

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 bulldex

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

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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 "portled" 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.

US jet, chopper crash into South China Sea

Washington, Oct 27: A fighter jet and a helicopter based off the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz both crashed into the South China Sea within 30 minutes of each other, the Navy's Pacific Fleet said.

The three crew members of MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter were rescued Sunday, and the two aviators in the F/A-18F Super Hornet fighter jet ejected and were recovered safely, and all five "are safe and in stable condition," the fleet said in a statement. The causes of the two crashes were under investigation, the statement said.

US President Donald Trump said the incidents could have been caused by "bad fuel." He ruled out foul play and said there was "nothing to hide."

The USS Nimitz is returning to its home port in Naval Base Kitsap in Washington state after having been deployed to the Middle East for most of the summer as part of the US response to attacks by Houth rebels on commercial shipping

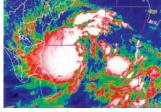
Odisha braces for 'MONTHA'

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



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 neighouring 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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It'll start from Bihar. He's given us unreserved train tickets to travel

SC on stray dogs: India shown in poor light

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



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 lihoods, destroy forests, and pollute

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 stateowned 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



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 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 resi dents will be engulfed in dust and smoke," she said.

CSR in-charge Prashant Dehuri said he is not authorised to

When contacted, GMDC's

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 admit ted 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 Iver, 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, Iyen 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 "lacer ation injury to the spleen". P12

Gavai recommends Justice Surya Kant as next CJI

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 Surva 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.



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 Bayarian 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

The tomb was discovered during construction work in the fall of 2024 in the village of Wolkertshofen, located in the southern German state of Ba-

varia. Archaeologists working alongside the builders noticed

fragments of ceramics during

the excavation, before reach-

ing 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

Extremely rare Roman-era tomb discovered much earlier date.

Additionally, the Wolk ertshofen 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 Ro man 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 cre ated 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.

eisure



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 Ahmeda-

bad. 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

added, "Girls all over the world dream of

being held by Shah Rukh sir, and it ac-

tually 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. React-

ing to the comments, Nitanshi

said, "I read them all! Now I com-

Laughing about the viral moment, she

I'll cherish forever.

pletely understand

sometimes our

the

Jennifer's 'kick

walk' advice

excitement

overtakes all

instruc-

tions!"

AGENCIES

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.



on picking

roles

Bollywood

Khurrana,

Mumbai:

accuracy • reliability • trust

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.

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

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, savs Ganesha.

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

LIBRA

Ganeshji 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.



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 Mo-

tivation challenge. In the caption, Shetty emphasised the importance of balance as a key aspect of fitness and mindfulness. She explained that practicing balance voga helps strengthen feet, ankles, knees,

and thighs by engaging stabilising muscles. It also improves concentration and enhances sense of balance through cused aware

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 #SwasthRahoMastRaho #FitIndia #yogasehihoga.'

Ayushmann 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.

> 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".

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 hav-

ing a commercial mindset

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

India.

heart of

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 ex plains. "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

POST

Across

1 Rubbish

10 Intensify

11 Bolivian

capital

12 Hooded snake

13 Jumping rodent

15 Red gun dog

(5,6)

22 Frigid

20 Appetizer

4 Feather in

one's cap

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

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.

CROSSWORD

8 Morning moisture

9 Tooth trouble

14 Petition

clue

21 Throb

16 Magazine

purchase

17 Emblematic

19 Fuddy-duddy

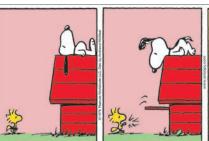
23 Carpenter's

machine

24 Knowledge

18 Bloodhound's

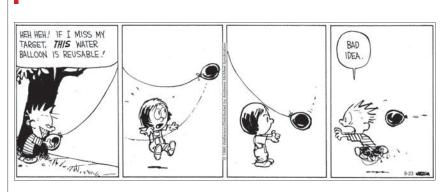
PEANUTS







CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

SPEEDUP SCRAM R E F T CANARY

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

26

26 Agitated

27 Gastric woe

28 Antiquated

2 Post-op time

correspondents

3 Certain

(3,4)

6 Ghastly

5 Fine thread

7 Park feature

Down

SUDOKU

owntown



Odisha eastern India's State deploys 140 rescue Odisha eastern mula 5 rising maritime hub: CM teams as 'Montha' nears



MAJHI INAUGURATES ODISHA

hief Minister Mohan Cha-√ran Majhi inaugurated the Odisha Pavilion at India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai. Monday. Set up by the Commerce and Transport (C&T) department, the pavilion presents a captivating glimpse into the state's glorious maritime past and its modern strides in port-led development.

After inaugurating the stall, the CM said he was deeply impressed by the display showcasing Odisha's remarkable maritime journey, tracing its

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: With

stable governance, skilled man-

power and investor-friendly re-

forms, Odisha stands as a rising

maritime hub of eastern India,

Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi said during the inaugu-

ration of India Maritime Week

(IMW) 2025 in Mumbai Monday

and invited investors to invest

in Odisha's promising future.

Majhi joined the inaugural

session of IMW 2025 alongside

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, who graced the occasion

The event, being hosted by

the Ministry of Ports, Shipping

and Waterways and organised

by the Indian Ports Association

(IPA), brought together lead-

ers - including policymakers,

industry experts, innovators,

POST NEWS NETWORK

evolution from the ancient seafaring glory of Kalinga to Odisha's growing role in global trade connectivity.

He highlighted that Odisha's strategic coastal advantage, progressive port policy, and integrated maritime development approach have positioned it as a key player along India's Eastern Maritime Corridor. "Our vision is to build a modern, sustainable and globally connected blue economy for Odisha, while preserving our rich maritime

and investors - from over 100

countries to deliberate on the

future of the global maritime

sector and India's growing

Majhi also interacted with

leading industry representatives

from the port and blue economy

sectors, inviting them to explore

investment opportunities and

take the advantage of Odisha's

rapidly developing maritime

building a strong port-led and

port-based economy and will

transform our ports into en-

gines of trade, industry, and

employment — driving India's

growth journey for the next 25

years," he said. Speaking during

the special Odisha session, the

CM highlighted state's strategic

position as India's emerging

maritime hub on the eastern

"Odisha is committed to

leadership within it.

and coastal ecosystem.

traditions," Majhi added.

The event was attended by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Industries department Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Sharma, C&T department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee and other senior officials.

On the occasion, the CM also visited a sand art installation by Padma Shri Sudarsan Pattnaik, created in collaboration with the C&T department. The artwork beautifully captured Odisha's timeless maritime spirit and heritage.

Guided by the vision of Purvodaya and Atmanirbhar **Bharat, we are ensuring** faster clearances, investor-friendly policies, and robust logistics connectivity to attract global partners. **Our focus remains on local** employment, skill development, and inclusive growth so that the benefits of this transformation reach every citizen MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI CM

coast. He reaffirmed the state's vision to build a modern, sustainable, and globally competitive maritime ecosystem, supported by policy stability, infrastructure development.

and private sector participation. "Odisha's maritime strength is driving a new era of indus-

palpur, and upcoming ports at Astaranga, Jatadhari Muhan, Subarnarekha, and Bahuda, we are expanding our total port handling capacity to 500 million tonnes annually, supported by three major ship anchor points. The Bahuda Port with an investment of Rs 21.500 crore and Rs 24,700 crore towards shipbuilding and repair cluster along with the Puri cruise terminal will redefine Odisha's coastal economy and global trade linkages. With stable governance, skilled manpower, and investor-friendly reforms, Odisha stands as a rising maritime hub of eastern India. I warmly welcome investors to be part of this transformative journey," Majhi said.

The CM outlined key initiatives, including the enhancement of port capacity to 500 million tonnes per annum by 2047, development of 14 non-major ports, and two transformational projects – the Bahuda Port and the shipbuilding and repair cluster at Mahanadi mouth.

He emphasised that Odisha's maritime roadmap goes beyond trade and logistics. integrating tourism, cruise development, and blue economy opportunities along the Bay of Bengal coast.

"Guided by the vision of Purvodaya and Atmanirbhar Bharat, we are ensuring faster clearances, investor-friendly policies, and robust logistics connectivity to attract global partners. Our focus remains on local employment, skill development, and inclusive growth so that the benefits of this transformation reach every citizen," the CM pointed out. Some agreements were also signed on the occasion.

The five-day IMW 2025, which is being organised at the NESCO Exhibition Centre in Mumbai and will conclude October 31, will feature ministerial roundtables, CEO forums, thematic sessions, and an exhibition with over 500 participants. The event will showcase India's expanding maritime investment pipeline worth over Rs 10 lakh crore, reinforcing the nation's commitment to building a world-class and future-ready maritime ecosystem.



Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: As Cyclone Montha intensifies

and nears the Andhra Pradesh coast, it is expected to trigger heavy rainfall across southern and coastal Odisha. Keeping in view, the Odisha government Monday deployed 140 rescue teams across eight southern districts most likely to be affected by the cyclone. The 108 emergency medical ambulance services have also been put on high alert.

Though the cyclone is not expected to make direct landfall in Odisha, districts including Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, and Nabarangpur have been placed under the Red Zone, with forecasts of heavy to very heavy rainfall between October 28 and 29.

Teams from the NDRF ODRAF, and Fire Services have been deployed and are on standby in all eight districts. As per reports, in Gajapati district, over 1,000 people have been evacuated to cyclone and flood shelters, while 91 pregnant women have been shifted to safer locations.

State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari urged people not to panic and to strictly follow government advisories. He appealed the residents of the red-zoned districts to avoid stepping out during the heavy rains unless absolutely necessary.

Pujari said all preparations have been completed, adding that the government aims for "zero casualty" during the cyclone. Anticipating heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi and parts of Chhattisgarh, the government has also started releasing water from the Hirakud Dam to accommodate potential inflow.

Over 200 cyclone and flood shelters in the Red Zone districts have been readied to house evacuees. Authorities have also identified 139 landslide-prone areas, mostly in Ganjam and Gajapati, where special safety measures are in place. A 24x7 helpline and control rooms have been activated in all eight vulnerable districts to coordinate emergency response. Meanwhile, the 108 ambulance service has initiated extensive preparedness measures to ensure uninterrupted medical response during the storm.

As per reports, EMRI Green Health Services, which operates the 108 Ambulance network in the state, has activated a comprehensive disaster management plan. The 108 call centre

BMC prepares for cyclone

 $I^{
m n}$ view of the possible cyclone 'Montha,' and the expected rainfall, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has reportedly initiated extensive preparations, said the civic body.

As per a BMC press release, all leaves of officers and employees have been canceled until October 30. Strict orders have been issued that no officer or employee should leave the headquarters without prior permission. Agencies and voluntary organizations have been instructed to ensure that city sanitation is maintained efficiently and safely during the cyclone. They have been asked to keep necessary manpower, vehicles, and equipment ready

Instructions have also been given to closely monitor door-to-door waste collection to avoid any disruptions. Vehicles required for collecting green waste and household debris have also been prepared. To ensure smooth drainage of rainwater, manpower, machines. RAT teams, and vehicles are ready to immediately clear blocked or jammed drains. Additionally, cutters, personnel, and vehicles are on standby to cut grass and tree branches if

needed, the BMC said.

