



Evolving perspective

Expressing her delight, actor Tamannaah Bhatia talks about the evolving representation of women in film industry

LEISURE | **P2**



Russian refineries hit

Ukraine's strikes on refineries inside Russia have reduced Moscow's oil refining capacity by 20 per cent

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



UCG for mines auction

Govt to bring in underground coal gasification (UCG) specific provisions within the auction framework in the upcoming sale of mines

BUSINESS | **P11**



Eyes on SKY

Captain Suryakumar Yadav will nudge batter in him to take centrestage in opening T20 International today

SPORTS | **P12**

Netanyahu orders strikes in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv, Oct 28: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday he has ordered the army to immediately carry out “powerful strikes” in Gaza, and Hamas responded by saying it would delay handing over the body of a hostage, putting new pressure on the tenuous US-brokered ceasefire.

The order from Netanyahu follows heightened tensions, as Israel reported Hamas firing on its forces in southern Gaza and after Hamas returned a set of remains that Israel said belonged to a hostage recovered earlier in the war. Netanyahu called the return a “clear violation” of the ceasefire agreement, which requires Hamas to return all Israeli hostage remains as soon as possible.

SC raps NMC over non-payment of stipend to medicos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Supreme Court Tuesday came down heavily on the National Medical Commission (NMC) for failing to ensure payment of stipends to medical interns across the country.

A bench comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria expressed strong displeasure over the NMC’s inaction, observing that medical interns often work for more than 18 hours a day and that payment of a stipend was “the bare minimum they deserve”.

“The conduct of the NMC requires to be deprecated in as much as the payment of the stipend to the interns has been pending since long before this court, and yet the NMC seems to be dragging its feet without any serious consideration,” the bench said and asked the apex regulatory body for medical education to wake up from its slumber.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

VOTE FOR ALLIANCE



As a trusted ally, you must campaign for us—especially in seats where we're having friendly fights



CYCLONE IMPACT: Communications on National Highway-326(A) passing through Anagha panchayat in R Udayagiri block of Gajapati district was disrupted following cyclonic storm ‘Montha’ induced landslide on the adjoining hill Tuesday

MONTHA makes landfall at Kakinada

Normal life affected in 15 Odisha dists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati/Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Severe Cyclonic storm Montha Tuesday crossed the coast off Andhra Pradesh, causing disruptions in the southern state, while the impact was also felt in neighbouring Odisha, where normal life was affected in 15 districts.

The landfall process started around 7 pm, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, adding that the weather system in the Bay of Bengal will cross Andhra Pradesh coast between Machilipatnam and Kalinagapatnam around Kakinda. Under the influence of the storm Montha, which means a fragrant flower in Thai, Nellore district in Andhra recorded the highest amount of rainfall Tuesday.

In Odisha, Montha brought heavy rain in coastal and southern districts, causing landslides and damaging houses besides uprooting trees, officials said.

The preliminary reports of damages were received from eight southern Odisha districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur.

Normal life, however, was affected in a total of 15 districts in the region. A report from Anaka Gram Panchayat in Gajapati district said big boulders fell from nearby hills, blocking roads to five villages.

“The place was earlier identified as landslide landslide-prone area. Therefore, arrangements have been made for early clearance of the blockade,” said Balakrushna Mallick, a local panchayat functionary. Trees were uprooted in Gunupur, Gudari and Ramnaguda areas of Rayagada district.

A report from Mohana in Gajapati district said a mud-walled house collapsed due to incessant rains, injuring one person. The tin roof of a house in the area was blown away in strong winds, an official said.

No major impact: CM

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said Odisha escaped major damage from severe cyclonic storm Montha, which made landfall on the Andhra Pradesh coast around 7 pm, bringing relief to the state even as precautionary measures remained in force. Majhi, who reviewed the post-landfall situation at the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) control room here, said there were only reports of minor landslides and uprooting of trees in some areas. “Barring some stray cases of landslide and tree felling, there has been no major incident even after three hours of landfall. The damages reported so far are much less than our anticipation,” Majhi told reporters, thanking Lord Jagannath for sparing the state from a major calamity. The CM spent over an hour at the SDMA control room, taking feedback from collectors of eight southern districts, where a ‘red alert’ had been issued in view of the cyclone. Majhi said the state was keeping close watch as Montha moved inland while adding that 17,817 people had been evacuated to more than 2,000 cyclone shelters against the initial target of 32,000. “The major relief is that there has been no report of any casualty so far,” he said. A total of 2,198 pregnant women were shifted to hospitals and another 651 identified for possible transfer if required, he added. Majhi said 153 rescue teams comprising personnel from NDRF, ODRAF and Fire Services would remain stationed in vulnerable districts until the system completely moved out of the state.

Land subsidence to hit 19L in 5 top cities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Nearly 900 square kilometres of land across five megacities in India, including Delhi-NCR, could be subsiding, exposing 19 lakh people to subsidence rates of more than four millimetres a year, a study has estimated.

Researchers, including those from the US’ Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, analysed satellite data gathered from 2015 to 23 and found over 2,400 buildings are already at high risk of structural damage.

Land subsidence can compound threats from flooding and earthquakes. When the ground beneath a city sinks unevenly, it can weaken foundations, damage utility lines, and amplify structural



buildings in densely built-up areas adding to the observed subsidence, lead author Nitheshnirmal Sadhasivam, a graduate student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, told this agency.

Further, “Delhi-NCR exhibits the highest susceptibility to differential settlement-related building damage risk, based on our analysis of current subsidence rates and undefended future projection scenarios,” he said.

By 2030, New Delhi is projected to surpass Japan’s Tokyo as the world’s largest megacity and India is expected to see two additional megacities emerging, the authors said in the study.

The country’s population, estimated to grow at 0.92 per cent as of 2024,

could worsen the severe water scarcity in many urban areas, they added.

The analysis, which looked at more than 13 million buildings and 80 million people across the five megacities, “reveals 878 square kilometres of land subsiding, exposing nearly 1.9 million people to subsidence rates of more than four millimetres per year”.

Widespread subsidence was seen in the cities, with the highest rates of up to 51 millimetres per year seen in New Delhi, followed by 31.7 millimetres per year in Chennai and more than 26 millimetres per year in Mumbai.

Kolkata noted the highest subsidence rate of 16.4 millimetres per year, while 6.7 millimetres per year was seen in Bengaluru.

Cabinet approves ToR of 8th pay panel

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Cabinet on Tuesday approved the terms of reference of the 8th Pay Commission, which will benefit 50 lakh central government employees and 69 lakh pensioners and will have implications on the emoluments of the staff of state governments.

The recommendations of the Commission, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desi, are likely to be effective from January 1, 2026.

The commission will submit its report in 18 months and interim reports as and when they are finalised. The announcement comes ahead of Bihar state elections, which will be held between November 6 and 11.

Cloud-seeding trial in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Delhi government, in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur, conducted the first cloud-seeding trial in parts of Delhi Tuesday, with more such exercises planned over the next few days, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said.

According to officials, the aircraft took off from Kanpur for Delhi and covered

areas like Burari, north Karol Bagh and Mayur Vihar before landing at the Meerut Airfield.

“The Cessna aircraft took off from Kanpur. It released eight fire flares and the trial lasted for half an hour,” Sirsa said in a video statement.

The minister said that IIT-Kanpur has opined that rain could happen within 15 minutes to 4 hours after the trial. The second trial will be conducted later in the day

in outer Delhi, he said, adding that nine to ten trials are planned over the next few days.

“This is a huge step taken by the government to mitigate pollution. If trials are successful, we will prepare a long-term plan,” Sirsa added.

The trial, aimed at inducing artificial rain to tackle air pollution in the capital, is part of the Delhi government’s broader strategy to mitigate deteriorating air quality during the winter months.

Amazon to cut 14K corporate positions

Seattle (AP): Amazon will cut about 14,000 corporate jobs as it ramps up spending on AI while trimming expenditure.

In June CEO Andy Jassy, who has aggressively sought to cut costs since becoming CEO in 2021, said that he anticipated generative AI would reduce Amazon’s corporate workforce in the next few years. Jassy said at the time that Amazon had more than 1,000 generative AI services and applications in progress or built.

Mayong: The ‘black magic capital’ of India

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Oct 28: Tucked away on the banks of the Brahmaputra River, about 40 km from Guwahati in Assam, lies the village of Mayong. Once shrouded in myth and mystery, it is now widely known as India’s “Black Magic Capital”.

