skill development training programme for students of Government Vocational Higher Secondary Schools was inaugurated Monday at Centurion University, Bhubaneswar, under the SPEFL Trade initiative.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Directorate of Higher Secondary Education (DHSE) director Niyati Pattnaik as the chief guest. In her address, she highlighted that the training programme will motivate students to develop practical skills and recognise the growing importance of vocational education in building their future careers.

Centurion University Vice-Chancellor Supriya Pattnaik also attended the event and interacted with the students, stressing the importance of vocational education and its role in shaping future careers. On the occasion, DHSE deputy director Jitendra Nayak delivered the welcome address, while deputy director CH Vijayalakshmi proposed the vote of thanks.

A total of 100 students and teachers are participating in the residential training. The initiative aims to provide participants with knowledge and hands-on experience in various vocational trades, strengthening their practical understanding and employability skills.

OHRC goes digital with virtual case hearings

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: Aiming to make its proceedings more accessible and citizen-friendly, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) began conducting case hearings through video conferencing from October 27. To mark the launch of the initiative, three cases were heard Monday via video conferencing.

In the court presided over by chairperson Justice Shatrughna Pujari, a total of 88 cases were listed, of which two from Dhenkanal district were heard virtually. Social worker and advocate Rajeev Kumar Pattnayak participated in Monday's hearing as the complainant.

Similarly, in Division Bench-I, headed by chairperson Justice Shatrughna Pujari and Member Asim Amitabh Dash, one of the two listed cases—from Cuttack district—was also heard through video conferencing. The complainant, Sujatarani Das, participated in the proceedings virtually. Expressing satisfaction with Monday's virtual hearing, the chairperson said applicants and advocates from distant areas can now attend proceedings from their homes without visiting the Commission's office. The Commission added that the system will be expanded in the coming days.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.2350 ▲ 0.42	SENSEX	84778.84 ▲ 566.96	GOLD	₹120,433 ▼ ₹301
EURO	102.7525 ▲ 0.79	NIFTY	25966.05 ▲ 170.90	SILVER	₹142,100 ▼ ₹537

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.7°	31.8°	Light to moderate rain or thunderstorm very likely
Min Temp	25.1°	22.8°	
Humidity	78%	89%	
Rainfall	0.1mm	2.6mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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



RAJASTHAN CRACKS DOWN ON CHILD LABOUR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 27: The Rajasthan government has approved the Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, prohibiting the employment of children under 14 years of age in shops and commercial establishments.

The move, approved by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, aims to strengthen child welfare, ensure education and health for minors, and align state labour laws with national compliance and safety standards.

The Chief Minister's Office said the amendments aim to balance business facilitation with worker protection, in line with the Union government's

Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Docket.

Key provisions of the Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 include the ban on child labour.

Children below 14 years of age will no longer be permitted to work in shops or commercial establishments. Also, the apprenticeship age has been revised. Now, the minimum age for apprentices has been raised from 12 years to 14 years.

Night work restriction for adolescents has been announced under which individuals aged 14 to 18 years will not be allowed to work at night, while strengthening safeguards for young workers. Also, working hours have been extended.



The maximum daily working hours have been increased from 9 hours to 10 hours, while the maximum overtime limit is now 144 hours per quarter, up from the previous limit. These

changes are aimed at improving productivity and operational flexibility while ensuring welfare and health standards for workers. The earlier Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Es-

STRICT RULES

- Children below 14 years of age will no longer be permitted to work in shops or commercial establishments
- Also, the apprenticeship age has been revised. Now, the minimum age for apprentices has been raised from 12 years to 14 years
- Night work restriction for adolescents has been announced under which individuals aged 14 to 18 years will not be allowed to work at night

been updated to reflect current welfare and educational priorities. Also, special provisions for women's safety under the Factories (Amendment) Rules, 2025, have been made.

The Chief Minister approved amendments to the Rajasthan Factories Rules, expanding employment opportunities for women in specific factory operations while prioritising workplace safety and privacy.

Under the new rules, women (except pregnant or lactating women) can be employed in designated factory sites.

Further, the employers must provide personal protective equipment (PPE), including respiratory masks, face shields, gloves, heat shields, and other safety gear.

Rajasthan schools to follow one uniform rule with no ties: Min

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kota, Oct 27: In a significant reform for the state's education system, Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar announced that government and private school students will now have the same uniform and ties will no longer be a part of it.

Dilawar said: "In the future we will also determine the uniform for teachers. Teachers will have ID cards, and identity cards will also be mandatory for all students."



The minister also announced a change in the academic calendar, stating that the school session will now start April 1 instead of July 1.

"This will ensure students receive their textbooks on time and have sufficient time to study during the summer holidays," he said while addressing the media at Kota University.

In yet another significant announcement, he said that the attendance system will be connected to national anthem and national song.

Highlighting new measures to instill discipline, Dilawar said that employees will be marked present only if they attend the national anthem and national song.

"I have three departments -- Panchayati Raj, Education, and Sanskrit. The offices of these departments will now open with the national anthem and close with the national song," he added.

The minister also announced a new attendance monitoring system under which parents will receive updates about their child's presence at school.

"Parents should know whether their children have reached school or not. If a student is absent, parents will receive a message on the number registered in Shala Darpan," he said.

Dilawar added that preparations for this system have already been completed and it will be launched soon.

Officials said the government believes that a common uniform and stricter attendance norms will promote discipline, equality and transparency in schools.



A flock of pigeons feasts on a heap of groundnuts at a grain market, in Bikaner, Rajasthan

PTI PHOTO

Uttarakhand plans 23 sports academies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Oct 27: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday said 23 sports academies will soon be established in the state under the 'Sports Legacy Plan'.

Inaugurating the 'Sansad Khel Mahotsav' at Rajiv Gandhi Navodaya Vidyalaya in Tapovan, Dhami said the state government is making consistent efforts to promote a sports culture, and Uttarakhand is emerging among leading states in terms of world-class sports infrastructure.

"Under the 'Sports Legacy Plan', 23 sports academies will be established in eight major cit-

ies of the state, where 920 world-class athletes and 1,000 other players will receive high-level training every year," he said.

The chief minister said work is also progressing rapidly on establishing the state's first sports university in Haldwani and a women's sports college in Lohaghat.

Recalling the state's achievement of 103 medals in the 38th National Games, Dhami said a new sports policy has been implemented to ensure the holistic development of sports and encourage athletes.

He said medal-winning players at national and international levels are being provided government jobs, while athletes

are being honoured with the Uttarakhand Khel Ratna Award and the Himalaya Khel Ratna Award. Dhami added that the four per cent sports quota in government services has been reinstated.

He also said the 'Sansad Khel Mahotsav', inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a nationwide initiative to identify and promote sports talent from rural to national levels.

On the occasion, Rajya Sabha MP Naresh Bansal said India's global sports performance has been commendable and announced funding from his MP-LADS fund for volleyball and badminton courts and mess furniture at the Tapovan school.

Tourism witnessed surge in the state with over 23cr visitors in last three years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dehradun, Oct 27: The relentless efforts of the Pushkar Singh Dhami-led BJP government to promote tourism and pilgrimage in Uttarakhand are coming to fruition, with more than 23 crore tourists arriving in the hill state during the last three years, government officials said, quoting the data released by the Tourism department.

This fresh surge in tourism has not only supported the livelihood of homestay, hotel, dhaba operators, women self-help groups as well as businessmen employed with the transport sector.