A 24-hour control room has been opened at the BMC headquarters. Each agency and voluntary organization has been instructed to deploy its staff to receive complaints. Although Bhubaneswar currently falls under the Yellow Zone and heavy rainfall is expected Tuesday, the BMC has made full preparations with a joint departmental team, said Commissioner Chanchal Rana.

Among various preparations, temporary shelters such as schools and community centers have been readied. Residents of Bhubaneswar have been advised not to panic. Citizens can call the 24×7 control room at 1929 or contact their corporators and ward officers. Fire and BMC pumps have been kept ready for water drainage. Any complaints regarding sanitation will be immediately addressed. During this period, all agencies, voluntary organizations, officers, and employees will maintain vigilant monitoring across the city and resolve problems promptly, the BMC stated.

The authorities have stated that the BMC is fully prepared to handle any situation during the possible cyclone.

Puri–Khurda Road **MEMU extended**

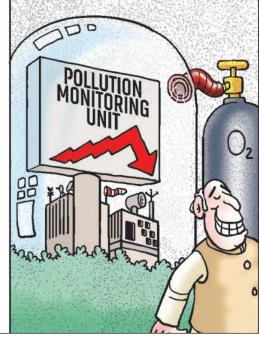
POST NEWS NETWORK

as chief guest.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: In view of the heavy passenger rush expected during the holy month of Kartika and the Kartika Purnima festivities in Puri, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) announced a temporary extension of the Puri-Khurda Road-Puri MEMU train up to Daspalla in Nayagarh to ensure smoother travel and facilitate passengers.

Train No 68404 Puri-Khurda Road MEMU will run up to Daspalla from October 26 to November 5 while the corresponding Train No 68403 Khurda Road-Puri MEMU will originate from Daspalla between October 27 and November 6. Officials said the decision aims to provide better connectivity and crowd management in the Khurda–Nayagarh region during the peak festive period when thousands of devotees travel to Puri for religious observances.





POLITICKLE by MANJUL

TPWODL rolls up sleeves

BURLA: Anticipating the approaching cyclone, Montha, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) has undertaken extensive preparedness measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply and public safety across has strategically deployed manpower. enable swift restoration in the event of any disruption caused by the cyclone. "Over 5,200 personnel have been deployed across divisions. A total of 52 pole masters and rapid response teams, comprising of 1,200 personnel, are positioned at different substations in Kalahandi," TPWODL said, asking consumers to call 24x7 toll-free helpline - 1800-456-798 or 1912 - in case of

has been equipped with backup power, internet, and communication systems to ensure seamless coordination, while additional manpower has been deployed to handle the expected surge in emergency calls.

emergency.

As per an official, district coordinators have been instructed to maintain close coordination with local administration, health officials, and police to facilitate timely rescue and medical support, especially in areas likely to be cut off due to waterlogging or road blockages Ambulances have been stocked with medicines, first-aid sup plies, and essential consum ables, and are being parked at elevated, safer locations away from trees, electric poles, and

flood-prone zones. "Our teams are on full alert and fully prepared to respond swiftly during Cyclone Montha," said the state head of 108 ambulance service. "Safety of our crew and timely service to patients remain our top pri ority. We urge citizens to stay calm, remain indoors during heavy rain or winds, and contact 108 in case of any medical emergency," he added.

Meanwhile, the state government announced the closure of all schools and Anganwadi centres in the districts under the Red Zone till October 30 as a precautionary measure. It has also cancelled all official leaves till October 30 and directed the district administrations to begin evacuation from low-lying and vulnerable areas.

IIC SUSPENDED FOR 'GROSS MISCONDUCT' IN CUTTACK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: A police inspector in Odisha's Cuttack district has been suspended for "gross misconduct" and "illegal detention" of a person, officials said Monday.

As per reports, Director General of Police (DGP) Y B Khurania suspended Siba Prasad Bhadra, inspector in-charge (IIC) of Tangi police station in Cuttack district.

In the greater interest of public service, the IIC has been suspended with immediate effect. During the suspension period, he will remain under the disciplinary control of DIG of Police, Central range, Cuttack, an official order said.

According to sources, Tangi police had allegedly picked a man from his home October 21 in connection with a land dispute case. The person was allegedly kept at the police station for two days.

Family members of the concerned person alleged that he was physically assaulted in police custody. He was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as his health condition was critical, they said.

Bhubaneswar Oct 27: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday alleged that the Collector and the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Nuapada district have resorted to threatening and coercing the party's cadres and supporters to join the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the November 11 byelection to the Nuapada Assembly seat.

In a representation to the Election Commission of India (ECI), the BJD leaders alleged grave violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by the BJP.

"It has come to our no-

tice, and is widely reported among party workers and the general public, that Madhusudan Dash, Collector of Nuapada district, and Amritpal Singh, Superintendent of Police, Nuapada district, are misusing their official positions and government machinery to intimidate, threaten, and coerce cadres and supporters of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) to join

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," the petition charged. systematic and high-handed use of authority grossly undermines the democratic process and casts serious aspersions on the

BJD: Collector, SP coercing workers to join BJP impartiality of the election administration, BJD said.

The regional party urged the ECI to take urgent cognizance of the 'serious misconduct' by the Collector and SP of Nuapada district

so as **NUAPADA BYPOLL** ensure all

officials involved in the election process maintain strict neutrality and act in accordance with the law and the MCC

It further sought initiation of exemplary and appropriate action against any act of intimidation, coercion, or misuse of government machinery to influence the electoral process.

EVM & VVPAT machines randomised

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Nuapada, Oct 27: The second level randomization and pairing of EVM and VVPAT machines for the 71-Nuapada Assem-

> cy by-election were carried

bly Constituen-

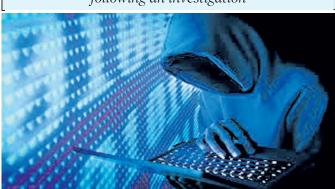
out Monday in the presence of Election Observer and District Election Officer-cum-District Magistrate.

An SEC press release said, for election preparedness, all the voting machines have been securely stored in the strong room of the local National College under proper security arrangements. District E-Governance Officer Virendra Singh Dandasena conducted three rounds of EVM and VVPAT randomization through a computerized process, in the pres ence of all contesting candi dates and their representatives The machines will subsequently undergo commissioning. All 358 booths will receive

their respective sets of vot ing machines in a completely transparent and fair manner The second level randomiza tion and pairing exercise was conducted in the presence of Additional District Magistrates along with Sub-Collector and Returning Officer.

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

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

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 investigation 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

He was later forwarded to the designated Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Court in Cuttack under relevant sections of the Bharativa 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

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 Maiva 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 daylong 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 arghva 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 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-

with devotion and traditional

fervour on the KIIT-DU cam-

pus Monday. A large num-

ber of students, especially

from Bihar, participated in

the rituals dressed in tra-

ditional attire, creating a

Vice Chancellor Raju K D, Registrar G R Mohanty, and other officials also attended

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 Technology, and Tourism. Under the Tourism Department, OC-CL will execute the integrated development and upgradation of the Hirakud 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, Sudhanshu 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 comply with fire safety norms and those that do not, so that corrective steps can be taken. He also announced that all bus employees across the state will undergo fire safety training in phases.

Thakur emphasised special focus on school buses, air-conditioned (AC) coaches, and night service buses, which face a higher risk of fire due to electrical load and continuous operation, "Even a small lapse can lead to a major tragedy. Bus operators must ensure that passengers are informed of safety

protocols, just as it is done in

airplanes," he said.

Members of the Bus Owners' Association and representatives from bus manufacturing companies expressed full sup port for the initiative. They agreed to coordinate closely with the government to ensure that all fire safety guidelines are implemented effectively.

The meeting concluded with a consensus to conduct joint awareness drives, periodic inspections, and hands-on fire safety training sessions for all staff, reinforcing the government's commitment to passen

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.

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Kesinga, Kalahandi, I, Jyostna Parida, D/o. Sarbeswara Parida, At - Kesinga. Ward No.10, PO/ PS - Kesinga, Dist. -Kalahandi do hereby declared that I have changed my name from Jyotsna Parida to Jyostna Parida. Henceforth, I shall be known as Jyostna Parida for all future purposes.

5-day vocational skill training kicks off at Centurion varsity



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: A five-day residential handson 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

100 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE RESIDENTIAL TRAINING

THE PROGRAMME OFFERS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS VOCATIONAL TRADES TO BOOST PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

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

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 Pattnay ak 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.





	WEATH	ER	
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
/lax Temp	33.7°	31.8°	Light to moderate
/lin Temp	25.1°	22.8°	rain or thunderstorm
lumidity	78%	89%	very likely
tainfall	0.1mm	2.6mm	

OUR BOOKING STATIONS FOR ASSIFIED AD VERTISEMENTS CON TACT

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

CYCLONE MONTHA

Odisha gives shelter to over 100 fishermen from Andhra

Berhampur/ Chhatrapur, Oct 27: The Ganjam district administration Monday provided shelter to over 100 fishermen from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, who were stuck in the deep sea before the landfall of the impending cyclonic storm 'Montha'.

They will be sent to their home state after the situation normalises, Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan said

The fishermen of various areas in Andhra Pradesh were in the deep sea for fishing in 28 fishing trawlers. They could not attempt to return as the condition of the sea became rough under the influence of the cyclone which was brewing in Bay of Bengal, officials said.

The fishermen with their vessels took shelter in the Gopalpur port Monday afternoon.



The authorities of the port allowed them to stay in the safe backwater zone after the intervention of the district administration. "We have expressed concern as to how the fishermen had gone to the sea despite the government having issued a warning well in advance about the cyclonic storm," said an officer of Ganjam district.

In 2021, the Ganjam district administration had also given temporary rehabilitation to over 200 Andhra Pradesh fish-

the landfall process of the cyclonic storm 'Gulab'

Devidutta Mohanty, Assistant Fishery Officer (Marine) of Ganjam, said that the fishermen in the district who were in the sea for fishing have already reached their respective villages after the district administration issued a warning to return. The fishermen also do not go sea fishing following the warning.

"Our field staff has been alerted. We have also certified that all the fishermen are in their respective villages," he said. The landfall of Cyclone

'Montha' has begun in the evening. It is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast near Kakinada during the evening or night of October 28 as a se-

Inter-district robbery gang busted; 2 held, ₹5 lakh recovered

Koraput: Police Monday busted a robbery racket and arrested two persons, recovering ₹5 lakh in cash from their possession. The inter-district gang was

involved in a series of thefts and Malkangiri districts, police said. They have been identified as Shantiraj Nag (19) and Abinash Maharana (28), both residents of Jeypore town in Koraput district. According to police, investigation began after a complaint was lodged by one Radha Mohan Pattnaik of Hanaguda, Jeypore, April 15, alleging that miscreants had broken into his neighbour's house the previous night and stolen gold, silver ornaments, and ₹10,000 in cash. After months of investigation, police arrested Nag and during interrogation, he confessed to committing the theft along with Abinash. He also said they had sold the stolen gold to a local goldsmith, K Murali, for ₹50,000. During interrogation, the accused disclosed their involvement in a major robbery that took place in Malkangiri in June, Jeypore SDPO Parth

Gangrape threat: Bonai girl, mom robbed of ₹1 crore on gun point

Bonai. Oct 27: Masked miscre ants looted cash and gold ornaments worth over ₹1 crore from a businesswoman's house after threatening to rape her daughter and make the video viral if they did not get the keys late Sunday night.