A curious blend of ancient manuscripts, ritual tools, and a museum dedicated to preserving this unusual heritage. The story is less about dramatic spells and more about a place learning to curate its own identity.

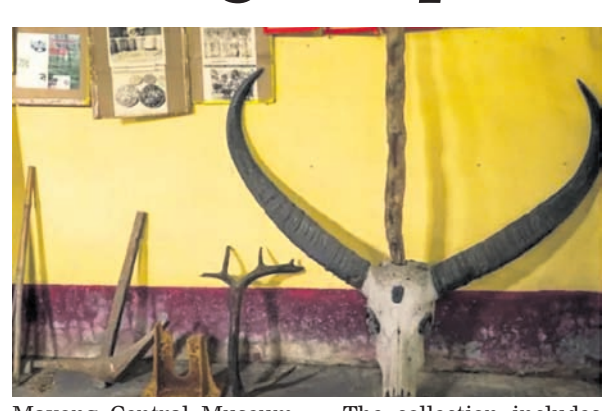
Mayong has long held a reputation for its association with the occult. Many locals believe that the so-

called “magicians” of the area, called Oja or Bez, have inherited a tradition of healing spells and rituals passed down within families.

The folklore is rich: tales of ancient armies disappearing overnight, bold rulers unable to capture the land, and even the legendary Ghatotkacha from the epic Mahabharata being taught magic here. For decades, the practices remained largely secretive and local.

Yet when visitors from other part of the country (and even other countries) began to turn up, the village’s image started shifting: from feared to fascinating.

At the heart of this transformation is the museum:



Mayong Central Museum and Emporium (also referred to as the Village Museum and Research Centre). Initially a modest collection, it has grown into a repository of artefacts that document Mayong’s colourful past.

The collection includes ancient manuscripts (“mantra puthis”) dating from about the 13th to 19th centuries, written on traditional materials like xasi pat (bark parchment) in now-rare scripts.

Weapons and tools such as large swords (similar to those used in human sacrifice rituals) have been unearthed around the village and displayed to hint at a darker past.

Mayong may conjure images of spells and sorcery – but what really stands out is how this small village has turned its unique legacy into something tangible.

Through the Mayong Central Museum and Emporium, history, myth and culture meet. Visiting Mayong is not just about witnessing “black magic” – it’s about seeing how a community chose to preserve its past, open it to the world, and reclaim its story on its own terms.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL FILM COMPETITION

CALLING ALL YOUNG FILMMAKERS!



SHOOT EDIT SUBMIT, NOW

SHOWCASE YOUR CREATIVITY AND INSPIRE CHANGE!



LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION

31ST OCTOBER, 2025

SCAN TO SUBMIT

CM: Fighting corruption moral responsibility of all



AGENCIES

Behera was tried by the court under various charges and the court, after examining 24 witnesses and 29 exhibits, pronounced the judgment, Panda said.

DOCT NEWS NETWORK

AGENCIES

AGENCIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Annual commemorations serve as a reminder of the lives lost and a celebration of the spirit that helped the state rebuild from one of nature's most brutal onslaughts, 26 years ago to the very day.

“It has come to our notice that Pravatī Parida, Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, has engaged community resource persons (CRPs) from neighbouring districts as well as Mission Shakti workers (Jeevika Mission) for political campaigning in favour of the Nuapada Assembly BJP candidate Jay Dholakia,” the party alleged.





Biometric Aadhaar Authentication Drive for Domestic LPG consumers

Domestic LPG Consumers, including PMUY consumers, are required to carry out Biometric **Aadhaar authentication** (eKYC), through any of the following methods, free of cost:

1. **Self Biometric Aadhaar Authentication** through the mobile app of your Oil Marketing Company (IOCL/BPCL/HPCL, as applicable). (Please scan the QR Code to download the mobile app of the OMC and UIDAI's Aadhaar Face RD app). *Alternatively, Visit : <https://www.pmuy.gov.in/e-kyc.html>*
2. **Through your LPG delivery personnel** or by contacting your LPG Distributor to complete Biometric Aadhaar Authentication (eKYC).

PMUY beneficiaries, including those who have previously completed Biometric Aadhaar authentication, must complete it **once in each financial year** if they wish to avail **Targeted DBT subsidy (₹ 300 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder) on the 8th and 9th refills of 14.2 kg cylinders (or proportionate 21st refill onwards in case of 5 kg cylinders).**

- Targeted DBT subsidy is applicable only up to 9 refills in a financial year (₹ 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder or proportionate for 5 kg cylinders)
- Targeted DBT subsidy for the **8th and 9th refills** will be kept in **abeyance** and released only if biometric authentication is completed before 31st March of that financial year.
- If biometric authentication is not completed by **31st March**, the withheld subsidy for those refills taken during the year will **lapse permanently**.
- Supply and delivery of LPG refills will **not be disrupted in any manner for want of biometric authentication**; beneficiaries can continue to book refills seamlessly up to the prescribed annual capping limit.
- Targeted subsidy of ₹ 300/cylinder is applicable for upto 9 refills of 14.2 Kg (and proportionately for 5 kg cylinders)
- PMUY Beneficiaries who have already completed biometric Aadhaar authentication once in a financial year need not repeat it again in that year.

Your LPG distributor/delivery personnel will also reach out to you. For further details, please contact Oil Industry Helpline (Toll-Free): 1800 2333 555.

Issued in public interest by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India

SC begins hearing on judicial seniority norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed concern over the slow and uneven career progression of entry-level judicial officers across the country and began hearing a case to frame uniform, nationwide criteria for determining seniority in the Higher Judicial Service (HJS) cadre.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai took note of the situation that “in most of the states, judicial officers recruited as Civil Judge (CJ) often do not reach the level of Principal District Judge (PDJ), leave aside reaching the position of a High Court Judge. This has resulted in many bright young lawyers being dissuaded from joining the service at the level of CJ”.

The bench, also comprising justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, K Vinod Chandran and Joyimalya Bagchi, framed the question which reads: “What should be the criteria for determining seniority in the cadre of Higher Judicial Services”.

The bench also clarified that while hearing the main issue, it can also consider “other ancillary or related issues”.

The bench is also examining whether a separate quota of District Judge (DJ) posts should be earmarked for officers who entered the judicial service at the lowest rung as Civil Judges (Junior Division), in order to ensure fairer career advancement opportunities.

Senior advocate Sidharth Bhatnagar, who is assisting the bench as amicus curiae, advanced the submissions and highlighted that promotions across most states were “driven more by seniority than by merit”, owing largely to the way Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) are evaluated.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Basudevpur, dated- 04.10.2025, I, Narayan Ghadai (71), S/o.- Late Jogendra Ghadai, Residing At- Apartipur, P.O.- Matipaka, P.S.- Naikanidih, Dist.- Bhadrak, Odisha declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as Narayan Chandra Ghadai in the Passport of my son Krushna Chandra Ghadai. I declare that Narayan Ghadai and Narayan Chandra Ghadai is same and one person.

I, Jagannath Prusty, aged about 28 years, S/o. Niranjan Prusty, resident of At: Khajuripada, P.O.: Khajuripada, P.S.: Khajuripada, Dist.: Kandhamal, Odisha, PIN - 762012 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jagannath Prusty to Vishal Prusty by an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar on Dt.28.10.2025. Hence I shall be known as Vishal Prusty for all purposes.



“Almost everyone has ACRs marked as ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’, which means seniority becomes the de facto determining factor,” he said.

He said that the existing “roster points” system disproportionately disadvantages promotee judges, many of whom have over two decades of judicial experience but are unable to enter the zone of consideration for elevation as Principal District Judges or High Court Judges.

“Promotee judges, being older, often retire before reaching the next promotional stage. Consequently, the top of the cadre is usually occupied by direct recruits, who are younger and hence remain eligible for longer,” he said.

He said that most high courts consider three times more judges for promotion as district judges. He suggested that for 30 considerations, 15 should be from the promotee judges and 15 from direct recruits.

“Your suggestion will, in fact, create a cadre within a cadre. If there are 10 candidates eligible for supertime or selection grade, it would be five from promotees and five direct recruits. So what will happen is (that) at the district judge, entry level, it is a common cadre. If the second suggestion is adopted, then we are creating a cadre within a cadre,” Justice Bagchi said.

Justice Surya Kant questioned whether the current

framework provided any incentive for Civil Judges to strive for merit-based promotions.

“The 25 per cent departmental quota is supposed to reward merit. But if it is filled only on seniority, what incentive is left to work hard” the judge asked.

Justice Bagchi and Justice Chandran expressed reservations about certain proposals advanced by the amicus that could create “a cadre within a cadre”.