The special thing is that tourism in Uttarakhand has now become multi-dimensional, tourists are not only limited to big cities and selected hill stations but are also reaching small tourist destinations in remote areas as well.

Along with this, participation of not only domestic but also foreign tourists has increased in the hill state promoting adventure activities like rafting, trekking, bungee jumping, mountaineering, etc.

Due to this surge in tourism sector in Uttarakhand, the



CHANGING LIVES

Over 6,000 homestay operators have emerged as direct beneficiaries of increased tourism activities in the state

As of now this year, the number of pilgrims for the revered Char Dham Yatra alone has reached five million

Over 4,300 horse and mule operators provided their services on the Kedarnath and Yamunotri trekking route

benefits of tourism are directly reaching lakhs of people of the state, which includes hotels, restaurants, homestay operators, transport businessmen, women self-help groups, etc.

At present, more than 6,000 homestay operators in the state have emerged as direct beneficiaries of increased tourism activities.

Pilgrimage activities have

also increased significantly in the state. As of now this year, the number of pilgrims for the revered Char Dham Yatra alone has reached five million.

This year, more than 4,300 horse and mule operators provided their services on the Kedarnath and Yamunotri trekking route.

The state government is now promoting winter travel as well.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the sacred Adi Kailash has also boosted pilgrimage and tourism in the border region of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.

Tourism is the backbone of Uttarakhand's economy as the benefits of tourism and pilgrimage directly accrue to the local people.

Therefore, the Uttarakhand government is striving to continue tourism and pilgrimage activities throughout the year.

Green tax to be imposed on out-of-state vehicles in Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Oct 27: Green tax will be collected from vehicles coming to Uttarakhand from outside states from December, officials said.

According to officials, the decision aims at controlling pollution, protecting the environment, and promoting cleanliness in the state. The collection of this

tax will begin in December.

State Additional Transport Commissioner Sanat Kumar Singh said Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras installed along the state's borders will capture the registration numbers of incoming vehicles.

He said 16 cameras were already installed in the border areas, and their number has

now been increased to 37.

The transport department has appointed a vendor company to collect the green tax, Singh said.

The decision aims at controlling pollution, protecting the environment, and promoting cleanliness in Uttarakhand

The data captured by the cameras will be sent to the vendor through software, which will then separate information related to Uttarakhand-registered, government, and two-wheeler vehicles, and send them to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) database, he added.

He informed that from there, the wallet numbers of the ve-

hicle owners will be searched, and the relevant amount will be automatically deducted and deposited to the account of the transport department.

Different tax rates have been fixed for various vehicle categories -- ₹80 for small vehicles, ₹250 for small cargo vehicles, ₹140 for buses, and between ₹120 and ₹700 for trucks, depending on their weight.

Officer's wife earns ₹37.54 lakh 'salary' from 2 firms sans working



AGENCIES

Jaipur, Oct 27: In nearly two years, she never went to either office yet earned ₹37.54 lakh in 'salary' as an alleged employee of the companies.

The entire matter came to light when a complainant filed a petition in the Rajasthan High Court.

Pradyuman Dixit, a joint director in the Department of Information Technology at RajComp Info Services, received illegal payments through his wife, Poonam Dixit, who was falsely shown as employed by two private companies - OrionPro Solutions and Treegen Software Limited - that received government tenders.

Acting on the Rajasthan High Court's order September 6 last year, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) began a preliminary inquiry July 3 this year.

In return for passing the tender, Pradyuman directed the companies - OrionPro Solutions and Treegen Software Limited - to employ his wife and provide a monthly salary.

The ACB investigation revealed that OrionPro Solutions and Treegen Software Limited transferred money to Poonam Dixit's five personal bank accounts between January 2019 and September 2020. The total payment amounted to ₹37,54,405, described as salary.

Poonam Dixit never visited the two offices during the entire period. Pradyuman Dixit himself approved his wife's fake attendance reports.

The ACB investigation revealed that Poonam Dixit was receiving salaries from two companies simultaneously. While falsely employed at OrionPro Solutions, she also received payments from Treegen Software Limited under the guise of 'freelancing.' During this period, both companies also received government tenders.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA
e_mail : rw_mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in

No.O-1187

e-Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 07/RWD/BPD/2025-26

- Name of the work : Road works
- Total No. of works : 75 Nos.
- Estimated cost : Approx. Estimated Cost Rs.4.86 lakhs to Rs.49.25 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : D&C / C&B / B
- EMO : EMD@1% of Estimated Cost Put to tender
- Period of completion : As per Annexure
- 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
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
S.E.R.W Division, Baripada	07 (Online) /RWD-BPD of 2024-25	29.10.25 at 11.00 A.M.	06.11.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.11.25 up to 3.00 P.M.	06.11.25 at 5.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada

OIPR-25057/11/0028/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BANSAL
E-mail : ge@wbansapal@gmail.com

No.O-1181

"e" Procurement Notice for Building Works
Identification No. Road Online NCB - 07/2025-26

- Name of the Work : Road Work in the District of Keonjhar for the Year 2025-26, 2. Total Number of Work: 1 No., 3. Estimated Cost : Rs.69.75 lakhs (Approx.), 4. Class of Contractor : "B" Class, 5. Period of Completion : As per annexure of e-Procurement Notice No.07 of 2025-26, 6. 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 O/o S.E., R.W. Division, Banspal
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Banspal	Road Online NCB No. 07	Di.29.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Di.11.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	Di.10.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	Di.12.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Banspal

OIPR-25198/11/0013/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH
E.Mail - rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in

No.O-1154

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-SESNG-10 of 2025-26

- Name of the Work : Road Works, 2. Total No. of works : 25 nos. Road, 3. Estimated cost : Rs.5.08 Lakhs to Rs.49.32 Lakhs, 4. Class of contractor : 'B', 'C' & 'D', 5. Period of completion : 01 calendar month, 6. Type of Tender : Single Cover, 7. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh	Online-SESNG-11 of 2025-26	29.10.2025 11.00 A.M.	12.11.2025 05.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./-Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Sundargarh

OIPR-25046/11/0072/2526

MECON LIMITED
(A PSU under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India)
H.O : Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Phone : 0651-2483000
CIN No. : U74140JH1973GOI001199

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION

- MECON Limited requires 02 (Two) nos. of Experienced Doctors on Regular Scale of Pay (Advt. No. 11.73.4.7/2025/Reg/02 dated : 17.10.2025) as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	Grade	Pay Scale	No. of posts
1(a)	Sr.Medical Officer (General Physician)	E-2	Rs.60,000-3%-1,80,000/-	1
1(b)	Consultant (General Physician)	E-3	Rs.80,000-3%-2,20,000/-	
2(a)	Sr.Medical Officer (Critical Care Specialist)	E-2	Rs.60,000-3%-1,80,000/-	1
2(b)	Consultant (Critical Care Specialist)	E-3	Rs.80,000-3%-2,20,000/-	

2.1.MECON Limited requires Experienced Professionals for various posts as follows:

Sl. No.	Advertisement No.	Nature of Employment
1.	11.73.4.7/2025/Cont/04 dated 10.10.2025	FTFT Basis

3.MECON Limited requires Experienced Medical Professional(s) as follows:

Sl. No.	Advertisement No.	Nature of Employment
1.	11.73.4.7/2025/Cont/02 dated 10.10.2025	Part Time Contract Basis

For further details please visit the link "Careers" Section of our website: www.meconlimited.co.in.