According to police, four masked men carrying guns, a meat cleaver, and an iron rod tied up the woman, her daughter, and a store employee before ransacking the house for near ly three hours. The robbers re portedly broke the CCTV cameras and took away the hard disk before fleeing.

The assailants entered the house around midnight when the woman, daughter, and an employee of Rashmi Electricals, an electrical store run by the woman after her husband's death, in Bonai town were fast alseep. They beat up the store employee and tied his limbs asking him to call his employer failing which they threatened to kill him. Fearing for his life, he called the widow asking her



to give medicines as he was having stomach pain.

When the widow and her daughter opened the door, carrying the medicines, the assailants barged into the room and tied the mother-daughter in ropes and demanded keys of the cupboards. When they resisted, they threatened to rape the daughter and post a video of the assault online. Frightened, the woman handed

over the keys. The robbers fled with gold jewellery and around ₹25 lakh in cash, totalling over ₹1 crore.

The mother alerted police through a neighbour Monday morning. A case has been registered at the local police station and the investigation is under way with assistance from a scientific team from Rourkela. No arrests have been made when the last report came in.

Flesh trade racket busted; 3 arrested

Rourkela: Police busted a sex racket during a raid on a house in Civil Township area under Raghunathpalli police limits in Rourkela and arrested three persons including a woman in this connection Monday. The raid took place after intelligence inputs alerted police about flesh trade underway at a house in the Civil Township area. Two women from outside the state were rescued during the raid around 10am on the accused persons and the women will be released after police interrogates them about their involvement in the flesh trade, IIC Rajendra Swain said. Sources said that the accused persons lured the two women with attractive promise and engaged them in the flesh trade.

20-YR JAIL FOR MINOR'S RAPE

sentenced a 19-year-old youth to after convicting him in a rape case involving a minor girl Monday. The convict was identified as Ritwik Digal of Sainpada village under Pulbani Sadar police limits. Judge Kailash Chandra Swain also slapped a penalty of ₹20,000 on Digal, apart from the punishment In default, he has to undergo an additional two years of imprisonment. The judge has also directed the secretary of the district Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to give away ₹5 lakh compensation to the survivor. The judge passed the order after examining the statements recorded by 17 witnesses and medical report in the case, Special Public Prosecutor Banamali Behera said. According to the case diary, the survivor was studying in a high school in Phulbani. Digal promised to marry her and raped her at different points of time. Later, he took the girl to his uncle's house and again established physical relationship with her November 21, 2024. The girl's father lodged a complaint at the Sadar police station after she failed to return home at night. Police registered a case (259/24) and arrested Digal on the charge.

Doubts grow over success of Similipal tiger relocation **Tigress Jamuna still missing from Similipal**

Baripada, Oct 27: A year after tigress Jamuna was relocated from the Tadoba forest in Maharashtra to the Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district, doubts have grown over the success of the Forest department's objectives behind the move. According to officials, Jamu-

na failed to adapt to the forested terrain of Similipal and reportedly strayed into another jungle soon after being released. Even after a year, she has not returned. However, authorities said the tigress remains somewhere within the broader Similipal biosphere region and her movements are being closely monitored. Prakash Chand Gogineni,

regional chief wildlife warden and field director of the Similipal Tiger Reserve, said Jamuna's location is being tracked. but the department has not shared specific details about her whereabouts. This lack of clarity has fuelled concerns about the effectiveness of the tiger gene pool augmentation plan aimed at boosting the tiger population in Similipal's

Jamuna was the first of two tigresses brought to Similipal as part of the relocation effort. However, she soon left the core area of the reserve, wandering into nearby villages and preying on domestic animals. Unable to adapt to Similipal's terrain, Jamuna moved through human settlements and escaped to Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary in neighbouring Balasore district.

After staying there briefly, she began frequenting Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Keonjhar district, apparently in search of a suitable habitat. The department noted that since Ha-

Ritu shows the way in biodegradable bag production



dagarh Wildlife Sanctuary falls within the Baripada forest circle-one of the seven divisions under its jurisdiction—it still lies within Similipal's broader ecological landscape. Officials said Jamuna's movements are being closely monitored through her radio collar.

The Forest department said it will soon launch a new mission to track and study Jamuna's movements.

Former honorary wildlife warden Bhanumitra Acharya, however, expressed doubts about the project's success. "The purpose for which the two tigresses were relocated to Similipal seems to have failed," he said. "While officials claim Jamuna remains within Similipal's ecological zone, questions arise about where she will be counted during the national tiger census — under tiger-free Kuldiha or Hadagarh, or as part

of Similipal's population?" Acharya added that instead of addressing management lapses, the department's decision to bring tigers from outside and release them into

Similipal amounts to "a misleading conservation policy.'

The initiative marked the first time Odisha had attempted to introduce tigers from another state to promote breeding. With the previous tiger relocation ef fort in Angul's Satkosia failing, experts and conservationists are now watching closely to see whether the current plan will succeed or face a similar fate. Officials say if the project achieves its goals, it could significantly contribute to tiger population growth in the state.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had identified Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary as one of the most suitable habitats in the country for increasing the tiger population, according to its report.

Following the recommendation, two tigresses—Jamuna and Zeenat—from the Tadoba forest in Maharashtra were relocated to Similipal as part of Odisha's plan to boost tiger breeding. Jamuna arrived at the Similipal Tiger Reserve October 27, 2024, transported by a special team and vehicle.

10 detained after poaching wild boar

Keonjhar: Keonjhar forest departing a wild boar inside Sudung forest near Batagoan Nala Monday at about 3pm and seized one four-wheeler, one motorcycle, with 8 kg of raw meat, two axes and one net trap from their possession, DFO, Keonjha Dhanaraj HD said. The arrested are identified as Parameswara Dehury (32), Maheswara Naik (40). Jayadhara Naik (28), Jogi Giri (19), Kumbhara Dehury (20), Prashanta Pradhan (19), Banial Dehury (24), Sagara Maharana (22), Kalakara Dehury (25), Rauta Dehury (62) — al residents of Sudung village under

Former minister Padmini Dian critical; niece dies shifted to Jeypore Hospital.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, Oct 27: Former minister Padmini Dian and two of her family members were hospitalised in critical condition Sunday evening, while her niece died during treatment due to suspected food poisoning, authorities said.

According to reports, Dian and three other women in her family were found unconscious at their residence when other relatives returned home from Jagdalpur. All four were taken to Kotpad Hospital and later

Dian's niece, Parbati Majhi who worked at an Anganwadi centre, died while receiving treatment, officials said.

As Dian's condition did not im prove, she was being transferred to a hospital in Visakhapatnam at the time of reporting. The oth er two women were being treated at Koraput Hospital.Preliminary reports suggest it may be a case of food poisoning, according to sources. Dian served as the min ister for textiles, handlooms and handicrafts in the BJD govern-

Tension flares up after forest guard assaults elderly woman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Oct 27: Tension erupted in a village under Nilagiri forest range after an elderly woman was allegedly assaulted by a forest guard while she was collecting tree branches to feed her goats. The incident sparked outrage among villagers, who later staged a protest demanding the guard's transfer.

According to reports, Katima ni Singh, an elderly resident of Bayarsahi village near Gopalpur forest beat house under Nilagiri forest range, had gone to a nearby jungle Sunday to graze her goats. She reportedly broke a few green branches to bring home as fodder. Forest guard Kabita Mahakud from Gopalpur beat house confronted her. questioning why she broke the branches, and allegedly assaulted her during the altercation.

Singh informed her family members and neighbours about the incident, prompting hundreds of villagers to gather outside the Gonalpur beat house Monday morning. The protesters gheraoed the office and demanded immediate transfer of Mahakud. The guard Mahakud reportedly hid inside the office by bolting the door from inside during the demonstration.

Tension was palpable in the area as Ayodhya outpost police and local officials reached the spot and kept a close watch on the evolving situation. Nilagiri ranger Manwar Khan and local sarpanch Sanjay Singh intervened and pacified the protesters. Later, the villagers submitted a memorandum to the Balasore DFO demanding Mahakud's transfer. The situation normalised after assurance from the officials.

COMMERCIAL COURT, EGMORE, CHENNAI C.O.S.No. 397 OF 2025 Versus Mr. Sunakar Sahu, Proprietor of Sai krupa Traders

BEFORE THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL

Mr.Sunakar Sahu Proprietor of Sai Krupa Traders, Laxmi Bazar, Balichandrapur,

Jaipur, Khurda, Odisha - 754 205 Mobile No. 097773 46435 & 094391 71035 Kindly take notice that you are hereby required to appear before the Hon'ble Additional Commercial Court a

Egmore, chennai in C.O.S. No. 397 o 2025 on 31.10.2025 at 10.30 a.m. a per the order dated 13.10.2025 Failing which the suit will be decided exparte in your absence

S.R.SANKARESHWARAN

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26 E-Tender/82, Dt. 22.10.2025 2025, Dtd. 14.10.2025

Description: PROPOSED STRENGTHE NG AND REPLACEMENT OF CORRODE MEMBERS WITH METALIZED NEW MEMBERS AND RE-RIVETING OF BRIDGE NO 63UP, 1050UP & 1052UP IN THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (SSE)/BRIDGE/SOUTH/KHURDA Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 94.45

eriod: 10 (Ten) Months. (2) Tender No.: etenderEastkur-

265-2025, Dtd. 16.10.2025 Description: PROPOSED EARTH WORK FOR FORMATION AND EXTENSION OF BRIDGE NO. 462DN IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF ONE ADDITIONAL LOOP AT NEW GARHMADHUPUR (NGMP) STATION OF KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 105.90 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,03,000.00, Completion period: 06 (Six) Months. 3) Tender No. : eTender-BR-KUR-266

2025, Dtd. 17.10.2025 escription: PROPOSED RIVER BED

MAPPING/3D SCANNING OF RIVER BED OF 1) BRIDGE NO. 22 (MAHANADI) OF SPAN X30.50M + 6x89.30M + 5x76.20M TOWG IN BRAG) SECTION, (2) BRIDGE NO. 544 MAHANADI) OF SPAN 32x61.00M TOWG IN THE NERGUNDI (NRG)-CUTTACK (CTC) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 19.4

_akhs, EMD: ₹ 38,900.00, Complet period: 05 (Five) Months. 2025, Dtd. 17.10.2025

Description: CONDUCTING WATER AUDIT AT PURI, BHUBANESWAR PALASA, BRAHMAPUR, KHURDA ROAD CUTTACK, BHADRAK, JAJPUF KEONJHAR ROAD & BALUGAON STATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. MD: ₹ 17,100.00, Completion period

rs. of 07.11.2025 (for all sl. nos.) lo manual offers sent by Post/Courier

ax or in person shall be accepted agains Complete information including e-tende

website: www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advise

revisit the website ten days before the ate of closing of tender to note any hanges/corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) R-732/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Chola CHULAWANDALAW IN L. S. WILLEY CORPORATE **DEMAND NOTICE**

SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules") The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. (the Secured Creditor) under the Ac and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is / are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of

notice is being affected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below

Loan A/C. No(S).: LAP3ANG000104017 . Mr/Mrs. Susanta Kumar Mohapatra Alais Susanta Mohapatra . Mr/Mrs. Jyostnamayee Satapathy Add:- Plot No. 1207 / 2390 / 2964 / 3008, Brajanathp Arakhapal, Talcher, Near Up School, Angul, Orissa - 759100. Also At: Khata No. 233/511. Plot No. 1207 / 2390 / 2964 / 3008

Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s

Mouza Brajanathpur, Tah. Talcher, Near Brajeswar Mahade Temple Ps. Talcher, Dist. Angul, Odisha, Pin - 759100.

he borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabout

(Rupees Twenty Two lakhs Forty Thousand Five Hundred Sixty One Only) as or 14.10.2025

Dt. of Demand

Talcher, P/s Talcher, P/s No. 114, Distric Rs. 22.40.561/-Angul. Khata No. 233/511, Plot No. 1207 2390 / 2964 / 3008. Area Ac.0.100dec. Kisan Gharabari (Homestead) out of area Ac.0.200dec corresponds Khata No. 233 / 22, Plot No. 1207 2309, Area Ac.0.200dec out of area Ac.0.600de - North: NA, South: NA, East: NA, West: NA

Description of the Property / Secured

Mouza Braianathpur, Tahasii Talcher, SRO

within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses ti the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. is a secure creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time. The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured assets(s) including but no imited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to **ATTACH AND / OR SEAL** the secured assets(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured assets(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law. The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Securer Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with

Place : Angul, Odisha Date : 15.10.2025

the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hour Authorized Officer
For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Umerkote, Oct 27: A highly educated woman has turned to self-employment and is even creating jobs for others by starting a small-scale industry in a rural pocket of Nabarangpur district.