The amicus curiae suggested that a 1:1 ratio between promotees and direct recruits be maintained even at higher grades to ensure proportional representation.

Justice Bagchi noted that such a move “would stratify an otherwise common cadre,” and that any such modification would need to be uniform and equitable across states.

Citing the Justice Shetty Commission Report, the amicus presented comparative data highlighting stark age differences between promotees and direct recruits.

“In Andhra Pradesh, the average age of a promotee is 48, while direct recruits are around 39. In Assam, it is 51 versus 38; in Bihar, 54 versus 41,” he said. He said that after the Supreme Court’s decision requiring a minimum of three years’ practice before joining as a Civil Judge, the entry age for new recruits has further increased, worsening career stagnation.

CHW explores Kalinga Gymnasium

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 28: The 77th edition of Cuttack Heritage Walks (CHW) took participants on a fascinating journey into the legacy of the century-old Kalinga Gymnasium (Bayamshala), one of Cuttack’s most remarkable institutions that have long stood as a symbol of discipline, fitness, and cultural pride. Located near Saheed Bhawan in the city’s Choudhury Bazaar area, the gymnasium has been nurturing the traditional arts of wrestling and physical fitness for over a hundred years.

Founded in 1920 by the late Padma Charan Ray, the gymnasium initially began in the Kazi Bazaar area and later shifted to Nimchouri in 1928. Impressed by Ray’s skills and his dedication to physical education, the then British administration allotted about one acre of land in 1943 to establish the Kalinga Gymnasium at its present site. Since then, it has been a hub for aspiring wrestlers, weightlifters, and fitness enthusiasts. The gymnasium has played a vital role in shaping generations of young athletes by providing free training in wrestling and physical fitness. The philosophy behind its establishment lies in promoting a healthy, disciplined, and disease-free lifestyle.

The tradition of wrestling, often referred to as malla-yuddha, is believed to have ancient origins — dating back to the Mahabharata era. Historical evidence of this art form is visible in carvings found in an-



cient temples, where sculptors immortalised wrestling scenes, symbolising strength and vitality as key aspects of human life.

Kalinga Gymnasium’s development over the decades owes much to several visionary Odia leaders. Eminent personalities like Harekrushna Mahatab and Nabakrushna Chaudhuri took an active interest in strengthening the institution. Mahatab, who became the first president of the gymnasium, formed a committee for its smooth management and appointed Padma Charan Ray as the secretary.

After Ray’s demise in 1961, the responsibility passed to Fakir Charan Mohanty as secretary and Akshay Panda as the managing head. Their leadership marked a golden era for the institution, which rose to prominence at the national level. Under their stewardship, the gymnasium produced several outstanding wrestlers, weight-

Odisha emerging as key maritime hub: Parida

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai, Oct 28: Odisha’s integrated approach to maritime development is transforming the state into a key hub along India’s eastern maritime corridor, said Deputy Chief Minister Pravatiparida Tuesday.

Speaking at India Maritime 2025 in Mumbai, Parida said, “Our vision is to honour our maritime heritage while steering Odisha toward a modern, sustainable, and globally connected future through the blue economy.”

She added that Odisha’s rich maritime legacy remains a timeless symbol of its glorious past and continues to inspire generations.

Parida highlighted that the brave Sadhabas (mariners) of ancient Utkal had established prosperous trade links with Bali, Java, Sumatra, and Thailand through their traditional boats (Boitas), bringing wealth and cultural exchange to their homeland. She added that ar-



chaeological findings have also confirmed Odisha’s historic maritime connections with Sri Lanka and other parts of South-east Asia.

Parida further said that Boita Bandana and Cuttack’s famous Bali Jatra — the largest open-air trade fair in Asia — embody Odisha’s glorious maritime legacy.

Highlighting the importance of India’s maritime trade relations, the Deputy Chief Minister invited everyone to witness this year’s Cuttack Bali Jatra, scheduled from November 5 to

12. She said the event beautifully showcases Odisha’s rich traditions of art, culture, sculpture, handloom, and cuisine.

On the occasion, Parida visited the pavilion set up by the state department of Commerce and Transport, themed on Odisha’s glorious maritime heritage. She said the Odisha Pavilion, which highlighted the state’s rich legacy of ancient sea voyages, offered an impressive glimpse into its historical maritime prowess.

She highlighted Odisha’s

ancient Kalingan maritime excellence, modern port infrastructure, and ambitious blue economy roadmap, stating that from Kalinga’s seafaring past to today’s global trade connectivity, Odisha’s coastal heritage continues to propel its progress. With world-class ports and a strategic emphasis on sustainable blue growth, the state is emerging as a key driver of India’s eastern maritime renaissance.

Commerce and Transport department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee welcomed the Deputy CM and briefed her on the exhibits displayed at the Odisha Pavilion.

Later, Minister Parida visited the Paradip Port Authority’s pavilion, where she admired a sand art installation by Padma Shri Sudarsan Pattnaik depicting Odisha’s rich maritime trade legacy. She expressed delight and appreciation for the creative portrayal of the state’s illustrious seafaring history.

Theft: Delivery boy held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Infocity police arrested a 21-year-old youth working as a delivery boy at a private shipment company for allegedly stealing electronic gadgets, including an iPhone 15 and earbuds, worth around ₹2 lakh.

The accused has been identified as Paresh Kumar Kar of Cuttack, who was employed as a delivery agent with the company. According to reports, another employee of the company, identified as Raja Swain (28), caught Paresh red-handed Monday while he was attempting to steal electronic items from the company’s stock. Swain also alleged that Paresh had been involved in manipulating shipments.

Upon being informed, Infocity police reached the spot, and an FIR was lodged against Paresh. During interrogation, he confessed to the crime. Police recovered a tampered box containing a new iPhone 15 and two boxes of OnePlus Nord Buds three from his possession. The seized items were later handed over to the company after verification.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: A five-day residential Hands-on Skill Development Training Programme has been launched for students of Government Vocational Higher Secondary Schools. The programme is being conducted simultaneously at two locations, focusing on different trades. While IT-ITeS training is underway at the Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) in Bhubaneswar, sessions on Electronics and Hardware are being held at the World Skill Center (WSC).

The programme was inaugurated at CTTC by Directorate of Higher Secondary Education (DHSE) director Niyati Pattnaik who attended as the

Cop caught red-handed taking ₹40K bribe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police was caught red-handed by Vigilance officials while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹40,000 from a complainant in Koraput district Tuesday, officials said.

ASI Narasingha Dora of B Singhpur police station, along with a private person, Sunadhara Amanatya, was arrested while allegedly demanding

and accepting the bribe to extend undue favour to the complainant in a domestic violence case, the Vigilance Directorate said in a statement. Dora, who was investigating the case, had allegedly threatened the complainant that he would take strong action against him if the bribe was not paid. Unable to meet the demand, the complainant approached the Vigilance authorities, who laid a trap and nabbed the duo while

accepting the money, it said. Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried out at two locations linked to the ASI. A case has been registered at the Koraput Vigilance police station, and further investigation is underway, the statement added. In another development, Laxmidhar Swain, a retired junior clerk from the office of the Jajpur Collector, was convicted in a separate vigilance case Monday.

OMFED unveils new digital platform for consumers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers’ Federation Limited (OMFED) has taken a major step toward digital transformation with the launch of its new state-of-the-art website Tuesday.

The upgraded digital platform was inaugurated by managing director Vijay Amruta Kulange at OMFED’s headquarters in Bhubaneswar.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior general manager (Finance) Suresh Altia, quality manager Soumendra Bhoumik, along with other officials and staff members.

The newly designed website features a modern, user-friendly interface that enables consumers to explore detailed information about OMFED’s wide range of products—both existing and new—through photos and videos. It also allows users to contact officials, place online orders, and access information on how to open OMFED booths or parlours, or become distributors directly through the platform.

“The website reflects a modern, dynamic, and smarter OMFED. With an easy-to-navigate layout, interactive visuals, and bilingual accessibility in English and Odia, it connects deeply with people across and beyond Odisha,” said Kulange.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.28 ▲ 0.05	SENSEX	84628.16 ▼ 29.85	GOLD	₹119,061 ▼ ₹1896
EURO	103.02 ▲ 0.24	NIFTY	25936.20 ▼ 150.68	SILVER	₹143,202 ▼ ₹165

WEATHER

Max Temp

28.7°

Min Temp

24.0°

Humidity

97%

Rainfall

17.1mm

BBSR

28.7°

CTC

27.6°

FORECAST

Light to moderate rain or thunderstorm very likely to occur

13.6mm

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis 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, Sripur-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.