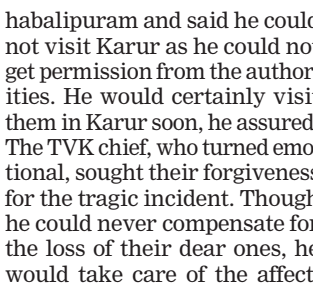
Note: Further, any corrigendum(s)/ amendment(s) against this advertisement will be uploaded in: "Careers" Section of our website www.meconlimited.co.in.

Chief General Manager (HR)
MECON Limited, Vivekananda Path,
Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand
CBC 40110/12/0016/2526

The deceased, Ramkesh Meena, was living on the



A source in Vijay-led Tamila Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) said family members of 37 victims met the actor-politician in this coastal town, about 50 km from Chennai. The party had booked about 50 rooms, the source added. It was a closed door meeting. Vijay met them individually and lunch was also arranged. Vijay assured the families monetary support, besides for education, self-employment, and housing, the source added. During his meeting with the families, Vijay apologised to them for bringing them to Ma-



Taking note of the rise in suicides in educational institutions, the apex court stressed addressing the gravity of mental health crisis afflicting students and issued pan-India guidelines to deal with it.

The July 25 verdict had come on an appeal against an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, rejecting the plea to transfer the investigation into the unnatural death of a 17-year-old National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test aspirant, preparing in Vishakhapatnam, to the CBI.

The top court September 22 had issued notice to the Delhi Police and sought its response.

"Its mandate is to ensure free and fair polls and maintain a level playing field. What happened in Bihar during the SIR should be a lesson to the EC itself and not to political parties, on the manner in which EC forced its documents, and the judiciary had to intervene," he said. The ruling TMC in Bengal apprehended that attempts may be made to "delete the names of eligible voters at the behest of the BJP, and this will not be allowed". Reacting sharply, Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the party will "democratically protest any attempt to remove genuine voters." The West Bengal unit of the BJP, however, maintained that "no illegal voter will be spared. It accused the ruling TMC of "deliberately distorting" the purpose of the SIR exercise to safeguard what it described as the ruling party's "fake vote bank". It claimed that infiltrators were being added to the rolls while Indian voters' names were being struck off.

“It is evident from the fact that on the one hand they will say that the SIR is for stealing of votes, the SIR is against the Constitution, and it should not be done. On the other hand, the SIR is being demanded by the opposition parties in Maha-

A source in Vijay-led Tamilaga Vetti Kzhagham (TVK) said family members of 37 victims met the actor-politician in this coastal town, about 50 km from Chennai. The party had booked about 50 rooms, the source added. It was a closed door meeting. Vijay met them individually and lunch was also arranged. Vijay assured the families monetary support, besides for education, self-employment, and housing, the source added. During his meeting with the families, Vijay apologised to them for bringing them to Ma-

habalipuram and said he could

As many as 41 people lost their lives and over 60 injured in the stampede that occurred at the TVK meeting addressed by Vijay September 27.

The deceased, Ramkesh Meena, was living on the

ly burnt body from the room. Initially, a case was registered

CCTV footage revealed that on the night of October 5 and 6, two men with their faces covered entered the building, and around 2.57 am, a woman was seen leaving with one

The woman told investigators that Meena had recorded her obscene videos and refused to delete them. She shared this with her ex-boy-

Police recovered a hard disk, a trolley bag, the victim's shirt and two mobile phones from the accused, the sources said, adding further investigation is underway in the case.

of the day

quote

A checklist of do's and don'ts should be prepared in simple, layman's terms so that people do not end up doing anything wrong in good faith or under compassionate consideration. Training and capacity building should be a regular exercise so that everyone remains aware and alert

J P NADDA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Tell us what work have you done in the cities whose names you have changed. Lakhimpur Kheri is a major hub for sugarcane growers. Tell us how many sugar mills have you set up there. You changed the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj, tell us how many factories have you set up there. Changing names won't benefit public, people need work

AJAY RAI | UP CONG CHIEF

The department is under me, and I have to answer before the House, but the officer in the department is not of my choice... There are several institutions which should have been under the control of the elected government, but are still not with us

OMAR ABDULLAH | J&K CHIEF MINISTER

XPOST

OF THE DAY

Elect clown, expect circus. Delhi has gone completely in the hands of anpadh. This is literally a sitting Minister in the Delhi Cabinet. Delhi is cooked for the next 4 years

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT TAKES

Doc's suicide: Family demands SIT probe

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Maharashtra): Family members of the woman doctor who allegedly committed suicide in Maharashtra's Satara district last week demanded on Monday that the government set up a Special Investigation Team to probe the case. The trial should be held in a fast-track court in Beed, they said at a press conference.

Kangana gets bail in defamation case

Bathinda/Chandigarh: Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut on Monday was granted bail in a defamation case by a court in Punjab's Bathinda, as she regretted the "misunderstanding" that arose following her social media post and said every 'mata' (mother) is respectable to her. The court had last September directed the BJP MP from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh to be present in person and rejected her plea to appear via video conference.

SUV crashes into goods carrier; 1 dead

Bemetara (Chhattisgarh): A man was killed and seven other persons were injured after a speeding SUV rammed into a mini goods vehicle carrying passengers in Chhattisgarh's Bemetara city, police said Monday. Accused SUV driver Mehar Singh Saluja alias Krish (19), son of a local businessman, escaped from the spot after the accident Sunday night but was later arrested.



Not just Delhi, people from all over the country witnessed a grand celebration of Chhath in the city this time

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

WEST BENGAL TRANSFERS 527 OFFICERS AMID SIR ROLLOUT

The West Bengal government Monday announced the transfer of over 500 bureaucrats amid the rollout of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state



SC allows centre to review Vodafone Idea's AGR dues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: In a major relief for Vodafone Idea, the Supreme Court Monday allowed the Centre to reconsider and reconcile the telecom company's pending adjusted gross revenue dues amounting to Rs 5,606 crore for 2016-17, observing that the issue falls within the policy domain of the government.

Adjusted gross revenue (AGR) is the income figure used to calculate the licence fees and spectrum charges that telecom companies must pay to the government. A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gvai and Justice K Vinod Chandran passed the order while hearing a writ petition filed by Vodafone Idea challenging fresh AGR-related demands raised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

Vodafone Idea welcomed the order as a "positive development" and said it looks forward to working closely with the telecom department to resolve the matter in the interests of its nearly 20 crore subscribers.

"In a positive development, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has today permitted the Government to consider the grievances of Vodafone Idea Limited on the issues relating to AGR. We look forward to working



Vodafone Idea welcomed the order as a "positive development" and said it looks forward to working closely with the telecom department to resolve the matter in the interests of its nearly 20 crore subscribers

closely with the Department of Telecommunications to resolve this matter in the interests of our nearly 200 million subscribers," it said in a BSE filing.

This is an impetus to the Digital India vision and ambition of the Prime Minister, the telco added.

Shares of Vodafone Idea ended nearly 4 per cent higher after the order.

The stock climbed 3.85 per cent to settle at Rs 9.99 on the BSE. During the day, it surged 9.87 per cent to Rs 10.57. At the NSE, the stock jumped 3.63 per cent to Rs 9.97.

The telco had contended that the additional claims made by the DoT were unsustainable as the liabilities had already been crystallised by the apex court's 2019 judgment on AGR dues.

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, informed the court that the government now holds 49 per cent equity in Vodafone Idea, and that around 200 million consumers depend on its services.

He submitted that given these circumstances, the Centre was willing to examine the issues raised by the company to

ensure that consumer interests are safeguarded.