Ritu Mohanta, a graduate in agricultural science, has established a biodegradable carry bag production unit at Dangriguda under Umerkote municipality. The unit, inaugurated in September by Nabarangpur District Collector Maheshwar Swain. produces carry bags from corn starch, which is currently imported from Gujarat. The bags are hundred per cent

plastic-free and hence environmentally safe. They decompose in soil within just two to three months and dissolve instantly in water. According to Ritu, "We know how plastic waste is wreaking havoc even to the stray animals, especially when they eat polythene bags. However, these

biodegradable bags won't cause any

harm to stray cattle or goats if they happen to consume those."

Inspired by her father, Ritu chose not to pursue a job after graduation but instead ventured into entrepreneurship to support the state's mission for a plastic-free environment. Her plant operates eight hours a day, producing 2-3 quintals of bags daily, ranging from small pouches to 25-kg sacks.

Currently, about 12 people, including five women, are employed at the plant. The bags are being supplied to local traders, with plans afoot to expand distribution to other regions in the future.

The plant runs without smoke or noise emission, making it eco-friendly and sustainable. Ritu said she hopes her initiative will inspire unemployed youth, especially women, to pursue self-reliance. Collector Swain added that since

the bags are plastic-free, they will also be distributed to government institutions for use. Awareness campaigns will be held to encourage their adoption, he added.





In sincerity is the certitude of victory. Sincerity! Sincerity! How sweet is the purity of thy presence?



THE MOTHER

Xi's Trust Deficit

hina is going through the motions of yet another purge in the top echelons of power and this time the removal of key leaders – both in the military and political hierarchy – is on an unprecedented scale. For four days, from 20 to 23 October around 315 of the highest-ranking Chinese Communist Party (CCP) cadres met in western Beijing to discuss the country's next five-year plan. The talks centred around China's technological self-sufficiency in the face of American restrictions, modernising its military and supporting domestic consumption to stabilise the economy. However, what eclipsed the whole exercise is the number of figures of the top leadership absent from the proceedings. Nearly 16 per cent of the 376 members and deputies of the CCP Central Committee, who were appointed in 2022, when the party was already under President Xi Jinping's absolute control, were missing. Two reasons can be attributed to the conspicuous absence health issues or purges. The first can be ruled out since none of these leaders were reported to be sick. The second reason seems more likely considering the all-powerful Jinping rose to the pinnacle of power in 2012 by virtue of his anti-corruption drive that has already seen many heads roll under his rule.

This time the CCP Central Committee replaced 11 members at the key meeting in Beijing in the midst of an ongoing military purge. Most prominent among them was the Vice Chair of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC) He Weidong, who was thought to have been a close military confidante of Xi. Both men served in Fujian province in the 1990s. Weidong had also been part of the 24-member politburo. Veteran general Zhang Shengmin, 67, is now promoted to replace Weidong, who was expelled from the party on corruption charges. It is a sign of a major crisis of loyalty as Weidong is the first sitting general on the military commission to be removed since the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution. Apart from him, eight other People's Liberation Army (PLA) generals were also ousted, according to an official statement from the party. It was released on the last day of the fourth plenum, a key closed-door meeting of the 300-plus member body.

Since coming to power, Xi has spearheaded a sweeping anti-corruption campaign within the party and government. Over the course of his first five-year term, he replaced a record 19 Central Committee members. He has now chosen Zhang as his most trustworthy lieutenant after having promoted him to the CMC in 2017 when he also became a full general. He is currently head of the CMC Commission for Discipline Inspection, overseeing PLA anti-corruption efforts. He concurrently serves as deputy secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, China's top anti-corruption body, wielding an unusually high degree of power for a military officer within the civilian Communist Party system. This shows the degree of confidence he enjoys with Xi

By removing all these officers, Xi is sending a loud and clear message to the military high command that he would not spare even his most loyal generals if they are found to be corrupt. The nine expelled generals were suspected of serious financial crimes, China's defence ministry said. Their removal marked one of the Chinese Communist Party's largest crackdowns on the military in decades. For months, the Central Military Commission had given enough indications that it would conduct a crackdown. In July, it issued new guidelines calling for the elimination of "toxic influence" in the military and listing out "iron rules" for cadres. Compared to these purges, the removal of former Defence Ministers Wei Fenghe and Li Shangful in recent years appears rather light weight.

It appears Xi carefully choreographed the purge coinciding it with the Central Committee's approval of a new five-year-plan – a broad document to guide its priorities- to deal with the global economic crisis after US President Donald Trump's tariff war. The plan emphasised "scientific and technological self-reliance," something Chinese tech companies will need if the Trump administration continues to restrict access to computer chips and advanced software. It also underscores the need for accelerating the green transition and modernising defence, apart from boosting domestic consumption to make up for lost export revenue and disconcertingly growing unemployment in China.

The twin exercise appears to have been prompted by Xi's anxiety to retain absolute control over the party and military apparatus and allay fears of the Chinese population that the country's economy may not be able to withstand the new challenges posed by Trump's trade policies. At one point of time last year there was speculation that Xi might face a revolt from within. The latest purge indicates he has been able to consolidate his position within his party and

WISDOM CORNER

An optimist is a person who sees a green light everywhere, while a pessimist sees only the red stoplight... the truly wise person is colorblind

We are here to laugh at the odds and live our lives so well that Death will tremble to take us

The highest and most beautiful things in life are not to be heard about, nor read about, nor seen but, if one will, are to

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1636: Harvard University, the oldest institute of higher learning in the United States, was founded by the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- **1726:** Anglo-Irish author Jonathan Swift anonymously published Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World (later called Gulliver's Travels), a keystone of English literature that helped give birth to the
- **1886:** Statue of Liberty dedicated. On this day in 1886 U.S. President Grover Cleveland officially dedicated the Statue of Liberty—a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States-on Bedloe's (later Liberty) Island in Upper New York Bay.
- **1918:** Czechoslovakia gains independence. The Central European country had been a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire since the late 1700s. At the end of the First World War, with the end of the Empire on the horizon, nationalists under the leadership of Thomas Masaryk pushed for independence. Masaryk became the country's first president in November 1918. On January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully broke up into two countries - the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

HOUSEHOLD DEBT

A QUIET BUILD-UP

regarded as cautious savers are quietly taking on record levels of debt. According to the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report, household debt in India is 42% of GDP at the end of 2024. up from just 26% in 2015. Which means that in absolute terms the total debt is nearly three times bigger. The average debt per individual has jumped 23% in just two years. This means the average debt per person is rising at twice the speed of national income. It has risen from ₹3.9 lakh in 2023 to ₹4.8 lakh by March 2025. More than half of this borrowing i.e. about 55% comes from non-housing retail loans such as credit-card dues, personal loans, auto loans, and gold loans, while traditional home loans make up only about 29% of total household debt. Thus, an increasing share of household borrowing is being used not to build assets but simply to make ends meet. The middle-class and lower-middle-class families who prided themselves on thrift and saving for children's education, gold jewellery, or a small home are borrowing to spend on current consumption.

A rising debt-to-GDP ratio especially if the borrowing is driven by consumption rather than productive investment will weaken the foundation of India's long term sustained growth. India's debt ratio is still much below other developed economies. For instance, in Australia and Canada the household debt is more than 100% of GDP. But unlike India, these two countries have a generous social security and old age assured income security, reducing their households need to have high savings. In the US too the ratio of household debt to GDP is 75% and is 63% in China. The memory of the financial crash and crisis caused by housing mortgage in the US and the Evergrande crash in China is hopefully not forgotten. Compared to a potential bubble like build up, Indian household debt at 42% of GDP looks manageable. But one must note that it has risen



A rising debt-to-GDP ratio especially if the borrowing is driven by consumption rather than productive investment will weaken the foundation of India's long term sustained growth

steadily for five years, substantially outpacing income growth. A study by the Bank for International Settlements spanning 54 countries found that while higher household debt initially boosts consumption and GDP, beyond a threshold of 60% of GDP it begins to drag growth down, reducing long-run GDP by 0.1 percentage point for every additional point of debt. India's ratio, though currently lower, is moving in that direction.

The problem is not household borrowing per se, but what is the purpose. Loans for education, housing, or small businesses build future assets. But loans for consumption create no productive capacity. As households divert more of their income toward servicing personal loans and credit-card bills, less remains for savings or investment. This has been enabled further by easy digital lending, instant credit-card approvals, and aggressive consumer-finance marketing. It has become very easy, effortless to borrow small amounts. But what looks like convenience often hides vulnerability. A growing number of households are using credit simply to pay for everyday expenses such as groceries, utility bills, school fees, or healthcare.

This is seen in the ballooning of gold loans too. The data from the RBI shows that gold loan portfolios more than doubled between mid-2023 till mid-2025. The growth rate for all gold loans was a whopping 122% in July 2025. The bulk of the gold loans from banks are of ticket size of less than 2.5 lakh, for which the RBI has slackened the regulatory limits. There is lighter appraisal and loan to value ratio is allowed to be as high as 85%. But the RBI is also aware of the build-up of bad loans in micro-finance and has tightened regulation there. During this same period, microfinance outstanding loans have dropped by 16.5%, indicating that some of the increase in gold loans is a substitution. It means that lower and middle income households who depended on MFI's or unsecured credit are turning to gold loans, which have also been fuelled by soaring gold prices. In the next few years the expected growth rate in gold loans is more than 15% per year. But we must keep in mind, that surge in gold loans is not a sign of financial deepening. It signals that households are liquidating their last-resort savings to finance consumption or service other debts. The gold loan boom reflects an uncomfortable reality: it is both a safety valve

and a red flag. Along with rising household indebtedness are two other phenomena causing concern. One is that rural wages have remained stagnant in inflation adjusted terms. The cost of urban living is rising. Hence debt has become a coping mechanism. The second is the phenomenon of declining financial savings of households. The net financial savings have declined from 11% of GDP in FY21 to just

5% in FY23. There has been a slight improvement in the past two years. The household savings pool has been the bedrock on which both the government's fiscal needs and companies' credit needs are financed. With declining savings these will become costlier to finance.