NALCO eye hospital: From 100 to Nought



POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Oct 28: A modern eye hospital built by Navratna company NALCO in Angul district to provide free eye care to residents affected by industrial operations has remained locked for six years after its grand inauguration.

The ₹25-crore NALCO LV Prasad Eye Hospital was constructed on four acres of land under the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. It was intended to serve the people affected by NALCO's plant operations and reduce visual impairment among residents. The facility was also expected to treat outpatients from other areas.

The hospital was inaugurated February 18, 2019, by the then Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan. Among those present were NALCO's then CMD Tapan Kumar Chand, Executive Director RK Mish-

ra, senior BJP leader Rudra Narayan Pani, and LV Prasad Eye Institute's Vice Chairman Tara Prasad Das.

During the inauguration, officials announced that the 30-bed facility would later expand to treat up to 100 patients daily and conduct nearly 100 eye surgeries every day, offering free treatment for poor and displaced residents. The announcement had sparked new hope among patients in nearby villages.

However, despite the fanfare, the hospital never became operational. Locals said not a single patient has been treated there in the past six years. During Covid-19, the district administration temporarily used the premises as a quarantine centre.

Currently, the hospital gate remains locked, and the facility has fallen into neglect. Large trees have grown around the premises, while stray cattle are seen taking shelter in the hospital verandah, turning

what was meant to be a state-of-the-art medical centre into a picture of abandonment.

Former sarpanch of Kulada, Shesadev Dehuri, said the inauguration of the eye hospital had initially brought joy to residents of the affected areas. "Many locals living amid smoke and dust from the plant suffer from vision-related ailments. Traveling to Cuttack or Bhubaneswar for treatment is not feasible for most of them. Had the hospital been functional, they would have greatly benefited. Unfortunately, it is yet to become operational," Dehuri said.

Tikan Chandra Das, general secretary of the Contractual Workers Coordination Committee, said that many people in NALCO area suffer from eye ailments. "The hospital was established in response to public demand, but it remains non-functional. It should be made operational immediately," he added.

Babula Sethi, a senior citizen, opined that spending ₹25 crore merely to construct the building is meaningless without ensuring basic infrastructure. "NALCO handed the hospital over to a private organisation without appointing doctors, nurses, or other employees, and has since remained silent. Six years have passed since the responsibility was transferred," he said, urging local leaders and the administration to intervene.

When contacted, NALCO Administrative Officer Rajaram Mishra said he is not fully aware of the current status of the project. "An agreement had been made with LV Prasad Eye Institute, but we need to review the present situation," he said.



CLEARING THE WAY: Fire Services personnel cut a large tree uprooted under the impact of cyclonic storm 'Montha' in Gajapati district, Tuesday OP PHOTO

Supply assistant on cyclone duty dies

GAJAPATI: A supply assistant engaged in cyclone evacuation work died following a sudden illness Monday night. The deceased was identified as Surendra Gamang, posted at Potara panchayat under Rayagada block in Gajapati district. According to reports, Gamang went to bed after having dinner but suddenly felt uneasy. He was first taken to Jiranga primary health centre for treatment. However, doctors shifted him to Parlakhemundi district headquarters hospital after his health condition deteriorated. There doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Sources said Gamang had been engaged in cyclone relief work since October 26. He was overseeing the evacuation of people to cyclone shelters and managing their accommodation and food arrangements.

2 poachers held in Ganjam, sent to jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Oct 28: Forest officials arrested two poachers preparing to hook wires from transmission lines to hunt wild animals near Bahadapadar in Mujagarh forest range under North Ghumusar forest division in Ganjam district Monday night.

The arrested were identified as Sarat Naik of Samapalli and Banamali Bhuyan of Bahadapadar. The officials seized large quantities of GI and service wires from their possession. Both were produced in court Tuesday and remanded to judicial custody after their bail pleas were rejected.

According to sources, Banamali had laid hooking wires



stretching from his farmland to the nearby forest area Monday night to trap wild animals. Sarat and others had assisted him in setting up the trap. Acting on a tip-off, forest range officer Bimbahar Sahu directed forester Babul Sethi to conduct a raid. Sethi and his team apprehended

Banamali and Sarat during the operation, while several others involved managed to flee.

Reports indicate that incidents of timber theft and wild-life poaching have been rising in jungles of various forest ranges under the North Ghumusar forest division.

ABDO, SRA face action for 'Montha' negligence

DWARKA PRASAD PATNAIK, OP

Chhatrapur, Oct 28: Aska additional block development officer (ABDO) and Sheragada senior revenue assistant (SRA) faced government action for dereliction of duty at control rooms during cyclone 'Montha'.

Although Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan had directed all the government employees to remain present in their headquarters until normalcy is restored after the cyclone passes, Aska ABDO Sushant Kumar Behera and Sheragada SRA Sadananda Behera were

found absent and neglecting on their assigned duties.

While the ABDO faced show-cause notice from the Collector, the SRA has been placed under suspension till further notice by the Collector. As per the orders, both of them failed to execute their duties assigned during this high emergency period.

Ganjam Collector, along with ADM and other officials, were inspecting the cyclone shelters, control rooms and other facilities, when they found these two employees responsible for round-the-clock control rooms absent and neglecting on their duties.

Shaky motorboats: Villagers taken for a ride

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tentulikhunti, Oct 28: A motorboat procured 12 years ago to serve residents of the marooned area of Manchagaon panchayat under this block in Nabarangpur district is now reportedly in a dilapidated condition, posing serious risks to its users.

As per reports, the motorboat was purchased through a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) grant from Odisha Hydro Power Corporation under the direction of the then-Nabarangpur MLA

Manohar Randhari and the Collector. It replaced traditional country boats, offering villagers safer access to weekly markets, pensions, and food distribution.

Currently, the motorboat is used regularly for public health initiatives such as immunisation and malaria control drives, and by officials during outreach programmes and elections. However, no structured repair or maintenance plan was ever put in place. As a result, the vessel is now unsafe, with broken front glass, torn side

curtains, and malfunctioning steering and bearings.

Despite repeated complaints from the boat operator and media coverage, the boat has neither been repaired nor replaced. Though a temporary repair was carried out with assistance from the mechanical division of the Indravati project, the core issues remain unresolved.

During a recent health outreach trip to Talang village, the boat suffered a mechanical failure mid-reservoir, leaving the team adrift for nearly 10

minutes. The driver eventually repaired it using his limited knowledge and somehow reached the destination.

Following the incident, many said they now feel safer using traditional boats. They are demanding a new motorised vessel through CSR funding from OHPC or L&T, or government grants. They alleged that while Kalahandi district has received four to five motorised boats and 108 ambulance boats for its waterlogged areas, Nabarangpur has largely been ignored. Villagers of Bagra and Tang-

inikot said they received no financial support under the 'Budi' (flood) resettlement package despite severe hardship. Although the 24th Rehabilitation Advisory Committee had approved compensation for them, the promises remain unfulfilled.

Asked about the issue, Tentulikhunti block development officer Manoj Kumar Panigrahi said a written request has been sent to the Collector for three 10-seater boats and one 30-seater boat to address the region's urgent transport needs.

Keonjhar's Baishnavi shines at nat'l level

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 28: Nine-year-old girl Baishnavi Gupta of this district has brought laurels to the state by winning gold medal in junior category of 16th National Kudo Championship held in Surat, Gujarat recently.

The remarkable suc-

cess of Baishnavi, a student of Class IV of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Keonjhar, has made her school and the district proud by achieving the feat, which is a testament to her dedication, discipline and sportsmanship. Baishnavi is the daughter of Sanjay Kumar, a train

manager at East Coast Railway in Keonjhar.

Keonjhar Collector Vishal Singh has expressed his happiness and congratulated Baishnavi and her family. He said that this success will inspire many young players from Keonjhar and Odisha to excel in sports.