The CJI-led bench noted that the petition by Vodafone Idea has been filed seeking the quashing of additional AGR demands for 2016-17, and further directions to comprehensively reassess all dues.

Clarifying that the issue fell under the policy domain of the Union, the bench said, "There is no reason as to why the Union should be prevented from doing that, and with that view of the matter, we dispose of the writ petition."

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Vodafone Idea, argued that the DoT's additional demand of Rs 5,606 crore for FY 2016-17 was unsustainable since the dues had already been determined following the Supreme Court's 2019 verdict.

The dispute over AGR, particularly its inclusion of non-telecom income, led to massive liabilities on the telecom operators, with Vodafone Idea and other telcos among the hardest hit.

Vodafone Idea had filed a fresh plea against the DoT's demand of Rs 5,606 crore relating to 2016-17.

Earlier, the Centre said that efforts were underway to arrive at a resolution with the company.

SNIPPETS

Bihar polls: INDIA bloc to release manifesto today

Patna: Poll-bound Bihar braces for a fresh round of hectic political developments beginning Tuesday, when the Opposition INDIA bloc is scheduled to come up with its manifesto, a day ahead of the commencement of campaign by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The state witnessed a day of relative lull on account of Chhath festivities, which would conclude with "arghya" offerings to the Sun God Tuesday morning.

Chhath: Five more drown in J'khand, 11 dead in two days

Ranchi: Five more children drowned at various places in Jharkhand, taking the toll to 11 in two days, mostly during the Chhath festival, police said Monday. A teenage boy and two men also went missing in waterbodies Monday. Five children died in the state's Hazaribag, Garhwa and Simdega districts, police said. Six others had drowned in Simdega and Palamu districts Sunday.

Uddhav Thackeray criticizes govt for choosing voters

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray Monday once again raised the issue of vote theft and slammed the ruling BJP by stating voters elect governments in democracy but today the government chooses voters. Addressing party workers here, Thackeray said a case should be registered against the Election Commissioner for "corrupt practice" of bogus voters. In a searing attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Thackeray dubbed the BJP leader an anaconda who wants to swallow Mumbai.

'Montha' set to make landfall near AP coast

PRESS OF TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Oct 27: Cyclone 'Montha', which is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm, has begun, Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhar Jain said Monday.

Coastal districts are experiencing rain and strong gales. Thai word 'Montha' means fragrant flower.

"Cyclone has begun. Coastal districts are witnessing rainfall accompanied by gales," Jain said in a release, adding that the system would intensify further as it approached land. According to Jain, the cyclone moved



Coastal districts are experiencing rain and strong gales

at a speed of 18 km per hour in the past six hours. It was located about 560 km off Visakhapatnam by evening and is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning.

NTR district Collector G Lakshmisha told PTI Videos that all departments were on high alert. Vijayawada

Police Commissioner S V Rajasekhar Babu said the police department was fully geared up for the cyclone, with officers deployed across each ward secretariat.

Cyclone 'Montha' triggered heavy to very heavy rains and strong winds across several districts, disrupting normal life. In the Nagari

constituency of Chittoor district, continuous moderate to heavy rainfall has been recorded for four days under the cyclone's influence.

Floodwaters from the Kushasthali river have cut off road connectivity, forcing officials to halt traffic between Nagari town and rural areas such as Thiruttani and Pallipattu. Vehicular movement is being diverted through bypass routes. Meanwhile, heavy rain accompanied by strong winds lashed several districts across Kerala Monday, causing waterlogging in low-lying areas, officials said. In Alappuzha district, a fisherman died after his boat capsized near the Ar-

thunkal coast following a strong wind.

The deceased was identified as Paul Devasia, a native of Arthunkal. Four districts of northern Tamil Nadu, including the state capital, received heavy rainfall Monday even as cyclonic storm 'Montha' is currently located in the Bay of Bengal, about 480 km east of Chennai, the Regional Meteorological Centre said. Meanwhile, speaking to reporters on the preparations being undertaken by the Tamil Nadu government, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin said as the cyclone is expected to cross the coast tomorrow, it will not cause major damage in Tamil Nadu.

'Handcuffed, dejected': 35 Indians deported by US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ambala/Kurukshetra (Haryana), Oct 27: "My feet are swollen. I was shackled for 25 hours (on the flight)," said 45-year-old Harjinder Singh, who was part of the latest batch of Indians deported by the US.

Expressing his ordeal, Singh also said he spent Rs 35 lakh to migrate to the US for a better life but his dreams of doing something good for the family are dashed now.

The latest batch of illegal migrants included around 50 people from Haryana's Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Jind and Panipat districts, officials said.

A plane carrying them landed at the Delhi airport late Saturday night.

The migrants -- most of them



in the 25-40

age group -- expressed dejection at the deportation, saying that they had spent lakhs of rupees by selling off plots, borrowing from relatives and draining out their savings to migrate to the US in pursuit of a better future.

Most of them had taken the

treacherous 'donkey route' to enter the US.

They were brought to their respective districts in Haryana and handed over to their families, the officials said.

Harjinder Singh from Jagoli village in Ambala said he spent Rs 35 lakh for migrating to the US.

The latest batch of illegal migrants included around 50 people from Haryana's Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Jind and Panipat districts

Responding to a question, Singh said he raised the money through his hard work in the farming sector here.

Singh also showed his feet, saying they were swollen because of being shackled for 25 long hours. "My feet are swollen. It should not have been done. I was

shackled for 25 hours," said Singh. He also sought help from the Centre for his family.

Another deportee Harish from Kalsi village in Karnal said he went to the US in August last year.

Harish said he moved to the US from Canada where he had gone on a work permit in 2023.

He was working in a store, from where he was detained by the US authorities in February. Naresh Kumar, who was among the deportees, said that an agent promised to send him to the US for a fee of Rs 42 lakh, but he had to ultimately eke out Rs 57 lakh.

"I first paid Rs 42 lakh by selling one acre of land. Thereafter, I paid Rs 6 lakh that was borrowed on interest. My brother sold a piece of land to raise Rs 6.5 lakh. Then my relative paid

police said that Jitender's wife had earlier accused the alleged victim's father, Akil Khan, of rape. The matter was reported at the Bhalswa Dairy Police Station, but no written complaint was filed. The woman alleged that between 2021 and 2024, she worked in Akil Khan's socks factory, where Khan sexually assaulted her and blackmailed her with her private photos and videos.

According to the police, the woman made PCR calls October 24 and 25, but did not submit a written complaint.

On the basis of the allegation, police questioned Khan and arrested him when he revealed that he had fabricated the story of an acid attack, and the liquid in question was ordinary toilet cleaner.

"She (the student) allegedly put toilet cleaner on her hand after de-boarding the e-rickshaw... and screamed for attention," an officer said.

The woman had brought the liquid from her home in her bag, the officer said.

Earlier, investigators were perplexed as to why the student de-boarded the e-rickshaw about 300 metres away from her destination.

SC mulls CBI probe into all digital arrest cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court Monday said it is inclined to entrust to the CBI the probe into digital arrest cases after taking into consideration the magnitude and pan-India spread of such crimes, and sought details of FIRs registered in different states and Union territories.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued notices to all states and UTs on digital arrest cases.

Digital arrest is a growing form of cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement officials or personnel of government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls.