There are aspirations for

higher living standards. Digital credit is easy to access, and there is perhaps a post-pandemic desire for instant gratification. The fact is that consumer loans have been outpacing bank credit growth for the past five years. Nearly 55% of household debt is non-housing which means essential consumption loans. Credit card spending has increased 13 times in 13 years, and the number of credit cards in use has quintupled. Younger, salaried consumers are borrowing heavily against future income to sustain present lifestyles. At the same time, lower-income and rural households, facing stagnant earnings, are turning to gold and small personal loans to manage essential spending.

Credit expansion boosts demand and growth in consumer goods. But it makes households vulnerable to shocks caused by job loss, illness or crop failure. Beyond a point it increases financial system stress. If left unchecked it can erode the very resilience that once defined Indian households. Reversing the slide requires restoring the habit of financial savings, raising real incomes, and ensuring that borrowed money builds tomorrow's assets, not just today's consumption. It requires regulating aggressive consumer lending. It needs to encourage loans for education, homes and MSME's. India's households, once the quiet financiers of both growth and government, must be restored to financial health which can be achieved by returning to traditional values of caution and thrift rather than leaving them on the path to distress and debt.

> The writer is a noted economist.©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM

YOUNGER,

SALARIED

ARE

CONSUMERS

BORROWING

TO SUSTAIN

LIFESTYLES

FUTURE INCOME

HEAVILY

AGAINST

PRESENT

SOCIETY

Honouring age, building tomorrow



Bhagirathi Jena

THE JOURNEY TOWARD AGE-INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES BEGINS WITH RECOGNISING THAT AGEING IS **NOT A PROBLEM BUT A NATURAL** PART OF HUMAN **LIFE TO BE EMBRACED**

mation is unfoldingone that demands our immediate attention and collective action. Populations are ageing, not as a distant possibility but as a present-day reality. With the global community of older persons growing at an unprecedented pace, projected to constitute nearly 17% of the world's population by 2050, we stand at a pivotal moment in history. This shift calls for nothing less than a fundamental reimagining of our social structures, moving beyond traditional concepts of ageing to recognise later life as a vibrant, productive phase brimming with potential. What's required is an unwavering commitment to advancing human rights, strengthening legal protections, and systematically dismantling age-based discrimination to create genuinely inclusive societies where every older person can participate with dignity.

The challenges accompanying this demographic transition are both real and pressing. While medical advances have extended life spans worldwide, the tradi-

cross the world, a quiet tional support systems that once sustained older individuals are weakening in many societies Modern economic and social forces, while driving progress, have often disrupted intergenerational living arrangements and community bonds that historically provided both emotional and financial security. In this new reality, many older persons find themselves facing isolation and vulnerability.

Yet viewing older persons primarily through the lens of vulnerability does them a profound disservice. Beyond the statistics lie individuals with decades of accumulated experience, resilience, and wisdom. Their needs are often fundamental yet profound: not just material support, but genuine human connection-empathy, understanding, and the basic dignity that comes from being valued and heard.

Older people continue to serve as parents, grandparents, mentors, and economic contributors. What they seek is not pity but meaningful partnership. This partnership concept is crucial to unlocking what has been termed the "silver economy"—the tradition, represents precisely recognition that older persons represent not a burden but a valuable social resource. Imagine initiatives that engage this vast pool of experience in education systems. Retired professionals from various fields could bring practical knowledge into learning environments, teaching everything from environmental stewardship to financial literacy.

Beyond formal education.

older individuals have much to offer as community guides and supporters. Their life experience provides them with a unique perspective and empathy, making them ideally suited to assist younger people facing anxiety or families navigating difficult circumstances. Having weathered their own storms, they can offer guidance grounded in real-world experience rather than theoretical knowledge.

Within this vision, older women deserve special recognition as the often unacknowledged architects of our societies. Their wisdom, developed through roles as caregivers, managers, and preservers of what communities need today.

This ongoing demographic shift reminds us that ageing is a universal journey that should be met with grace and dignity. The silver economy represents not just an economic opportunity but a cultural renaissance—a chance to rebuild social fabrics that

modernisation has strained. This transformation requires participation from all sectors of society. Educational institutions can develop programmes that bring generations together. Businesses can create flexible work arrangements that value experienced workers. Urban planners can design public spaces that are accessible and welcoming to people of all ages. Each of us can examine our own attitudes and behaviours toward ageing and older people.

The journey toward age-inclusive societies begins with recognising that ageing is not a problem but a natural part of human life to be embraced.

> The writer is a senior officer at the Parliament of India.

Principles over pay-offs

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, Referring to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's reassurance that America's outreach to Pakistan is "not at India's expense" one must examine the subtext. Pakistan's revived proximity to Washington is more transactional than strategic. By aligning itself with US postures against Iran and, potentially, China, while touting its so-called rare-earth potential and new oil finds, Islamabad seems to be trading alignment for attention—a pattern not new in its diplomatic playbook. India's equation with the United States, on the other hand, rests on parity and principle. New Delhi engages on merit and mutual interest, not on inducements or conditional loyalties. Its foreign policy has consistently been guided by strategic autonomy and diplomatic sobriety rather than shifting bargains. If Washington truly wishes to balance its South Asian ties, it must distinguish between nations seeking transactional favours and those that stand on their sovereign convictions. In the end, credibility in diplomacy is earned—not bought..

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Testing NATO's air defence

Sir, Lithuania, a Baltic nation in northeastern Europe, borders Latvia, Belarus, Poland, and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, with the Baltic Sea to its west. Its capital, Vilnius, near the Belarus border, makes it a strategic NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) outpost against Russian and Belarusian influence. Recently, Lithuania closed the Vilnius Airport and border crossings after detecting dozens of helium balloons drifting from Belarus. These balloons, carrying smuggled cigarettes, disrupted over 30 flights and 6,000 passengers—part of more than 500 such incidents in 2025. Belarus claimed the balloons were privately launched by smugglers for "economic survival," but Lithuania termed it a deliberate hybrid tactic to test NATO's air defences and create instability. For India, the closure means possible flight diversions, delayed cargo through European routes, and stricter Schengen checks. Though the Indian diaspora in Lithuania is small, such events affect global air connectivity, trade, and migration channels.

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES





RAJASTHAN CRACKS DOWN ON CHILD LABOU

NDO-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 estab-

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
- Also, the apprenticeship age has been revised. Now, the minimum age for apprentices has been raised from 12 years to 14
- Night work restriction for adolescents has been announced under which individuals aged 14 to 18 years will not be allowed to work at night

tablishments Act, 1958, allowed adolescents between 12 and 15 years to work a maximum of 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

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 an nounced 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 at tend 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 regis tered in Shala Darpan," he said.

Dilawar added that preparations for this system have already been completed and it

Officials said the government form and stricter attendance norms will promote discipline, equality and transparency in

Tourists flocking to Uttarakhand

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

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

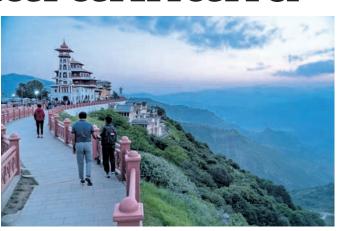
Dehradun, Oct 27: The relentless efforts of the Pushkar Singh Dhami-led BJP government to promote tourism and pilgrimage in Uttarakhand are coming to fruition, with more than 23 crore tourists arriving in the hill state during the last three years, government officials said, quoting the data released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

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



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

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

also increased significantly in

provided their services on the Kedarnath and Yamunotri trekking route. The state government is now promoting winter travel

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 will be launched soon. believes that a common uni-

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

are being honoured with the Ut-

tarakhand Khel Ratna Award

and the Himalava Khel Ratna

Award. Dhami added that the

four per cent sports quota in

government services has been

He also said the 'Sansad Khel

Mahotsav', inspired by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. is a

nationwide initiative to iden-

tify and promote sports talent

On the occasion, Raiva Sabha

MP Naresh Bansal said India's

global sports performance has

been commendable and an-

nounced funding from his MP-

LADS fund for volleyball and

badminton courts and mess fur-

from rural to national levels.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

infrastructure.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Oct 27: Uttara-

khand Chief Minister Pushkar

Singh Dhami on Monday said

23 sports academies will soon

be established in the state un-

Inaugurating the 'Sansad

Khel Mahotsay' at Rajiy Gand-

hi Navodaya Vidyalaya in Ta-

povan, Dhami said the state

government is making consis-

tent efforts to promote a sports

culture, and Uttarakhand is

emerging among leading states

in terms of world-class sports

Plan', 23 sports academies will

"Under the 'Sports Legacy

der the 'Sports Legacy Plan'.

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.

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

Uttarakhand plans 23 sports academies

ies of the state, where 920 world-

class athletes and 1,000 other

players will receive high-level

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

ment of 103 medals in the 38th

National Games, Dhami said

a new sports policy has been

implemented to ensure the ho-

listic development of sports and

He said medal-winning play-

ers at national and internation-

al levels are being provided

encourage athletes.

Recalling the state's achieve-

training every year," he said.

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

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

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

now been increased to 37.

The transport department has appointed a vendor company to

collect the green tax. Singh said.

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 Pavments Corporation of India (NPCI) database, he added.

He informed that from there, the wallet numbers of the vehicle 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.

No.O-1187 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA**

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

Name of the work Road works Total No. of works

Approx Estimated Cost Rs.4.86 lakhs to Rs.49.25 lakhs D&C / C&B / B Class of Contractor EMD@1% of Estimated Cost Put to tender

Period of completion

Date & Time of opening of tender Procurement Officer dentification bidding of seeking tender n the office of the Superintending ngineer, R.W. Division, Baripad No clarification 29.10.25 06.11.25 S.E.R.W Division, of 2024-25 11.00 A.M 5.00 P.M 5.30 P.N

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

OIPR-25057/11/0028/2526

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



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BANSPAL** E-mail : eerwbansapal@gmail.com

"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-i localement Notice No	.01 01 2023-20	, o. Other Detail				
	Bid	Availability of	Tender Online	Last Date	Date & Time	of Opening
Procurement Officer	Identification		idding	& Time of	of Tender in O	o S.E., R.W.
Procurement Officer		101.0	idding	seeking Tender	Division,	Banspal
	No.	From	To	Clarification	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending	Bood Online	D+ 20 40 2025	Dt.11.11.2025	Dt.10.11.2025	Dt.12.11.2025	Will be
Engineer, Rural Works						intimated
Division, Banspal	NCB No. 07	at 11.00 A.M.	up to 5.00 P.M.	up to 5.00 P.M.	at 11.00 A.M.	later
Further details can be see	n from the web	site www.tender	orissa gov in			

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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION. SUNDARGARH**

E.Mail - rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in **E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE** BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-SESNG-10 of 2025-26 1. 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 Availability of Tender dentification On-line for bidding Online-SESNG-11 11.00 A.M. 05.00 P.M. Executive Engineer,

Kulai Wolks Division,	353140-11	11.00 A.W.	05.00 F.IVI.
Sundargarh	of 2025-26		
Further details can be seen from	m the website	www.tenders	orissa.gov.in
	So	I./-Executive	Engineer
	R	ural Works	Division,
OIPR-25046/11/0072/2526		Sundarg	arh
	Sundargarh Further details can be seen from	Sundargarh of 2025-26 Further details can be seen from the website So	Sundargarh of 2025-26 Further details can be seen from the website www.tenders Sd./-Executive Rural Works



. MECON Limited requires 02 (Two) nos. of Experienced Doctors on Regular Sca f Pay (Advt. No. 11.73.4.7/2025/Reg/02 dated : 17.10.2025) as follows : Name of Posts Pay Scale Rs.60,000-3% 1(a) Sr.Medical Officer (General Physician) E-2 1.80.000/-Consultant (General Physician) 2,20,000/-Rs.60,000-3%-Sr Medical Officer (Critical Care Specialist) 1,80,000/ 2(b) Consultant (Critical Care Specialist)

SI. No.	Advertisement No.	Nature of Employment
1.	11.73.4.1/2025/Cont/04 dated 10.10.2025	FTFT Basis

11.73.4.7/2025/Cont/02 dated 10.10.2025 Basis For further details please visit the link "Careers" Section of our website; wy

Note: Further, any corrigendum(s)/ amendment(s) against this advertisement will b

neconlimited.co.in.