Two kids infected with scrub typhus in Bargaon

BARGAON: Panic gripped the residents here in Sundargarh district as two children were found infected with the dreaded scrub typhus disease. Cases of scrub typhus continue to rise in areas under Bargaon block of Sundargarh district. While two persons including a woman and a man from Salepali village succumbed to the infection last month, several others have reportedly been affected. Last week, one-year-old Aadya Senapati, daughter of Deepak Senapati from Jarangloi village under Bargaon block, was bitten by an insect. A blood test at a local clinic confirmed she was infected with scrub typhus. Similarly, four-year-old Ayush Senapati, son of Mantu Senapati from the same village, was bitten by an insect about 10 days ago and also tested positive for the disease. Health workers said the fact that children are getting infected even while staying indoors has caused growing concern among parents, particularly mothers, who are now living in fear of this invisible insect.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIBBS2025052, Dated : 22.10.2025

Name of work: PREPARATION & SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL FOR LAND ACQUISITION/ALIENATION OF GOVT. LAND/PERMISSIVE POSSESSION AND DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND AND OTHER ALLIED WORK AS PER PREVAILING ACT/ RULES OF THE CONCERNED DEPT/ MINISTRIES IN CONNECTION WITH DOUBLING WORKS BETWEEN HARIDASPUR AND PARADEEP UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DY. CHIEF ENGINEER/ CON/JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD (JJKR).

Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 54.81 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 1,09,600/-, Completion period of the Work : 18 (Eighteen) Months.

Tender closing date & time : At 1200 hrs. on 13.11.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receive in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in

The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter-2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con), PR-146/CI/25-26 Bhubaneswar

NOMINATED AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF COAL

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

120, F-Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001, 011-23384106

"Invitation of Bids for Auction of Coal Mines/Blocks for Sale of Coal"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4 (1) and 4 (2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Section 11A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Rules made thereunder, the Government of India has directed the Nominated Authority to undertake the auction of Coal mines/blocks under 24th Tranche of Auction under CM (SP) Act, 2015 and 14th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957. The tender process has been launched on Wednesday, 29th October, 2025. Tender document and other details can be accessed on <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/coalblock/index.jsp>.

cbc 04107/11/0002/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2025-34, Dtd. 22.10.2025

Name of the work : MISCELLANEOUS WORK IN RELATION TO CABLE DIVERSION DUE TO LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS), REBUILDING OF BRIDGES ETC. OVER SAMBALPUR (SBP) DIVISION. SCOPE OF WORK: LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS)-RV-108, JT-55, JT-74, JT-75, JT-24, JT-29, JT-37, JT-36, JT-39, JT-41, JT-51, JT-56, JT-69, JT-80, ST-38, ST-83, JT-01A, ST-14, ST-24, ST-45, JT-01, JT-07, JT-30, JT-34, JT-43, RV-63, RV-67, RV-137, LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) AT KM NO. 111/7-8 [HANDAPA (HNPA)-BOINDA (BONA)], WATERWAY AT BRIDGE NO. 96 [HATIBARI (HATB)- JUJUMURA (JUJA)], PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY AT KM NO. 527/6-7 [BRUNDAMAL (BXQ)-LAPANGA (LPG)], LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) AT KM. 552/12-14 [SARLA JN. (SLRA)-SASON (SSN)].

Tender Value : ₹ 3,45,28,377.35. Bid Security: ₹ 3,22,700.00.

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 hrs. on 13.11.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Sig. & Telecom Engineer (Tele), PR-730/Q/25-26 Sambalpur

Bank of India

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया

Bank of India BOI

Bank of India

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया

Bank of India BOI

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/D, Star House, Jaydev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249

Gold Auction Notice

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by **19.11.2025**, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at **Sahid Nagar Branch Premises on 20.11.2025 at 11.00 AM**. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the date and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to interested bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Gross Wt. in Gram	Net Wt. in Gram	Total Dues as on 23.09.2025 (excluding unapplied interest Charges, Cost & Expenses)
BANK OF INDIA, SAHID NAGAR BRANCH, A/123, SAHID NAGAR, PO: SAHID NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR, PIN-751007, MOB.: 8981081373					
1.	555177610000959	Prakash Bhol, S/o- Bhagyadhar Bhol, A Block Market, Sector-8, Rourkela, Odisha, PIN-769009.	46.070	41.500	₹ 2,28,829.64

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 28.10.2025

Zonal Manager, Bank of India

Government of India

Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology

Block-2-3, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

NOTICE

Advt. No. AI-99013/25/2025-AIPSU-DBT

Extension of last date for receipt of approval for filling up the Post of Director/Executive Director of iBRIC-reg.

An advertisement was published in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar dated 27th September - 03rd October, 2025, inviting applications/nominations for seven (07) posts of Director/ Executive Director in the institutes under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (iBRIC), the last date for receipt of applications was 26.10.2025. The last date of receipt of application has been extended for a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from 27.10.2025 till 10.11.2025.

Detailed advertisement and application form are available at www.dbtindia.gov.in, www.bric.nic.in and websites of all seven Institutions (www.nbrc.ac.in, www.nccs.res.in, www.ibsd.gov.in, www.nipgr.ac.in, www.niab.res.in, www.rgcb.res.in and www.nabi.res.in).

cbc 36301/11/0005/2526

Date: 15.07.2025

To,

1.KONARK UDYOG PVT. LTD
JARKA INDUSTRIAL ESTATES JARKA
JAJPUR
JAJPUR - 755050
ORISSA – INDIA
2.NIRANJAN DEO
JABARA, JABARA, JABARA
JAJPUR - 755023
ORISSA - INDIA

Sub: Reference to Our Notice dated 15.07.2025 in regard to Vehicle No. OD04U5717, Apac No. CV5226224.

Dear Sir/Madam

1. In reference to our notice dated 15th July, 2025 and 19th August 2025 we would like to repeat and reiterate you again in regards to release of Fly Ash (Dry) Product without any challan to support the exact quantity, which was loaded in the said vehicle being Reg. no. OD-04-U-5717, the afore stated vehicle which was taken over possession by bank by executing agreement clause due to default in payment of regular EMIs as per agreement no. CV5226224.

2. In this regard again we would like you to handover the Fly Ash (Dry) Product which was found in the vehicle above referred to, laying at SKY DIGITAL STOCKYARD At-Plot no- 1066/1376, NH-55, Kuspangi, Near Shakti Sai Degree College Cuttack-754029, within 7 days from the date of receipt of this letter, failing which the bank shall take recourse as per the due process of law.

Treat this as the final reminder to you for the release of the goods. This is without prejudice to our rights and contentions.

Authorised Signatory

For Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

In order to see, you have to stop being in the middle of the picture.



SRI AUROBINDO

Weaponising SIR

The existence of bogus voters in the electoral rolls prepared by the Election Commission of India (ECI) has always been an issue that causes concern as it vitiates the polling process - the soul of democracy. Added to this vicious circle is the presence of names of the same voter in multiple constituencies with fake addresses. The latest disclosure of the manipulation of the electoral machinery in a pilot project by the Congress in a Karnataka Assembly constituency has exposed the rot that has crept into the Election Commission (ECI) and the electoral system. The ECI has not been convincing enough in its response and denial of the purported malpractice. However, it has undertaken with gusto the task of removing the names of voters who are either dead or figure in more than one constituency. This Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of electoral rolls is supposedly one step further from the practice of revision of electoral rolls being followed from time to time for decades. The first experiment of the SIR in Bihar has been done under clouded circumstances and many questions about its mechanism and intent still remain unanswered. This is for the simple reason that in the name of SIR the ECI has effectively taken upon itself the task of determining the citizenship of the country's people, whereas its main remit is to include citizens' names in the voter list and not to exclude existing ones. Over the years, the ECI has earned accolades for deploying tens of thousands of personnel to physically visit houses throughout the length and breadth of the country to enlist names in the voters' list.

After the Bihar experiment, the ECI announced 27 October the SIR in 12 States and Union Territories. Now a fresh announcement of this exercise, instead of instilling confidence in the people, is giving rise to widespread fear and social tension. This is because the experience in Bihar suggests that the process may end up in the disenfranchisement of a significant number of people. The timeline announced by the ECI is suspect - about a month for enumeration and a month for claims and objections. One significant change from the Bihar model is the formal provision of a "Notice period" for hearing and verification for about 54 days. The hurry is unwarranted given the serious purpose of the special revision when the bona fide of a citizen may fall by the wayside because of a mechanical and not foolproof process of including names in the electoral rolls. In fact, the approach followed in Bihar produced glaring statistical anomalies in the final roll.

The Supreme Court's intervention has produced some corrective measures, though a key question - Aadhaar as a means for validating names in the voters' list - has been dealt with in a way that it is neither here nor there.