The top court has taken cognisance of a glaring case of the so-called digital arrest of a senior citizen couple in Haryana's Ambala on the basis of forged orders of the court and probe agencies by fraudsters to extort Rs 1.05 crore. "Meanwhile, let notice be issued to all states and Union Territories through their standing counsel, returnable November 3, 2025. The states and Union Territories are directed to furnish details of the cases of cyber arrest pending investigation in their respective jurisdiction," the bench ordered. The top court noted the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the CBI, that cybercrime and digital arrest cases are originating from offshore locations like Myanmar and Thailand and directed the probe agency to come up with a plan to probe these cases.

of the day

quote

Russia is consistently working to ensure its own security. Ensuring security is a vital issue for Russia, especially against the backdrop of the militaristic sentiment that we are currently hearing, primarily from the Europeans

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESPERSON

Since its founding, America served as a beacon for the most powerful idea ever in government in the history of the world. The idea is stronger than any army. We're more powerful than any dictator

JOE BIDEN | EX-PRESIDENT, US

Since the first days of Russia's full-scale invasion, they covered events in the Donetsk region — telling the truth about enemy crimes, evacuations of civilians, and the stories of our defenders

VADYM FILASHKIN | REGIONAL GOVERNOR, UKRAINE

SHORT TAKES

Australia's Albanese, China's Li hold talks

Melbourne: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he discussed Australia's critical-minerals deal with the United States and the hostile maneuvers of a Chinese warplane during a "positive" meeting Monday with Chinese Premier Li Qiang. Albanese and China's second-most senior leader held a bilateral meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' summit. "Once again, it was a positive meeting," Albanese told reporters of his seventh meeting with Li. "This is a relationship that has improved; that is stabilising," Albanese added. China has removed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers since Albanese's center-left government was first elected in 2022. The barriers imposed in 2020 when Beijing banned minister-to-minister bilateral contacts had cost Australian exporters up to \$13 billion a year.

Hurricane Melissa set to slam into Jamaica

Kingston (Jamaica): Hurricane Melissa intensified to Category 5 strength Monday as it neared Jamaica, where forecasters said it would unleash catastrophic flooding, multiple landslides and extensive infrastructure damage. It would be the strongest hurricane to hit the island since record keeping began in 1851. Melissa, blamed for six deaths in the northern Caribbean as it headed toward the island, was forecast to make landfall on Jamaica Tuesday and then Cuba later in the day before heading toward the Bahamas, but it was not expected to affect the United States.

British PM Starmer arrives in Turkiye

Ankara: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in Turkiye Monday, aiming to advance negotiations on a multi-billion-dollar sale of Eurofighter Typhoon jets to enhance Ankara's air capabilities. Starmer is scheduled to meet with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on regional and bilateral issues. In July, Turkiye and the UK signed a preliminary deal for the Eurofighters, which are manufactured by a consortium comprising the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain and led by Britain's BAE Systems. The deal followed Germany's reported decision to lift its longstanding opposition to the sale of the jets to Turkiye.

CHINA TRADE TRUCE HOPES RISE

Trump gets royal welcome in Japan

REUTERS

Tokyo, Oct 27: US President Donald Trump received a royal welcome Monday in Japan, the latest leg of a five-day Asia trip which he hopes to cap with an agreement on a trade war truce with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump, making his longest journey abroad since taking office in January, announced a flurry of deals on trade and critical minerals with four Southeast Asian nations during the first stop in Malaysia and is set to meet Xi in South Korea Thursday.

Negotiators from the world's top two economies hashed out a framework Sunday for a deal to pause steeper American tariffs and Chinese rare earths export controls, US officials said. The news sent Asian stocks soaring to record peaks.

"I've got a lot of respect for President Xi and I think we're going to come away with a deal," Trump told reporters on Air Force One before landing in the Japanese capital Tokyo.

TRUMP MEETS JAPANESE EMPEROR

Wearing a gold tie and blue suit, Trump gave a few fist pumps before his helicopter whisked him off for a scenic night tour of Tokyo, several of its towers lit up in the red, white and blue of the American flag.

He later went to the Imperial Palace, where he shook hands and posed for photographs with Japanese Emperor Naruhito.

Thousands of police were guarding Tokyo after a knife-wielding man was arrest-



- Trump arrives in Tokyo, meets Japan's emperor
- US President signed a series of trade deals in Malaysia
- Meeting with Xi expected Thursday
- Tokyo expected to promise investments, defence focus

ed on Friday outside the US embassy, and an anti-Trump protest was planned in downtown Shinjuku.

Trump has already won a \$550-billion investment pledge from Tokyo in exchange for respite from punishing import tariffs.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Japanese counterpart Ryosei Akazawa, architects of the tariff deal agreed in July, discussed power grids as being a potential investment area over a sushi lunch in Tokyo earlier Monday, local media reported.

Prime Minister Sanae Takai-

chi is hoping to further impress Trump Tuesday with promises to purchase US pickup trucks, soybeans and gas, and announce an agreement on ship-building, sources with knowledge of the plans told Reuters. Takaichi, who became Japan's first female premier last week, told Trump that strengthening their countries' alliance was her "top priority" in a telephone call Saturday.

Trump said he was looking forward to meeting Takaichi, a close ally of his late friend and golfing partner, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, adding, "I think she's going to be great."

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent met Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama at her ministry Monday.

Their first in-person meeting touched upon the Takaichi government's proactive fiscal policy and Japan's investment pledge, and there were no talks directly on the Bank of Japan's monetary policy, Katayama told reporters.

I spoke with US President Donald Trump on Saturday and it will take a few more weeks to discuss pending trade, energy and agriculture demands from Washington

CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM | PRESIDENT, MEXICO

JAPAN'S SUSHI LEGEND JIRO ONO TURNS 100

Japanese sushi legend Jiro Ono won three Michelin stars for more than a decade, the world's oldest head chef to do so. He has served the world's dignitaries and his art of sushi was featured in an award-winning film. After all these achievements and at the age of 100, he is not ready to fully retire



Indian-origin woman raped in 'racially aggravated' UK attack

The police said a 32-year-old man was arrested Monday morning after a manhunt was launched in the wake of the attack Saturday evening

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 27: A 20-year-old woman, identified as being of Indian heritage, was allegedly raped in what police believe was a "racially aggravated" attack in the West Midlands region of England over the weekend.

The police said a 32-year-old man was arrested Monday morning after a manhunt was launched in the wake of the attack Saturday evening. The West Midlands Police said they were called to the Park Hall area of Walsall following concerns for the welfare of a woman in distress in the street.

Detective Superintendent (DS) Ronan Tyrer, who is overseeing the investigation for the force, described the arrest in the Perry Barr area of the region as a "significant development".

"Our investigation will progress today, and, as always, our priority is the woman who was the subject of this attack," said DS Tyrer.

"She has been updated this morning and will continue to receive full support from specially trained officers," he said.

The force released CCTV footage of the suspect Sunday, a white male in his 30s, as part of an urgent public appeal for information related to the crime they are investigating "as a racially aggravated attack".

"This was an absolutely appalling attack on a young woman, and we are doing absolutely



everything we can to arrest the person responsible," DS Tyrer said at the time.

"We have teams of officers recovering evidence and building a profile of the attacker so that he can be brought into custody as soon as possible. While we are following multiple lines of enquiry right now, it's vital that we get to hear from anyone who saw a man acting suspiciously in the area at the time," he said.

"It may be that you were driving through the area and have dashcam footage, or you have CCTV that we have not yet recovered. Your information could be the vital breakthrough that we need," he said.

The attacker is described as white, in his 30s, with short hair and wearing dark clothing at the time of the attack. While the police are yet to confirm further details, local community groups have claimed that the victim is a Punjabi woman and expressed concerns as the latest attack comes weeks after the racially aggravated rape of a British Sikh woman in the nearby Oldbury area.