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



OIPR-25198/11/0013/2526

national



Just a few years ago, many people believed the Ram temple would remain only a dream. But today, the grand temple stands completed, with Ayodhya regaining its ancient splendor

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

'CONSTRUCTION WORK AT RAM JANMABHOOMI SITE COMPLETED

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust Monday announced the completion of all temple construction work, including the main shrine of Prabhu Shri Ramlalla



SC seeks report

on student mental

health guidelines



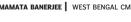
should serve as a case study from which we can learn and chart our future course. This incident has once again shown us that anything can happen at our borders, anywhere, at any time RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

unhappy with the activities of Lachit we might have to

ban the organisation because it tortures businessmen a lot HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

Chhath is celebrated in a big way in Bengal and a





SHORT TAKES

Delhi: History-sheeter held after encounter

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man wanted for a firing incident on Diwali night was arrested after a brief exchange of fire with police in southeast Delhi's Amar Colony, officials said Monday, Bharat alias Teja, a resident of Taimur Nagar, sustained a bullet injury to his left leg during the encounter, following which he was taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment, police said.

Cab driver stabbed to death; 2 nabbed

New Delhi: A 23-year-old cab driver was found dead with multiple stab wounds in a park in south Delhi's Kishangarh Monday morning, police said. Two men have been arrested in connection with the murder, they said. Nitesh Khatri was found in a pool of blood inside a park by the police who responded to a morning walker's call around 6 am.

Mustafabad to be renamed Kabirdham

Lakhimpur Kheri: Uttar **Pradesh Chief Minister** Yogi Adityanath Monday said his government will move a proposal to rename Mustafabad village in Lakhimpur Kheri district as 'Kabirdham', asserting that the change would restore the area's historical and cultural identity linked with Sant Kabir. He said the name change was in line with previous such decisions by his government to "restore" the names of places changed by erstwhile rulers.

6-year-old girl crushed to death by school bus

Gurugram: A six-year-old girl died after being hit by a tractor and then run over by her school bus, police said Monday. "An FIR has been registered against the drivers of both the bus and the tractor. Efforts are on to arrest the accused," police said.

Four kids drown in Ganges in Bihar

Bhagalpur: Four children drowned in the Ganges Monday morning while taking bath ahead of Chhath festival in Bihar's Bhagalpur district, police said. Naugachia SP Prerna Kumar said the incident took place at Navtoliya within Ismailpur police station area. "The children, two of them residents of adjoining Chhathu Singh Tola village, had all been brought to the ghat by their family members", the SP said

SIR: Oppn questions EC's intentions

New Delhi, Oct 27: Some Opposition parties Monday questioned the intentions of the Election Commission behind holding the second phase of special intensive revision of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union Territories, and asserted that names of eligible voters should not be deleted.

Questioning the exercise, the Congress said the poll body's intentions and credibility were under suspicion as neither the voters nor the opposition were satisfied with it. The BJP, however, slammed

the Congress and called the Opposition a "herd of dissatisfied souls", alleging that they are targeting the poll panel over voter-list revision to find an excuse for their "impending losses" in upcoming polls. The Election Commission

will conduct phase two of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union Territories between November and February, including in poll-bound West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced at a press conference here. With the announcement sparking sharp reactions, the Congress alleged that the second phase of SIR is a "conspiracy against democracy" and a plot to "snatch away" the rights of the people.

The Congress' media and publicity head, Pawan Khera,

TOP COURT REFUSES

CONTEMPT ACTION

AGAINST LAWYER

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Su-

preme Court Monday refused

to initiate contempt action

against a lawyer who had at-

tempted to throw a shoe at

Chief Justice of India BR Ga-

vai but said it will consider lay-

ing down guidelines to prevent

had refused to proceed against

malya Bagchi said shouting

slogans in court and hurling

shoes are clear cases of con-

tempt of court but it all de-

pends on the judge concerned

under the law whether to pro-

"Issuing contempt notice

will only give undue impor-

tance to the lawyer who had

hurled shoe at the CJI and

would increase the shelf life of

the incident," the bench said.

adding the incident should be

allowed to die its own natural

death. The bench was hearing a

plea of the Supreme Court Bar

Association (SCBA) seeking

contempt action against advo-

cate Kishore, who attempted

to hurl the shoe towards the

CJI October 6 during court

Noting that the CJI himself

a shoe-throwing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

such incidents.

71-year-

Kishore,

tices

old Rakesh

bench of Jus-

Kant and Jov

ceed or not.

Surva



The Election Commission will conduct phase two of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in **12 states and Union Territories between November** and February, including in poll-bound West Bengal, **Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry**

said they have not yet received answers to the questions related to the SIR conducted in Bihar, even as the intentions of the poll panel have now come to light before the entire country.

'Conducting the SIR by an Election Commission, whose credibility and intention are under suspicion, does not seem right. Clearly, neither the people, nor the Opposition, nor the voters are satisfied," Khera alleged in a video message.

In a post on X, he also asked whether Bihar has been turned into a "laboratory for murdering democracy through SIR".

"Is this round of SIR also just for vote-cutting? In Bihar, the Election Commission has not taken any steps towards adding new voters, while 6.5 million votes have been cut," Khera said in his post in Hindi. Hitting back, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said the Opposition parties are like "'asantusht atmaon ka jhund' (herd of dissatisfied souls)" and a "masterclass in hypocrisy"

"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 Maharashtra before the local body polls," Poonawalla told PTI. while accusing the opposition of being confused.

Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav said the government's intentions are not clear. "The government is trying to hurt the democratic structure of the country," she told reporters. CPI general secretary D Raja told PTI that the EC, being a constitutional body, has to ensure the right to vote to all eligible citizens.

"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



and suicide among students in educational institutions. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta also granted eight weeks to the Centre to file a compliance affidavit, detailing the steps petent authority. taken to implement these guidelines.

It was hearing a matter about compliance with the guidelines prescribed by the apex court in its July 25 judgement.

the guidelines it prescribed to

deal with mental health issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In that verdict, the top court had directed that all states and Union Territories shall, as far as practicable, notify rules within two months mandating registration, student protection norms and grievance redressal mechanisms for all private During the hearing Mon-

day, the bench was told that in the July verdict, the Centre was directed to file a compliance affidavit before the court within 90 days.

The bench directed that all states and Union Territories be impleaded as respondents in the matter, and they may file their responses within eight weeks. It posted the matter for further hearing in January 2026.

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 a "legislative and regulatory vacuum" in the country with able framework for suicide prevention of students in educational institutions, coaching centres, and student-centric environments. While issuing 15 guidelines

the bench said they shall remain in force and be binding until such time as appropriate legislation or regulatory frameworks are enacted by the com-

It had said all educational institutions shall adopt and implement a uniform mental health policy, drawing cues from the 'Ummeed' draft guidelines, the 'Manodarpan' initia tive, and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

It had said the Centre, so far, had taken several preventive steps to check and correct the situation and at the school level, the 'Ummeed (understand, motivate, manage, empathise, empower, and develop) draft guidelines for prevention of student suicide were released by the Ministry of Education in 2023.

It had noted that for a broader reach, the Ministry of Education had launched 'Manodarpan', mental health and well-being of students during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

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

KARUR STAMPEDE Vijay meets victims' families, apologises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Oct 27: An emotional actor Vijay Monday apologised to the victims of the September 27 Karur stampede that left 41 dead and over 60 injured, at a one-on-one interaction with them in a closed door meeting in a private resort here.

The near 8-hour meeting came exactly a month after the tragic incident where Vijay told the families that he could not meet them in Karur since he did not get the required permission to travel to the town.

located about 400 km from state capital Chennai.

A source in Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) said family members of 37 victims met the actor-politician in this coastal tow , 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. Vijav 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 not visit Karur as he could not get permission from the authorities. He would certainly visit them in Karur soon, he assured. The TVK chief, who turned emotional, sought their forgiveness for the tragic incident. Though he could never compensate for the loss of their dear ones, he would take care of the affected families as if they were his own, he said during the personal meeting that lasted for over three hours, the party source said. Earlier, the family members of the victims were brought in five buses from Karur and later left for their home town.

Vijay's TVK had arranged the meeting at the resort to enable him to personally meet the bereaved families and convey his condolences.

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.

'Poured ghee, opened gas cylinder': How lover killed partner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

proceedings

New Delhi, Oct 27: Days after the charred body of a 32-yearold UPSC aspirant was found in his flat in Gandhi Vihar area, the Delhi Police has arrested three persons including his live-in partner in connection with the murder, sources said Sunday.

The 21-year-old woman, pursuing BSc in Forensic Science, her former boyfriend and their associate, all residents of Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, have been arrested, they said.

'The woman, who had been in a live-in relationship with the victim, conspired with the two men to kill him and later set his body on fire to make it appear as an accidental blaze," said a police source.

The deceased, Ramkesh Meena, was living on the



fourth floor of a building in Gandhi Vihar.

"On October 6, police received information about a fire incident in the flat due to AC blast. Fire tenders doused the flames and recovered a badly burnt body from the room. Initially, a case was registered under relevant provisions and investigation was launched, the source said.

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

of them. The fire broke out shortly after their departure, the source said. 'During the inves-

tigation, call de-**POLICE** tail records of the SOURCES SAID THE woman show-TRIO STRANGLED MEENA ing her pres-BEFORE POURING OIL, GHEE ence near the AND LIQUOR ON THE BODY crime scene THE WOMAN'S EX-BOYFRIEND, raised suspi-WHO WORKED AS AN LPG cion. Multiple DISTRIBUTOR, OPENED A GAS raids were con-YLINDER'S VALVE AND SET ducted in Morad-ON FIRE, CAUSING AN abad, and she was **EXPLOSION**

October arrested 18. She confessed to the crime and named her two accomplices," he added.