However, by offering this relief to millions of voters whose names are in the existing voters' list the SC verdict has rather washed its hands of the vexed issue through a clever ploy. While acknowledging the acceptability of Aadhaar, it has ruled that the document can be used only as an address proof and not to establish one's citizenship. That is not the remit of the Act governing Aadhaar either. This has strengthened the hands of the ECI to demand from the voters one more document to prove their citizenship. This is a grey area that the ECI has entered in a manner that the SIR virtually becomes a National Register of Citizens (NRC) through the backdoor since the corollary to exclusion of names from the voters' list would mean one is not a bona fide citizen. To detect who is a bona fide citizen is the mandated task of the Union Home Ministry. But it backtracked from its attempt to enforce NRC following a backlash in Assam.

It may be that the SIR is becoming a tool to achieve what the government could not do through the NRC. The ECI's position as an autonomous constitutional body is, it appears, being misused to force states ruled by non-BJP governments to allow the SIR to be conducted even in the teeth of opposition by irate voters. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already issued a grave warning about the social tension that the SIR would cause in the state, while several ruling party leaders have even said there could be blood bath. The Chief Election Commissioner, while rolling out the second phase of the SIR, addressed the issue by merely saying that a constitutional body would cooperate with another constitutional body during the exercise.

Such a stance does not answer questions about both the safety and security of the enumerators who would be visiting homes for the SIR and the backlash that the exercise may cause in the state.

The ECI is mandated to bring out an error-free voters' list to the extent possible and not to decide in any way the bona fide of one's citizenship. Its method should be persuasive and not coercive. While no one can oppose the idea of ECI rejecting Aadhaar since it is a document issued without any method to cross check veracity, similarly it has to be remembered that laws are made for the people, not the other way round.

WISDOM CORNER

It is through gratitude for the present moment that the spiritual dimension of life opens up.

ECKHART TOLLE

I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious.

VINCE LOMBARDI

A man can be himself only so long as he is alone, and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom, for it is only when he is alone that he is really free.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1863: Red Cross founded. Also known as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Red Cross is a humanitarian institution that has been a three-time recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

1923: The Republic of Turkey was established, largely through the efforts of Kemal Atatürk, who is considered the country's founder and served as its first president.

1929: Collapse of US stock market prices. Just five days after nearly 13 million shares of U.S. stock were sold in one day in 1929, an additional 16 million shares were sold this day, called "Black Tuesday," further fueling the crisis known as the Great Depression.

1956: Israel's army attacked Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula in a fight for control of the Suez Canal area.



JP Singh

DISREGARDING ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE NAME OF INNOVATION IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

The biggest governance dilemma in AI is setting guidelines for the technology's ethical use without unduly weakening the incentive to innovate. So far, countries and regions have largely failed to strike any kind of balance, instead tipping the scales one way or the other while loftily proclaiming reverence for both.

The concept of responsible AI (RAI) exemplifies this idealistic rhetoric. The principles it espouses - from ensuring that algorithms are not based on faulty datasets to preventing privacy and human-rights violations - are undoubtedly worthy. Where RAI falls short is in showing how these ideals should be incorporated into AI governance, and how to balance regulation with incentives for continued innovation. Nonetheless, RAI has been embraced by many governments, which have incorporated relevant language into national AI policies. International organizations have also championed RAI - UNESCO's Global AI Ethics and Governance Observatory is a leading example - with the goal of shaping international norms and national policy. But such top-down approaches contrast sharply with the deliberative, bottom-up decision-making that has proven most effective in addressing problems requiring collective action and coordination.

Meanwhile, corporations are touting their supposed commitment to RAI, often while resisting the regulations that would force them to implement its principles. Even universities have jumped on the RAI bandwagon, offering AI ethics courses in computer science departments. AI governance courses, however, are usually offered in other departments, so computer science students may not take them.

But it is the brass tacks of AI governance, not the promotion of vague principles, that will lead to politically feasible, ethically desirable, and economically beneficial outcomes. Policymakers in many economies are struggling on this



With AI developing at an extraordinary rate, the need to strike the right balance between ethics and innovation - and to adhere to it consistently - has become impossible to ignore

front, especially when trying to balance ethical imperatives with incentives for innovation. Whereas South Korea and Japan seem to have found some equilibrium, the European Union has placed a higher priority on ethics, and the United Kingdom and the United States have put innovation first.

The EU's 2024 AI Act attempts to take a balanced approach, classifying AI applications according to risk, with high-risk activities more heavily regulated and minimal-risk activities left unregulated. Its experience in enforcing AI ethics can offer useful lessons for the rest of the world, as it monitors the implementation of its regulations across member states. Nonetheless, as French President Emmanuel Macron rightly noted in February, the EU is currently "not in the race" when it comes to AI innovation. Today, the European Commission still struggles to articulate a pro-competitive innovation strategy.

The US has the opposite problem. In 2016, it became one of the first countries to announce a national AI strategy, but its plan focused overwhelmingly on research and development, though it did mention the need for research into the technology's ethical implications. (China responded in 2017 with its own innovation-focused strategy.) Former US President Joe

Biden's administration sought a better balance between innovation and ethics, exemplified by the 2022 Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights and the 2023 Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence. But upon returning to the White House, President Donald Trump rejected this approach. His January 2025 executive order on "removing barriers to American leadership in artificial intelligence" revoked AI policies and directives that "act as barriers to American AI innovation."

More broadly, Trump's administration has deemphasized protecting human rights and regulating the tech sector, focusing instead on great-power chest-thumping and winning the technology "war" with China. The AI Action Plan introduced in July 2025 begins by asserting that the US is "in a race to achieve global dominance," noting that it must "innovate faster and more comprehensively" than its competitors, and "dismantle unnecessary regulatory barriers."

There is good news: the AI Action Plan incorporates several recommendations on data ethics, global alliances, and standard-setting made by the Northern Virginia Technology Council taskforce - of which I was part - in response to the Trump administration's request

for information for the strategy. Nonetheless, the US is leaning heavily toward innovation, at the expense of regulations aimed at upholding AI ethics. It can even be said that the Trump administration is openly flouting AI ethics, such as when it circulates AI-generated videos through the president's social-media account.

The Trump administration's approach undoubtedly appeals to US tech giants, which like to claim that regulating datasets and algorithms is a losing game (even as some tout RAI). But American businesses have proven more than adept at devising effective mechanisms to protect their own interests in the face of AI-related disruptions. Major record labels, for example, have found ways to ensure that they collect a licensing fee whenever music they own is used to create AI-generated tracks and to train large language models.

Moreover, contrary to the Trump administration's stated priorities, even America's capacity for innovation is now in jeopardy. The US retains distinct competitive advantages in the AI race - notably, a flexible labour market, developed and liquid financial markets, and a robust research infrastructure. But its failure to provide credible and sustained signals to investors, combined with efforts to discourage immigration and hold universities hostage for political ends, risks undercutting America's position.

Disregarding ethical considerations in the name of innovation is a recipe for disaster. But pretending that ethical principles will solve the real governance challenges AI raises is similarly misguided. With AI developing at an extraordinary rate, the need to strike the right balance between ethics and innovation - and to adhere to it consistently - has become impossible to ignore.

The writer is Director of Center for AI Innovation and Economic Competitiveness at George Mason University.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS



Melvin Durai

IF YOU CAN'T MEDITATE, DO THE NEXT BEST THING: WATCH FOOTBALL. TRUST ME, IT CAN INSPIRE YOU

During football season, I find myself paying far less attention to politics. My wife would say that during football season I pay far less attention to everything, including whether I'm fully dressed. There's a lot of truth in that. Football consumes most of my attention - and everything else takes a back seat.

It's a very narrow back seat, with politics being squeezed between music and funny animal videos. Perhaps that's a good thing, because politics seems to be far less uplifting than sports.

A sports team or individual athlete can unite people, bringing together fans of different races, religions and political affiliations. If you have a favourite athlete, you probably don't care which temple or church they attend. You just admire their talent and athletic feats.

Sports is full of inspirational stories. Just the other day, I read about Minakshi Hooda, a 24-year-old from Haryana who won a gold medal at the 2025 World Boxing Championships in Liverpool, England.

Hooda's father is an auto-rickshaw driver and she's the first member of her family to be involved in sports. Imagine the obstacles she faced, none bigger than convincing her parents that it was okay to let her hit other people.

Dad: "Who are you going to be hitting?"

Daughter: "Other girls."

Dad: "What if they call the police?"

Daughter: "They won't. No phones in the ring."

It's worth noting that politics occasionally gives us inspirational stories too. How can you not be inspired by Zohran Mamdani, the 34-year-old Indian-American politician who came out of nowhere to win the Democratic nomination and become the overwhelming favourite in New York City's mayoral race? Before he started campaigning for mayor, Mamdani was given as much chance of winning as a Maruti racing against a Lamborghini. (It turns out that the Lamborghini in Mamdani's race, former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, was running

out of petrol, while the Maruti was electric.)