"At this stage, we are not linking this attack to any other offences," DS Tyrer said in his statement.

Specialist officers from the force's Public Protection Unit, local policing officers, and forensic officers are said to be working to recover CCTV, speaking to witnesses, and identifying the suspect.

Afghan, Pak peace talks enter third day

REUTERS

Islamabad, Oct 27: Afghanistan and Pakistan officials will meet in Istanbul Monday for a third day of talks after failing to clinch a lasting peace, three sources familiar with the matter said, as US President Donald Trump repeated an offer to mediate.

The South Asian neighbours agreed to a ceasefire in Doha October 19 after days of border clashes that killed dozens in the worst such violence since the Taliban seized power in Kabul in 2021. The current second round of peace talks mediated by Turkey aims to hammer out a long-term truce, but both sides have offered markedly different interpretations of the talks. Two Pakistan security sources accused the Afghan Taliban of not cooperating with the dialogue process.

"The Pakistani delegation has made it clear that no compromise is possible on our core demands on cross border terrorism," one of the sources said. A Taliban delegate to the

Cameroon's Biya re-elected at 92, Oppn reports gunfire

REUTERS

Yaounde, Oct 27: Cameroon's President Paul Biya, the world's oldest serving ruler, secured an eighth term in office Monday vote results showed, as the main opposition challenger who has also claimed victory reported gunfire near his home.

Biya, 92, won 53.66% of the vote, against 35.19% for his former ally, Issa Tchiroma Bakary, the Constitutional Council said. A new seven-year term could keep the veteran leader in power until he is nearly 100.

Opposition protesters have clashed with security forces repeatedly over the past week after partial results suggested Biya was on course to win the October 12 vote. There was no immediate comment on the result from the government, which has rejected Opposition accusations of irregularities.



After the results were announced, Tchiroma wrote on Facebook that two people were killed after shots were fired at civilians outside his home in the

northern city of Garoua. He did not say who had fired the shots or comment directly on the election result. Reuters could not confirm his account independently. Last week he said he had won the election and would not accept any other result. The result raised the prospect of more confrontations between opposition supporters and security forces, a day after at least four people died in clashes in Cameroon's commercial capital Douala .

EAM JAISHANKAR, RUBIO HOLD TALKS

Jaishankar and Rubio met in Kuala Lumpur on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 27: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday held talks with his American counterpart Marco Rubio amid efforts by the two sides to reset bilateral ties that have come under severe strain over punitive US tariffs on Indian goods.

Jaishankar and Rubio met in Kuala Lumpur on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Glad to meet @SecRubio this morning in Kuala Lumpur. Appreciated the discussion on our bilateral ties as well as regional and global issues," the external affairs minister said on social media.



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

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

It is understood that Jaishan-

Jaishankar meets Australian, NZ PMs, Japanese, Malaysian counterparts

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday held separate meetings with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon for wide-ranging discussions on bilateral ties. Jaishankar also met Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu and his counterpart from Malaysia Mohamad Haji Hasan to discuss regional issues. The meetings took place here on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the 20th East Asia Summit. Jaishankar said it was "nice to meet" Albanese on the sidelines of 20th East Asia Summit while he said he was "delighted" to meet Japanese FM Motegi Toshimitsu, with whom he held "wide-ranging discussions on our bilateral ties." "Agreed to work closely to implement the joint vision for the next decade of our cooperation. Also exchanged perspectives on the global situation and our Indo Pacific cooperation. Our conversation reflected the strength and warmth of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

kar and US Secretary of State Rubio also broadly dived into the proposed trade pact between the two sides.

However, there was no indication that the US side assured India of removing the 25 per cent tariff slapped for its energy ties with Russia.

In the last couple of weeks, US President Donald Trump claimed Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi told him that India will stop buying Russian crude oil. Following Trump's first claim, India suggested that there was no such conversation.

The Ministry of External Affairs said October 16 that energy sourcing is being broad-based and diversified, including an expansion in procurement from the US.

DNA uncovers pathogens that beset Napoleon's army in 1812

The retreat from Russia by Napoleon Bonaparte and the French Grande Armée in 1812 was a cataclysmic event that marked the beginning of the end for his empire and personal dominance in Europe, with about 300,000 soldiers perishing in a force that originally numbered roughly a half million.

A new study involving DNA extracted from the teeth of 13 French soldiers who were buried in a mass grave in Lithuania's capital Vilnius along the route of the retreat is offering a deeper understanding of the misery the Grande Armée experienced, detecting two pathogens not previously documented in this event.

The discovery of the bacteria that cause paratyphoid fever and louse-borne relapsing fever showed, alongside previous

work, that several infections had circulated among soldiers already enfeebled by cold, hunger and exhaustion.

The Vilnius site, discovered in 2001, contains the remains of approximately 2,000 to 3,000 soldiers from Napoleon's army.

"Vilnius was a key waypoint on the 1812 retreat route. Many soldiers arrived exhausted, starving and ill. A substantial number died there and were interred rapidly in mass graves," said molecular biologist and geneticist Nicolás Rascovan, head of the microbial paleogenomics unit at the Institut Pasteur in Paris and senior author of the study published in the journal Current Biology.

"While cold, starvation and typhus have long been emphasized, our results show that paratyphoid fever and louse-borne relapsing fever were also



present and may have contributed to debilitation and mortality," Rascovan added.

Paratyphoid fever typically is food- or water-borne, with symptoms including fever, headache, abdominal pain, di-

arrhea or constipation, weakness and sometimes a rash. The form of relapsing fever detected is transmitted by body lice and causes episodes of recurring high fever, with headache, muscle pain and weakness.

Paratyphoid fever and relapsing fever bacteria detected

Study involved DNA extracted from mass grave in Vilnius

Napoleon's Grande Armée retreated from Russia in 1812

In the study, four of the 13 soldiers tested positive for the paratyphoid fever bacterium and two for the relapsing fever bacterium. The symptoms of the two ailments match those described in historical accounts of the retreat.

A 2006 study involving DNA from 35 other soldiers from the same cemetery detected the pathogens behind typhus and trench fever, diseases that cause symptoms similar to those of paratyphoid fever and relapsing fever. The new

study did not detect typhus and trench fever.

Napoleon led the Grande Armée on an invasion of Russia in 1812 and marched into Moscow, but the campaign unraveled and he was forced to retreat thanks to factors including dwindling supplies, counter-attacks and the onset of the brutal Russian winter.

The new findings add nuance to the story of the plight of the French emperor's soldiers, pointing to a scenario not of a single or a couple of ailments in circulation but rather a high prevalence of various infectious diseases. The study does not quantify the overall impact of the newly identified pathogens or establish them as widespread across the entire army but helps explain the medical complexity of the retreat.

REUTERS

of the day

quote

While the US oil surge underscores India's refining flexibility and ability to capture short-term opportunities, the current rise is arbitrage-led, not structural, as longer voyage times, higher freight, and WTI's lighter, naphtha-rich yield limits increased buying

SUMIT RITOLIA | LEAD RESEARCH ANALYST, KPILR

We need to create a special arrangement for supporting them (maritime projects) to create a financial institution, which can be supportive. We have got PFC for power generation

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Seven plants under electronics components have been approved. In the coming days, many more projects will be approved. We expect these projects to reduce the import bill by around Rs 20,000 crore

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION ELECTRONICS AND IT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Adani Energy profit dips

New Delhi: Adani Energy Solutions Monday posted a 28 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 557.10 crore for the September quarter, mainly due to one-time adjustment of deferred tax of Rs 314 crore in the year-ago period. Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) had reported a net profit of Rs 773 crore in the July-September quarter of the last fiscal. The company's total income increased by 6.4 per cent to Rs 6,767 crore from Rs 6,360 crore a year ago. Its total expenses stood at Rs 5,687 crore, marginally lower against Rs 5,693 crore in the year-ago quarter.