Subsequently, her two accomplices were also arrested.

The woman told investigators that Meena had recorded her obscene videos and refused to delete them. She shared this with her ex-boyfriend, who became enraged and decided to eliminate Meena, the sources said.

The police sources said the trio strangled Meena before pouring oil, ghee and liquor on the body. The woman's ex-boyfriend, who worked as an LPG distributor, opened gas cylinder's valve and set it on

fire, causing an explosion. They then fled with the victim's hard disk, laptops and other belongings.

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.

DELHI RIOTS

SC denies more time to police in Khalid, **Imam's bail matter**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court Monday refused to give two weeks to Delhi Police for filing its reply on bail pleas of activists Umar Khalid, Shar jeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima and Meeran Haider in the UAPA case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots in Delhi.

As the hearing commenced Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, sought time to file a counter-affidavit. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria refused to grant two weeks and said it will hear the matter October 31.

"We have given you enough time. Last time while issuing notice we had said in open court that we will hear this matter October 27 and will dispose it off." "Frank ly speaking, in bail matters there is no question of filing counter," the bench said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for Khalid, submitted that the petitioners have been in jail for over five years.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the whole case is about the delay in trial and there should not be fur ther delay in the hearing.

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

national



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

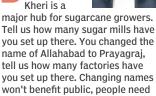
The West Bengal government Monday announced the transfer of over 500 bureaucrats amid the rollout of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state



don'ts should be prepared in simple, layman's 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

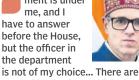
J P NADDA I UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Tell us what work have you done in the cities whose names vou have changed. Lakhimpur



AJAY RAI UP CONG CHIEF

The department is under me, and I have to answer before the House but the officer in the department



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





Elect clown. expect circus. Delhi has gone completely in the hands of anpadhs. This is literally a sitting Minister in

the Delhi Cabinet. Delhi is cooked

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT **TAKES**

Doc's suicide: Family demands SIT probe

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (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.

SC allows centre to review Vodafone Idea's AGR dues Delhi student's father

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 Gavai 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 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

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

held for fake acid case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Delhi college student who alleged an acid attack had lied at the instance of her father, who wanted revenge against a rape complaint, police said Monday. Akil Khan, the student's fa-

ther, was nabbed Monday for allegedly fabricating the acid attack with a toilet cleaner, and raping the wife of the man his daughter accused of throwing "acid" at her. On Sunday morning, a 20-year-old second-year BCom student enrolled in DU's Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board alleged that she had been attacked with acid by three men.

She named the three as Jitender and his two accomplices, Ishan and Arman, both brothers, and, as it later turned out, her relatives. She claimed that she was attacked when she was on her way to attend an extra class, the police said

However, several counterclaims soon emerged, one of which accused the father of the "victim" of rape. Police had earlier found discrepancies in the student's statement and Jitender's location away from the crime spot. In a statement,

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 wom an 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 at tention," 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

Ecologists, researchers urge govt to reconsider Great Nicobar project

New Delhi, Oct 27: Over 70 scientists, environmentalists and former bureaucrats Monday urged the government to reconsider the Rs 92.000-crore Great Nicobar Island project, claiming that it is "an exploitative commercial proposal" being "wrongly portrayed as a strategic defence project".

The mega infrastructure project, titled Holistic Development of Great Nicobar, involves the construction of a transhipment port, an international airport, a township and a power plant over more

than 160 square km of land. This includes around 130

square km of pristine forest inhabited by the Nicobarese, a Scheduled Tribe (ST), and the Shompens, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), whose population is estimated to be between 200 In a detailed letter to Envi-

ronment Minister Bhupender Yadav, the signatories said it was "disingenuous to label what is essentially a commercial project as a strategic one and invoke national security whenever questions on the project are raised".

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

Coastal

districts are

experiencing

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 (APSD-MA) 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



rain and strong gales

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.

at a speed of 18 km per hour

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

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 Arthunkal 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.

SC mulls CBI probe into all digital arrest cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 27: The Su preme 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 Surva 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 agen cies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls. The top court has taken cog-

nisance 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 stand ing counsel, returnable Novem ber 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.

'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



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.

included around 50 people from Haryana's Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Jind and Panipat districts

The latest batch

of illegal migrants

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 sell-

6.5 lakh. Then my relative paid

ing 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

 ${\rm Rs}\,2.85\,{\rm lakh}$ in June. A total of ${\rm Rs}$ 57 lakh was paid," Naresh, who is from Kaithal, said Sunday.

Admitting that it took him two months to enter the US through the 'donkey route', Naresh said he would not ad vise anyone

to do so. He spent 14 months in jail before being deported to India. Among the deportees, five men hailed from Kurukse htra district

Investigating Officer Hans Raj said that the deported youths were brought to Kurukshetra Sunday night and, after completing the necessary legal formalities, were handed over to their parents.

Attempts to contact several of the deported individuals were unsuccessful. Most refused to talk, and some declined to answer calls altogether.

international



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

JAPAN'S SUSHI LEGEND JIRO ONO TURNS 100

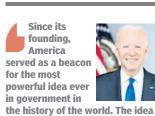
Japanese sushi legend Jiro Ono won three Michelin stars for more than a decade, the world's oldest head chef to do so. He has served the world's dignitaries and his art of sushi was featured in an award-winning film. After all these achievements and at the age of 100, he is not ready to fully retire



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

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 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 secondmost 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

Hurricane Melissa set to slam into Jamaica

exporters up to \$13 billion a

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-billiondollar 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

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

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, sovbeans and gas, and announce an agreement on shipbuilding, 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

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

The police said a 32-yearold 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 Trver.

"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 ra cially aggravated attack".

"This was an absolutely ap palling attack on a young wom-

Jaishankar meets Australian, NZ PMs,

xternal Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday held sepa

rate meetings with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Ibanese and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher

e here on the sidelines of the annual summit of the As ation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the 20tl

East Asia Summit. Jaishankar said it was "nice to meet" Albanese on the sidelines of 20th East Asia Summit while

n our bilateral ties." "Agreed to work closely to implemer he joint vision for the next decade of our cooperation. Als

sation.

Japanese, Malaysian counterparts



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 iden-

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 pow er 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 an nounced, 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 af ter 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.



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. 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-

kar and US Secretary of State Rubio also broadly delved 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 buving Russian crude oil. Following Trump's first claim, India suggested that there was no such conver-

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

Afghan, Pak peace talks enter third day

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

talks dismissed as "false" the suggestion that the Islamist group was holding up the talks adding that the discussions

"Overall the meeting is going well and we discussed multiple issues in a friendly environment," the person said.

were still in progress.

The sources spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak public ly on the issue. In comments Monday to state broadcaster RTA, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said, "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan supports dialogue and believes that problems and issues can be resolved through dialogue."

A spokesperson for Paki stan's foreign ministry declined to comment on the current status of talks.

DNA uncovers pathogens that beset Napoleon's army in 1812

he 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 louseborne relapsing fever were also

present and may have contrib-

uted 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, mus cle pain and weakness.

tudy involved DNA extracted

apoleon'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 ar my but helps explain the med ical complexity of the retreat.

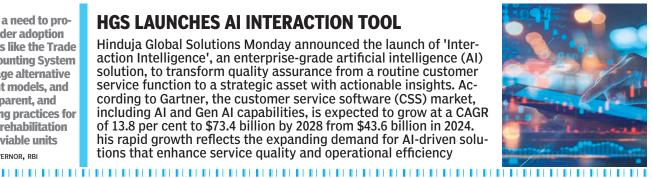
business



■ 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

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



underscores **India's refining** flexibility and ability to capture shortterm opportunities,



SUMIT RITOLIA | LEAD RESEARCH ANALYST, KPLER

We need to create a special arrangement for supporting them (maritime projects) to create a



tronics 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 I 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 guarter, mainly due to onetime 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 guarter 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

SEBI plans higher debt entity limit

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

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.

BOM organises

Maharashtra (BOM), Bhubaneswar

Zonal Office has organised Hindi

Raulo, Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar

stated, "Since the majority of the

country's population understands

Hindi language and as per business

and constitutional needs, we must

Zone. The program began with

Home Minister's message

Addressing the event, Raulo

use Hindi to provide services

to customers." Along with this

a prize distribution ceremony

competitions, and the winners

honored with certificates.

was also held for Hindi language

Divas with Prize distribution

ceremony. The program was

presided over by Dilip Kumar

Hindi Divas

BHUBANESWAR: Bank of

representatives Industry 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 primari ly 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-

New Delhi, Oct 27: Multi

Commodity Exchange (MCX)

of India Ltd Monday said it has

launched monthly options con-

tracts on its bullion index, MCX

BULLDEX, as it seeks to offer

more hedging tools to investors

in the precious metals segment.

became effective from Monday,

are based on an index com-

prising MCX's gold and silver

futures contracts, allowing

market participants to gain di-

versified exposure to both pre-

cious metals through a single

An option is a financial deriv-

The options contracts, which

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ty-listed companies.

Among the suggested changes is a revision in financial terearlier for equity-listed entities.

The regulator has also proquirement of shareholder ap-

minology, replacing the term "income" with "turnover" in defining material subsidiaries to maintain consistency with similar amendments made

posed 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 reproval for nominee directors appointed by financial regulators, courts, or tribunals.

ative contract that gives buyer

the right, but not the obligation,

to buy or sell a specified quan-

tity of an underlying asset at

a predetermined price (called

the strike price) on or before a

specific date (expiration date).

balanced exposure to the bul-

lion segment for investors and

institutions in a cost-effective

manner, meeting both invest-

ment and hedging require-

The index conforms stan-

dards set by the Internation-

al Organisation of Securities

Commissions (IOSCO) Prin-

ciples for Financial Bench-

marks in its computation

ments, the exchange said.

MCX BULLDEX provides

dent director's vacancy should be filled within three months

that recommendations made by

boards to shareholders should

explicitly include the board's

Another proposed amend-

ment would remove the re-

quirement that an indepen-

provided the entity continues to meet the minimum board composition requirements. Seb also suggested exempting HV DLEs from seeking shareholder approval for intra-group asset transfers between subsidiaries

Additionally, companies emerging from the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) would be given three months to fill key managerial positions (KMPs), as long as they have at least one full-time KMP during the transition period, SEBI proposed. It has further recommended

replacing the fixed 21-day deadline for submitting periodic compliance reports with a more flexible provision, allowing the Board to prescribe timelines as needed. The regulator has also suggested introducing provisions for the appointment, reappointment, removal, and disqualification of secretarial auditors of HVDLEs.

On related party transactions, Sebi has proposed retaining the need for no-objection certificates (NOCs) from debenture trustees and debenture holders.

SEBI has invited public comments on these proposals until

MCX launches bullion index options contracts and governance.

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

"The introduction of options

"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.

CLOSING BELL

Sensex up 567 pts, Nifty near 26,000

NSE NIFTY

OCTOBER 27, 2025



1

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 in-

flows 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 wit-

nessed 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 valua tions," 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), commodi ties (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. Mean while, optimism over progress in US-China trade talks further supported a broad-based market rebound," according to Ba jaj Broking Research.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Compos ite index and Hong Kong's Hang

Seng settled sharply higher. Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US mar-

kets ended in positive territory Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 621.51 crore Friday,

according to exchange data.