Why are inspirational stories important? Because they give us hope. They show us what's possible if we work hard and keep striving toward a goal.

If a blind woman can swim across the English Channel, as Melanie Barratt did last year, it gives me hope that one day, with many hours of training, I can swim all the way across my local public pool.

Inspirational stories don't just give us hope - they also help reduce our stress. That's what a new study published in the Psychology of Popular Media, a publication of the American Psychological Association, suggests.

About 1,000 adults participated in the study and were randomly assigned to one of four groups. One group watched an inspiring video, no longer than five minutes, every day for five days. A second group meditated for a few minutes each day. A third group watched a few minutes of comedy, while the final group chose their own mobile

media content.

The researchers found that people who watched the inspiring videos (including the story of a cancer survivor who climbed Mount Everest) felt more hopeful. "And that hope predicted lower stress over the next ten days," study author Robin Nabi of University of California Santa Barbara told NPR.

Comparing the results from the first and second groups, the researchers found that watching inspiring videos was just as effective as meditation, at least for creating hope and reducing stress.

"We were actually quite surprised at how similar the effects of the inspiring videos were to the group that meditated," Nabi said.

In contrast, the group that watched comedy didn't gain much hope, similar to the group that watched whatever they wanted.

What the study shows is that it's important to spend your time wisely. If you can't meditate, do the next best thing: watch football. Trust me, it can inspire you.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Safeguard strategic interests

Sir, Bangladesh's acting Premier, Muhammad Yunus, has sparked serious concern by presenting a book to a visiting Pakistani general that depicted parts of India's northeastern states within Bangladesh's borders. With national elections due in February 2026, this act reflects Dhaka's shifting political stance and growing proximity to Pakistan. In the last three years, Bangladesh-Pakistan trade has risen by 35%, direct air and sea routes have resumed, and visa curbs eased. Combined with increasing US-Pakistan engagement and China's deepening role through the CPEC project, a new strategic alignment seems to be forming around India's periphery. This emerging nexus of US-Pakistan-Bangladesh-China signals possible geopolitical manoeuvres that could encircle India diplomatically and strategically. The distorted map is thus not merely symbolic - it indicates deeper intent. India must act with calculated precision - strengthening border security, reinforcing its northeastern outreach, and deepening regional alliances - to safeguard its sovereignty and long-term strategic interests.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Concerns over privacy

Sir, As India digitises its healthcare systems, Big Tech's involvement raises significant concerns about patient data privacy and security. Big Tech companies' growing influence has only shaped the healthcare sector according to its own corporate interests. They negatively influence public health in India through the spread of health misinformation, the promotion of unhealthy lifestyles, and the erosion of data privacy. These issues disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, increase health disparities, and can undermine public trust in the country's healthcare system. Also, Big Tech's increasing involvement in digital health could lead to sensitive health information being used for commercial purposes or falling into the hands of malicious actors, which raises critical ethical concerns. Public health ethics perspectives, therefore, raise the all-important question of whether the Central government ought to intervene in the activities of Big Tech in order to safeguard public health in India.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



Agricultural runoff, settlements degrading Manipur’s Loktak Lake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Changes in land use, including agriculture, settlements, and shifting cultivation, are directly degrading the water quality of rivers feeding into the Loktak Lake -- one of India’s most iconic freshwater ecosystems and a designated “Ramsar Site” in Manipur -- threatening biodiversity and livelihoods of local communities, a study by the Nagaland University has found.

Loktak Lake is home to 132 plant species and 428 animal species, and supports hydropower, fisheries, transport, and tourism.

However, in recent decades, the lake has been listed under the Montreux Record -- a global warning list for wetlands undergoing serious ecological damage.

Reduced fish populations, rising pollution levels and increased sedimentation have now become growing concerns. A Ramsar site is a wetland designated to be of international importance under Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

These sites are recognised for their ecological significance, such as supporting biodiversity or providing critical habitat for waterfowl.

The convention was signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

The study was published in



“Ramsar Site” in Manipur -- threatening biodiversity and livelihoods of local communities, a study by the Nagaland University has found

However, in recent decades, the lake has been listed under the Montreux Record -- a global warning list for wetlands undergoing serious ecological damage

the International Journal of Environment and Pollution, a peer-reviewed journal publishing research on environmental contaminants and their impact on health and ecosystems.

"The study highlights the pressing environmental challenges arising from agricultural runoff, human settlements, and shifting cultivation, which are directly impacting the river water quality in the region. The study confirms that agricultural runoff, settlements and shifting cultivation in Loktak catchment are directly degrading river water quality, with Nambul and Khuga rivers emerging as most polluted due to high land-use disturbances," said Jagadish K Patnaik,

Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University.

To understand the root cause, researchers at the Nagaland University conducted field sampling across nine major rivers -- Khuga, Western, Nambul, Imphal, Kongba, Iril, Thoubal, Heirolk and Sekmai -- that drain into Loktak Lake.

Using detailed Land Use Land Cover (LULC) maps, the team compared different types of land activities such as agricultural areas, dense and degraded forests, settlements, Jhum cultivation and water bodies, against water quality indicators like dissolved oxygen (DO), biological oxygen demand (BOD) and temperature.

621 more Delhi schools to have pvt cleaning services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: In an effort to ensure cleaner and more hygienic campuses, the Delhi government has revamped the sanitation system in its schools, extending private cleaning services to hundreds of additional institutions across the national capital.

The Delhi Directorate of Education has signed an umbrella agreement with a private organisation to manage sanitation in 621 more schools, adding to the 117 that were already availing such services.

"The restructuring aims to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness in all government schools," an official said. "Regular inspections will be carried out by departmental officers to ensure proper implementation of the sanitation contract," he said.

For schools not covered under private sanitation services, the government has deployed three to four regular sweepers in each institution depending on student enrollment, he said.

Heads of schools have been instructed to monitor the sanitation work closely and ensure that cleaning is completed at least 30 minutes before the start of each school session.

"The cleaning frequency will depend on the strength of students, ranging from twice a day for smaller schools to up to eight times a day for schools with over 1,500 students," the official explained.

5 criminals killed, dozens injured since Oct 1: Cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Since October 1, Delhi has witnessed at least 10 encounters between police and criminals, resulting in the deaths of five criminals and the arrest of over a dozen. These operations were part of a sustained crackdown targeting organized crime networks and habitual offenders operating in Delhi and neighboring states. Police have emphasized that many of the arrested criminals had a history of using firearms and displaying them on social media to intimidate rivals.

On October 2, two members of the Rohit Godara-Goldy Brar-Virender Charan gang were arrested after a gunfight in Jaitpur-Kalindi Kunj Road. The accused, Rahul and Sahil from Haryana, were allegedly contracted to kill a social media influencer. Rahul, wanted for a triple murder in Yamunanagar, was injured during the exchange of fire.

The following day, October 3, two more gangsters, Akash Rajput and Mahipal from Rajasthan, were captured after an encounter in Kapashera. Both were linked to the Godara gang and were wanted for multiple extortion and kidnapping cases across three states. Rajput, who had a bounty of Rs 20,000 on his head, was shot in the leg before being arrested.

On October 7, a joint operation by Delhi and Gurugram



police led to the killing of Bhim Mahabhadur Jora, a Nepal-based criminal, in southeast Delhi. Jora was wanted for several crimes, including the murder of a Jangpura doctor in May 2024, and was shot dead after he opened fire on the police.

On October 9, police in Rohini arrested Hamza, a man wanted for a murder in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut. Hamza had filmed the killing of his friend and uploaded it on social media. He was shot in the leg during a police confrontation.

The encounters continued on October 10, with Aftab Alam alias Atti being injured in Narela after a gunfight. Atti had been involved in several robbery, snatching, and murder cases. On October 22, Ritik alias Dancer was caught after a gunfight in Dwarka. He had been accused of murder and was shot in the leg.

One of the most significant

encounters occurred October 23 when four members of the Bihar-based Sigma Gang were killed in Rohini after opening fire on a joint Delhi-Bihar police team. These criminals were wanted for multiple murders in Bihar.

On October 25, an arms supplier named Kanishk alias Koku was injured in Mehrauli during a shootout, and later that night, three robbers were arrested in Nangloi after another shootout. The following day, October 26, Himanshu, a wanted robber, was arrested after a brief encounter in Badarpur.

The latest encounter occurred on October 27, when arms supplier Tejas alias Bharat was arrested after a gunfight near Astha Kunj Park. He was wanted for a Diwali night firing incident.