JK Tyre Q2 up

New Delhi: JK Tyre & Industries Ltd Monday reported a 62.33 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 226.86 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, riding on strong revenue. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 139.75 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the second quarter stood at Rs 4,011.31 crore as against Rs 3,621.56 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses in the quarter were higher at Rs 3,714.05 crore as compared to Rs 3,433.55 crore in the same period last fiscal, the company said.

Bata net down

New Delhi: Footwear maker Bata India Ltd Monday reported a 73.26 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 13.9 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, impacted by lower revenue and higher expenses. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 51.98 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, Bata India Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the second quarter stood at Rs 801.33 crore as compared to Rs 837.14 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Tata Investment PAT up

New Delhi: Tata Investment Corporation Ltd Monday reported a 19.8 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 148.16 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, on higher dividend income. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 123.69 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Tata Investment Corporation Ltd (TICL) said.



There is a need to promote wider adoption of digital solutions like the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), encourage alternative credit assessment models, and ensure fair, transparent, and empathetic lending practices for the promotion of rehabilitation of distressed but viable units

SWAMINATHAN J | BY GOVERNOR, RBI

HGS LAUNCHES AI INTERACTION TOOL

Hinduja Global Solutions Monday announced the launch of 'Interaction Intelligence', an enterprise-grade artificial intelligence (AI) solution, to transform quality assurance from a routine customer service function to a strategic asset with actionable insights. According to Gartner, the customer service software (CSS) market, including AI and Gen AI capabilities, is expected to grow at a CAGR of 13.8 per cent to \$73.4 billion by 2028 from \$43.6 billion in 2024. his rapid growth reflects the expanding demand for AI-driven solutions that enhance service quality and operational efficiency



SEBI plans higher debt entity limit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Monday proposed a framework to reduce the compliance burden of companies with large debts, by raising the threshold for identifying High Value Debt Listed Entities (HVDLEs) to Rs 5,000 crore from the current Rs 1,000 crore.

The move would reduce the number of entities classified as HVDLEs from 137 to 48, effectively bringing down around 64 per cent of companies currently falling under the category, SEBI said in its consultation paper.

The proposal aims to reduce the compliance burden and promote ease of doing business.

Corporate governance norms for HVDLEs were first introduced in September 2021, on a comply-or-explain basis until March 31, 2025, and became mandatory from April 2025. These norms apply to all entities with listed outstanding non-convertible debt securities of Rs 1,000 crore or more.

Following the rollout of these rules, several market participants approached SEBI seeking a higher threshold for classification. Once designated as an HVDLE, a company is required to comply with governance standards similar to those of equity-listed firms, including the submission of quarterly governance reports, annual secretarial compliance reports, and adherence to board composition norms.



Industry representatives argued that meeting these requirements increases costs substantially. The need for additional independent directors, committee-specific experts, and higher legal, secretarial, and audit expenses adds to the burden, especially for NBFCs and frequent issuers that primarily raise funds through private placements. They noted that the existing Rs 1,000 crore threshold is disproportionately low for such entities.

Accordingly, it has been suggested to "increase the threshold for identification for HVDLEs from Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 5,000 crore".

In addition to revising the HVDLE threshold, SEBI has proposed aligning corporate governance norms for HVDLEs with those applicable to equi-

ty-listed companies.

Among the suggested changes is a revision in financial terminology, replacing the term "income" with "turnover" in defining material subsidiaries to maintain consistency with similar amendments made earlier for equity-listed entities.

The regulator has also proposed requiring shareholders' special approval before a director crosses the age of 75 years. Further, Sebi recommended excluding time taken for regulatory or statutory approvals from the timeline for obtaining shareholder consent for the appointment or reappointment of directors. It also suggested exempting the requirement of shareholder approval for nominee directors appointed by financial regulators, courts, or tribunals.

MCX launches bullion index options contracts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) of India Ltd Monday said it has launched monthly options contracts on its bullion index, MCX BULLDEX, as it seeks to offer more hedging tools to investors in the precious metals segment.

The options contracts, which became effective from Monday, are based on an index comprising MCX's gold and silver futures contracts, allowing market participants to gain diversified exposure to both precious metals through a single instrument.

An option is a financial deriv-

ative contract that gives buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a specified quantity of an underlying asset at a predetermined price (called the strike price) on or before a specific date (expiration date).

MCX BULLDEX provides balanced exposure to the bullion segment for investors and institutions in a cost-effective manner, meeting both investment and hedging requirements, the exchange said.

The index conforms standards set by the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) Principles for Financial Benchmarks in its computation

and governance.

"The introduction of options on MCX BULLDEX marks a pivotal development in India's commodities ecosystem," MCX Managing Director and CEO Praveena Rai said in a regulatory filing.

"This is a unique and innovative product which will enhance the range of products in the commodity derivatives ecosystem and assist market participants to take exposure to a basket of commodities in the bullion segment," Rai added.

Options on sectoral indices are considered effective tools for price risk management, the exchange said.

RUSSIAN OIL IMPORT

Will abide by all sanctions: IOC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's biggest oil company, will comply with all applicable sanctions, Chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney said Monday, steering clear of remarks on purchases from Russia.

Indian refiners are likely to scale back on the import of Russian oil to avoid secondary sanctions on shipping and banking after the US imposed fresh sanctions with a view to curbing Moscow's earnings from oil sales.

"We will abide by all sanctions imposed by the international community," he said. He, however, refused to comment on the IOC's purchases of Russian oil.

Russian oil made up for 21 per cent of the crude oil IOC imports during April-September. IOC's subsidiary Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) has halved Russian oil imports this month, coinciding with the fresh sanctions the US imposed on Russian oil.

US President Donald Trump, late October 22, imposed sanctions on Russia's Rosneft and Lukoil, in a bid to pressure Moscow into ending its war on Ukraine. A day later, the European Union imposed full transaction bans on Rosneft and Russian gas firm Gazprom Neft.

While the Indian government has not officially responded to the sanctions announced by the US, industry sources said Indian refiners' import strategy



would largely depend on how banking systems respond to the latest restrictions.

On the contrary, Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, which is currently dependent solely on Russian oil after supplies from elsewhere dried up due to sanctions by the European Union, has very few options.

A potential disruption in discounted Russian Urals supplies could trim Indian refiners' gross margins, with the grade making up roughly 40 per cent of their crude slate.

Indian refiners have started diversifying their crude import baskets in the third quarter, importing larger volumes from Colombia, Canada and the Middle East as inflows from Russia dipped. India's Russian crude imports in July-September averaged 1.68 million bpd, a 13 per cent decline compared to Q2.

Long reliant on Middle Eastern oil, India began importing

CLOSING BELL

Sensex up 567 pts, Nifty near 26,000



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 27: Benchmark BSE Sensex jumped by nearly 567 points and broader Nifty closed above 25,900 Monday following a sharp rally in global markets, as softer-than-expected US inflation reignited hopes of Fed rate cuts this year.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 566.96 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 84,778.84. During the day, it surged 720.2 points or 0.85 per cent to 84,932.08.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 170.90 points or 0.66 per cent to 25,966.05.