CMPDI inaugurates Vigilance Awareness Week 2025

RANCHI: CMPDI launched Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 by administering the Integrity Pledge to its employees. The pledge was led by Shankar Nagachari, Director (Technical/ CRD), in the presence of Ajay Kumar, Director (Technical/P&D/ R&D&T), and the Chief Vigilance Officer of CMPDI and CCL. The pledge ceremony was held in alignment



with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)'s nationwide observance of Vigilance Awareness Week. The theme for this year's campaign IS "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility." Following the pledge, Nagachari, dignitaries, and employees paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Gold declines due to weak global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Gold prices declined by Rs 700 to Rs 1.25,900 per 10 grams in the national capital Monday, tracking weak global trends as easing US-China trade tensions dented safe-haven demand. According to the All In-

dia Sarafa Association, the vellow metal had climbed Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,26,600 per 10 grams Saturday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity

also fell by Rs 700 to Rs 1,25,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 1,26,000 per 10 grams in the previous session. "Gold resumed trading on

a weaker note on Monday as signs of easing US-China trade tensions have increased investors' interest in riskier assets, creating a negative impact on precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the local bullion market,

silver prices slumped sharp-

ly by Rs 4,250 to Rs 1,51,250 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) Monday. The white metal had ended at Rs 1,55,500 per kg, up by Rs 2,900 Saturday. Sunday, top economic of-

ficials from Washington and Beijing agreed on the framework of a potential trade deal, which is expected to be discussed when US President Donald Trump meets his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in South Korea later this week. In the overseas markets, spot

gold extended the losses for the second straight day, by dropping \$97.86, or 2.38 per cent to \$4,015.55 per ounce. Gandhi said investors con-

tinued to take profits and withdraw from gold-backed exchange-traded funds, adding further pressure on the bullion prices. "We believe bullion will remain under selling pressure in the short term, and the downside will intensify once spot gold slips below the \$4,000 per ounce level," he noted.

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 sanc-

tions 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 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, Ros-

neft-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 large volumes of steeply discounted Russian crude in 2022 after Western sanctions restricted Moscow's traditional markets. At one point, Russian oil made up about 40 per cent of crude that Indian refiners processed and turned into fuels like petrol and diesel.

Russia currently supplies about a third of India's crude imports, averaging around 1.75 million barrels per day (mbd) in 2025, of which approximately 1.2 mbd came directly from Rosneft and Lukoil. Most of these volumes were bought by private refiners, Reliance Industries Ltd and Nayara Energy, with smaller allocations to state-owned refiners.

Despite tightened sanctions and steep 50 per cent tariff, India's imports of Russian crude between January and September 2025 were only 4.6 per cent lower than 1.83 million bpd a year earlier.

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 pur chased directly through the Ola Electric Customer App and web site, allowing every customer and garage to access high-quality, certified components, without any middlemen, the compa ny 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 accessi ble, 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.

Ltd (TICL) said.

Silver lining in Muscat

India finish runners-up at the Asia Rugby Emirates 7's Trophy 2025

AGENCIES

Muscat, Oct 27: India's Senior Men's Rugby Sevens team capped off a remarkable campaign at the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Trophy (AREST) 2025 in Muscat by finishing as runners-up, earning promotion to the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Series (ARESS) — the continent's top-tier rugby sevens competition.

Guided by head coach Ben Gollings, a former England international, the Indian side showcased impressive discipline, skill, and resilience throughout the tournament.

India opened their campaign with a thrilling 14-10 comeback win against Lebanon, followed by a 26-5 triumph over Afghanistan to top their group. The momentum continued into the knockout stages, where India defeated Iran 21-7 in the quarterfinals and registered a commanding 17-0 semifinal victory over Saudi Arabia to book their place in the final.

In the title clash, India fought hard but were outplayed by Kazakhstan, going down 0-27. Despite the defeat, the performance marked a milestone achievement for Indian Rugby, reflecting the growing depth and maturity of the national setup.



Men's rugby team secures maiden promotion to Asia Rugby Sevens Series continent's top-tier rugby sevens competition - after unbeaten run to final

players from Odisha, Jugal Majhi, Ganesh Majhi, Asis Sabar and Shanawaz Ahmed were part of the team

Rahul Bose, President of the Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU), lauded the team's performance and progress. He said, "This tournament demonstrates the steady growth and belief within Indian men's rugby. The players showed heart, discipline, and skill in every match. Although the fi-

I'm incredibly proud of this team. In a short span, the players have shown immense dedication, focus, and teamwork. Achieving promotion to the top-tier Sevens Series is a significant milestone. While the final wasn't ours, this experience lays a strong foundation as we continue to grow

BEN GOLLINGS | HEAD COACH

nal result wasn't in our favour, reaching this stage speaks volumes about our development. I congratulate the entire squad, coaching staff, and support teams for their hard work and perseverance.'

With the runners-up finish, India now consolidates its place among Asia's competitive rugby nations such as Hong Kong China, Japan, Sri Lanka, and China. The result also means that both India's senior men's and women's teams are now part of Asia Rugby's premier divisions, signaling a new era for the sport in the country.

The Muscat campaign stands as a powerful statement of Indian Rugby's progress, built on strong grassroots development, high-performance programs, and the relentless drive of athletes and coaches alike.

INJURY WOES HIT INDIA

Shreyas Iyer suffers laceration injury to spleen in Sydney

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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, BBCI confirms Monday.

Iyer, who suffered the injury while taking the catch of Aus tralia wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carry, 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 doctor will remain in Sydney with Shreyas to evaluate his day-today 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

to the dressing room.

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 back ward point, Iyer sprinted back with the ball swirling overhead and launched himself full length to complete a tumbling catch near deep third man.

Women's WC: Shafali replaces injured Pratika

n 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 hardhitting 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.

Second-fastest Ranji double ton by Shaw

Chandigarh: India opener Prithvi Shaw rediscovered his form as he converted his maiden hundred for Maharashtra into the secondfastest 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.

Sindhu withdraws from rest of season

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medallist 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 Hyderabadi shuttler said the decision was taken after detailed consultation with her support team and medical experts, including renowned sports orthopaedist Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala.

F1 TITLE RACE

Norris wins Mexico GP, takes lead

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

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



thrilling chase.

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

keep my eyes focused and forward and focus on what I was doing LANDO NORRIS

seconds adrift of Norris, while Red Bull's reigning champion Max Verstappen took third iust 0.7 behind the Monegasque.

Norris, who started from pole position and led every lap, now has 357 points to Piastri's 356 with Verstappen on 321 and four rounds remaining.

Norris last led the standings in April, a gap of 189 days, and had not won a race since Hun gary in early August. Sunday was his sixth victory of the season, one less than Piastri, and career 10th.

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).

Sujeet had bronze in the same championships last year

He won his first two bouts by technical superiority -- against Moldova's Fiodor Ceavdari (12-2) and Poland's Dominik Jakub (11-0).

and has bettered the colour of

his medal this time

ALUMINIUM CORE

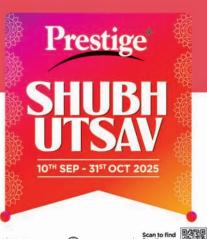
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Tri-ply 3 Piece Cookware Set*



BHUBANESWAR, Rabi Takies Chhak: opposite to Kedar Gouri Resort Mob: 7750925223, Bapuji Nagar: 105 Bapuji Nagar, Behind Yes Bank(Old Post Office Lane) Lane No 08, 0674-2597141/9937138998 Bapuji Nagar: 237, Pani Tanki Lane, Bapuji Nagar Ph: 0674 2597685 Mob: 9777744071, Sunderpada: Shop No. 11, Vinayak Enclave, 7008463572 Satyangar: 10, Janpath, Satyangar, Mob: 8280056821, ID Market: Shop No FG 3, I.D. Market, Near Reliance Fresh, IRC Village Mob: 9861404879, Damana: 248, Sailashree Vihar Road, Damana Mob: 7327902258, Baramunda: A/37, Ruchika Market, Baramunda, Mob: 9937073674, CUTTACK, Dolmundai: Hotel Akbari complex, Dolomundai, Haripur Road, Ph: 0671 2910337; Mob: 9348222581, CDA: Plot No.CM/3 (In front of Police Station), Markat Nagar, Sector - 7, Mob: 8917442506, 8280079702, Rourkela: Daily Market, Near Reliance trend, Rourkela, Mob: 9777457774, BALUGAON: Chilika Road, Balugaon, Mob: 8984858783 KENDRAPARA: Kakat Chhak, Ph: 06727 221241; Mob: 9040562233 DHENKANAL: I.G. Super Market, near SBI ATM; Mob: 9337477279/ 9348178750 **BOLANGIR**: A.B.S.S. Road, Near Samaleswari Temple, Ph: 06652 232419; Mob: 9437331171, 9437241863 **SEMILIGUDA**: Infront of RAM Mandir Gate, Main Road, Mob: 8328800974. **BARGARH**: C/o: New patra needs, infront of Gopal Goshala, NH-6, Main Road, Mob: 9776323188. **Berhampur**:Plot No 1865/2608, Khata No 833/395, Aska Road, opposite Chaturbhuj Petrol Pump- 09337748007, **Khordha**: Shop No- 140 & 145, Municipality Complex, New Bus Stand, in front of Bajaj Showroom,9552614450

BHUBANESWAR:-REETA-9938677424, Crockery Plaza-9938399889,BNM Enterprises-7008480152, Lingaraj Store-7978209549,Sulochana Enterprises-9338067682,Spectra Vision, Ph.-9937722277, Pratap Sewing Machine-9937138544, Utkal Light house-9937019272, Tammana Trading-7004248554 - Utkal Sales-9853150619, Triveni Agency-9937612806,Ghar Sansar Mart-7205377126,Bharat Electronics-9556760383, Balaji Electronics-9938469841, Sai Traders-7008298692-Bhubaneswar, S B Enterprises-9437310480, B S Enterprises-9437310480, B S Enterprises-9078919100,Khordha-Maharana enterprises-7978018288,Kitchen Plaza-9337756820,Balipatna- Tarini Aluminum Stores-9438568797, CUTTACK- Patra Electonics-7008312282,Union Sales Emporium-9338461472,Nigam store-8249064237, Janata General Store-9937966355, Arbinda Plastic-8763923528, Arbinda Plastic-8763923528, Arbinda home Appliances-9438480346, Puspak Agency-7205016581, Balaji Distributor-8763153928, Chowdar-Prince Electronics-986110122, Salepur-Sanjaya electronics-986110122, Salepur-Sanjaya electronics-9777777529, Rahama -Maa Padmavati Bastralaya-8908194534, PARADEEP:-Krishna Enterprises, Kujanga-Satapathy Enterprises-9437088525, ROURKELA:- Prestige-7064584070. Kitchen Accessories-7008058146, Sundergarh - Laxmi Steel-8895443777, Sambalpur-Samuka Steel Center-9437331074, Rathi Steel -9040448466, Bhadrak-Sako Sales-9777988814, Radhika Furniture-9437991876, Baripada-Aerovision-9861828643, Angul-Saralia Trading-9439471222, M.K Enterprises-9437334629, Angul-Saralia Trading-943947122, M.K Enterprises-9437334629, Angul-Saralia Trading-943947122,