Prospects of a US-China trade deal and fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the markets' optimism, analysts said. Among Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, Eternal, State Bank of India, Tata Steel and HDFC Bank were the major gainers.

However, Kotak Mahindra Bank fell the most by 1.74 per cent after its September quarter results. The private lender reported an 11 per cent decline in consolidated net profit for the September quarter.

Bharat Electronics, Infosys and Bajaj Finance were also among the laggards.

PSU banks index outperformed, rallying 2.76 per cent, whereas defence and media shares fell due to profit booking.

"The domestic market witnessed a broad-based recovery owing to progress in the US-China trade talks. Softer-than-expected US CPI data renewed expectations of a FED rate cut this week, boosting investor confidence. Eas-

ing global headwinds, coupled with strong domestic reforms, provided cues for domestic earnings growth and justified the current premium valuations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.72 per cent and smallcap index went up by 0.51 per cent.

Telecommunication surged 2.37 per cent, oil & gas jumped 1.50 per cent, energy (1.44 per cent), realty (1.42 per cent), teck (0.88 per cent), commodities (0.79 per cent) and services (0.66 per cent).

Healthcare emerged as the only laggard.

A total of 2,178 stocks advanced while 2,114 declined and 210 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"Indian equity benchmarks ended the session on a strong note Monday. Softer-than-expected US CPI data fueled expectations of a potential Fed rate cut this week, bolstering investor sentiment. Meanwhile, optimism over progress in US-China trade talks further supported a broad-based market rebound," according to Bajaj Broking Research.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled sharply higher.

Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended in positive territory Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 621.51 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

Ola Electric scales up service network

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Ola Electric Monday announced that it is scaling up its proprietary service infrastructure and technology vertical by providing access to independent garages and fleet operators.

As part of the initiative, the Bengaluru-based firm's spare parts, diagnostic tools, and service training modules will be made available not only to its customers but also to independent garages, mechanics, and fleet operators across the country.

Starting Oct 27, Ola Electric's genuine spare parts can be purchased directly through the Ola Electric Customer App and website, allowing every customer and garage to access high-quality, certified components, without any middlemen, the company said in a statement.

In Phase 1 of Hyperservice, key spare parts are being made available on the Ola Electric Customer App as well as the company's website, it added.

In the subsequent phases during the quarter, the company will further extend access to diagnostic tools and technician certification programmes, thereby making the entire ecosystem truly open and accessible, it said.

"With Hyperservice scale-up, we are opening this capability to everyone. Every garage, fleet, and customer can now access the same high-quality tools, parts, and systems that power Ola's own network," Ola Electric Chairman and Managing Director Bhavish Aggarwal said.

Shreyas Iyer suffers laceration injury to spleen in Sydney

New Delhi, Oct 27: India batter Shreyas Iyer has been diagnosed with a laceration injury to his spleen after previously sustaining an injury to his lower left rib cage region while fielding in the third ODI against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground Saturday, BCCI confirms Monday.

Iyer, who suffered the injury while taking the catch of Australia wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey, was immediately taken to hospital for further evaluation and has been admitted there in the ICU. According to BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, Iyer is currently under treatment, medically stable, and recovering well, adding that the Indian team doctor will also be staying beside him in Sydney.

“Scans have revealed a laceration injury to the spleen. He is under treatment, medically stable, and recovering well. The BCCI Medical Team, in consultation with specialists in Sydney and India, is closely monitoring his injury status. The Indian Team doctors will remain in Sydney with Shreyas to evaluate his day-to-day progress,” said Saikia in a statement Monday.

The 30-year-old will remain under observation for 2-7 days.

The BCCI medical team acted swiftly after Iyer's vital parameters fluctuated upon his return



Initially, Iyer was expected to be out of action for about three weeks, but the recovery period may now be longer.

"Since there has been internal bleeding, he will certainly need more time to recover, and at this point, it's difficult to put a definite timeline on his return to competitive cricket,"

the source said.

The incident occurred in the 33rd over of Australia's innings. Carey miscued a short ball from seam-bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana. Stationed at backward point, Iyer sprinted back with the ball swirling overhead and launched himself full length to complete a tumbling catch near deep third man.

In a major blow to India, in-form opener Pratika Rawal was Monday ruled out of the remainder of the Women's World Cup after injuring her knee and ankle during the game against Bangladesh. Shafali Verma

who last played an ODI a year ago, was named Rawal's replacement. The 25-year-old had twisted her right ankle during India's last league match at the DY Patil Stadium Sunday. Rawal has been in stellar form throughout the tournament, amassing 308 runs from six innings at an average of 51.33. She hit her maiden World Cup century in the game against New Zealand. In the process, she also became the joint-fastest to 1000 runs in women's ODIs. India are set to take on defending champions Australia in the semifinal Thursday while the final is scheduled for Sunday. The hard-hitting Verma could be drafted straightaway into the playing eleven. The 21-year-old opener has a modest ODI record, tallying 644 runs in 29 games at an average of 23. Inconsistency had cost Shafali her place in the ODI side though she retained it in the shortest format.

Chandigarh: India opener Prithvi Shaw rediscovered his form as he converted his maiden hundred for Maharashtra into the second-fastest Ranji Trophy Elite double century Monday in Chandigarh. After scoring only eight runs in the first innings, Prithvi Shaw made a remarkable comeback in the second, reaching his double century off just 141 balls in the ongoing Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match between Maharashtra and Chandigarh at the Sector 16 Stadium in Chandigarh. On the morning of Day 3, Shaw reached his century in just 72 balls, hitting 13 fours along the way – the sixth-fastest century in Ranji Trophy history. He then scored an additional 80 runs in 54 more deliveries, moving to 180 off 126 balls before reaching his double century in 141 balls. Shaw's double century became the second-fastest in Ranji Trophy history at the Elite or Zonal level, surpassed only by Ravi Shastri's 123-ball double ton for Bombay against Baroda during the 1984–85 season.

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu has decided to withdraw from all remaining BWF Tour events in 2025 to focus on complete recovery from a foot injury that she sustained ahead of the European leg. The 30-year-old from Hyderabad shuttler said the decision was taken after detailed consultation with her support team and medical experts, including renowned sports orthopaedist Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala.

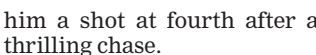
Norris wins Mexico GP, takes lead

McLaren driver snaps
five-race losing streak,
creates a tense final push
for the Formula 1 title

REUTERS

Mexico City, Oct 27: McLaren's Lando Norris avoided early mayhem to cruise to a dominant Mexico City Grand Prix win and retake the Formula One championship lead by a single point from teammate Oscar Piastri Sunday.

Australian Piastri, who started the race seventh and 14 points clear of the Briton, finished fifth after a virtual safety car in the last two laps denied



Charles Leclerc was runner-up for Ferrari's hefty 20-s

Charles Leclerc was runner-up for Ferrari, a hefty 30.3

Sujeet wins gold in U23 World Championships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Novi Sad (Serbia), Oct 27: Indian wrestler Sujeet Kalkal won the gold medal in the men's freestyle 65kg title clash at the U23 World Championships with a 10-0 victory over Uzbekistan's Umidjon Jalolov here Monday.

The contest lasted four minutes and 54 seconds as the referee declared the Indian winner. It was victory by superiority for Kalkal who dominated the title clash against his Uzbek opponent.

Prior to this, Kalkal had never won a world title but had two U23 Asian titles (2022, 2025) and one U20 Asian Championship gold (2022).



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