These encounters reflect Delhi Police's ongoing strategy to crack down on organized crime and enhance public safety.

Tripura CM launches WiFi facility in 11 govt colleges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, Oct 28: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha Tuesday inaugurated WiFi facilities in 11 government general degree colleges, giving a major fillip in digital education.

With this, every general degree college in the state is now equipped with WiFi, officials said, adding that plans are underway to extend the facility to five polytechnic institutes as well. The first phase of the project, launched in October last year, connected 19 colleges with a 100 Mbps backbone network. The newly inaugurated second phase covers the remaining 11 colleges, each with around 20 wireless access points to ensure seamless campus-wide coverage. With an investment of Rs 12.32 crore, the project provides reliable internet access to students, faculty, and staff, marking a major step toward transforming higher education in the state.

Assam planning 7-yr jail for polygamy in new Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 28: The proposed law against polygamy will have a punishment of at least seven years, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Monday.

The Bill will be introduced in the Assembly November 25, the first day of the winter session, he said at the launch of the second phase of the 'Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina' scheme.

"If a person marries another woman without legally divorcing his wife, then there will be provision of seven



years or more imprisonment irrespective of his religion," he told the beneficiary girls attending the programme. The accused may say that his religion permits it, but the BJP government will never allow polygamy, he added. Sarma said, "We will protect

the dignity of women in this state at any cost."

The government last year launched the 'Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina' scheme to support girl education by providing monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 for Class 11 students, Rs 1,250 for first-year undergraduates and Rs 2,500 for first-year postgraduates, and BEd students for 10 months.

"Because of this scheme, the enrolment rate rose and the dropout rate of girls declined substantially compared to last year. An over-

all 3.5 lakh girls will benefit from the scheme this year," Sarma said.

Last week, the CM had said the state government will introduce several Bills in the upcoming Assembly session on issues like 'love-jihad' and polygamy.

Environmentalists term Delhi’s cloud-seeding trial short-term fix

The Delhi government, in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur, conducted a cloud-seeding trial Tuesday to induce artificial rain in parts of the national capital



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Environmentalists have termed the Delhi government's cloud-seeding trial a short-term measure, saying it may temporarily reduce pollution but will not address the root causes of the capital's deteriorating air quality.

The Delhi government, in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur, conducted a cloud-seeding trial Tuesday to induce artificial rain in parts of the national capital.

"Rain can subside pollution but it is only a temporary, end-of-the-tail solution that might provide relief for a few days. This cannot be done every time," environmentalist Vimlendu Jha said.

He said the government should focus on tackling pollution at the grassroots level. "Cloud seeding also affects soil and water bodies as chemicals like sulphur and iodide are injected into clouds. Moreover, this approach is city-specific, what about the pollutants coming from neighbouring states?" he asked.

Author and clean-air advocate Jyoti Pande Lavakare compared the cloud-seeding trial to previous short-term measures, such as smog towers.

"The only way to reduce pollution is to reduce emissions, which no one seems willing to do. Adding chemicals to clouds or air is about optics, not real impact," she said.

Lavakare added that recent policy decisions, such as the rollback

of the emission norms for thermal power plants, have weakened efforts to control pollution.

Another environmentalist, Kriti Gupta, said such options could be explored but should not be seen as solutions in themselves.

"We should be open to scientific trials but not prioritise them as the only option. Civic awareness, reduced use of private transport, control on construction dust and better waste management are essential for lasting improvement," she said.

The government had conducted a test flight over Burari last week, releasing small quantities of silver iodide and sodium chloride compounds used for artificial rain. However, the attempt did not yield results due to low atmospheric moisture levels of less than 20 per cent, against the required 50 per cent for successful cloud seeding.

The Delhi cabinet May 7 approved a proposal to conduct five cloud-seeding trials at a total cost of Rs 3.21 crore.

However, the exercise faced multiple postponements due to unfavourable weather and monsoon conditions, including deadlines set for May-end, early June, August, September and, most recently, the second week of October.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, KENDRAPARA DIST- KENDRAPARA
Letter No.3723, Dt.25.10.25
Phone-06727-232265, E-mail: ori-bkendrapara@nic.in
“e” Procurement Notice
No.i - Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
1.Tender Reference No. : 01/PSK/2025-26
2.Name of the Work : Construction of Hostel Building of Madrasatul Banat Rabea Basaria Girls Education Centre at Boulapada.
3. No. of Works : 1 No.
4. Estimated Cost : As per DTCN
5. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : As per DTCN
6. Period of Completion : As per DTCN
7. Date & Time of Bidding : 30.10.2025 at 11.00 AM
8. Last date & time for receipt of Bids in the portal : 13.11.2025 at 5.00 P.M.
9. Bids received online shall be opened on : 14.11.2025 at 11.00 AM
10.Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : O/o- Block Development Officer Kendrapara
Further amendments, corrigendum or other communication regarding this letter will be available only on https://tendersodisha.gov.in and will not be published in print media.
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Kendrapara
OIPR-19446/11/0003/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, MALKANGIRI
E-mail ID: midivmalkangiri@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.SEMIDMKG-08/2025-26
Letter No.1801, Dt.25.10.2025
No.A-787: The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids in Single Cover system through Online Mode. The bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor, Set of Terms and Conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
1.Name of the Work : Improvement to Check Dams in Different Blocks under Improvement to CD Scheme and Improvement to MI Tank at MV-120 in Korukonda Block under MIPSP Scheme of Malkangiri District. 2.Total Number of Work: 12 (Twelve) Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: Approximately varies from Rs.4.24 lakh to Rs.16.95 Lakh. 4. Period of Completion: Varies from 02 (Two) to 03 (Three) Calendar Months. 5. Class of Contractor: "D" & "C" Class Contractor. 6. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal: From 10.00 AM of 01.11.25 to 5.00 PM of 10.11.2025. 7. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: 5.00 PM on 10.11.2025. 8. Date of Opening of bid :At 11.00 AM on 11.11.2025 in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in). 9. Submission of Bids : Online Mode. 10. Name of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri. 11. Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. 12. Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids in Single Cover system through Online Mode for the works as detailed in the table below. The bids should be submitted online in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in by eligible Contractors with CDMs registration as mentioned in Column-6 of table below registered with the State Govt. and Contractors of equivalent grade/ Class registered with Central Govt./ MES/ Railway for execution of works. The registered bidders of outside Odisha can also participate in this process after necessary Portal Enrolment, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Government within a month of acceptance of bids.
OIPR-32285/11/0014/2526

OFFICE OF THE KENDRAPARA MUNICIPALITY, KENDRAPARA
No. 4904
NOTICE
Date: 27.10.25
No. C-1342: The Tender Call Notice No. 4359 Dated: 26.09.25 is cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.
Sd./- Executive Officer Kendrapara Municipality
OIPR-13185/11/0016/2526

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
Email: eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643
Bid Identification No. Online - SEJSG - 07 of 2025-26
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR BUILDING WORK IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
1. Name of the Work : Building Works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
2. Total No. of Work : 02 (Two) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.10.93 Lakh & Rs.17.63 Lakh
4. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
5. Period and Time of availability : Dt.30.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to of bid document in the portal 10.11.2025 upto 05.00 P.M. for Bidding
6. Date and Time of bid Opening : Dt.11.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
(1) Other details can be seen from Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
OIPR-25104/11/0039/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-1197 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR
e-mail: eerwbjnjr@gmail.com
“e” Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification No. Online Tender/13/RWDBNJ/2025-26
No. 5031
Date: 04.10.2025
1. Name of the Work : Road Works
2. Total Number of works : 15 (Fifteen) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : 05.08 lakhs to 44.49 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : 'D', 'C' & 'B' Class of Contractor
5. Period of Completion : 01 & 02 (Two) Calendar Months
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date & Time of Opening Tender
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhanjanagar	Online Tender/13/RWDBNJ/2025-26	30.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	10.11.2025 upto 3.00 P.M.	11.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Bhanjanagar
OIPR-25174/11/0049/2526

of the day

quote

The democratic exercise in 2026 will decide the future of Tamil Nadu - between our government that stands tall with its uniqueness and self-respect and the slaves (AIADMK) who bow down to Delhi

M K STALIN | TN CM

Education gives us knowledge and skills, but culture gives us values and identity

NAYAB SAINI | HARYANA CM

Chhath festival was celebrated across the city and some waste is expected to have been left behind. We will clean it up through a special drive

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

SHORT TAKES

Verdict on Rahul's remark November 7

Sambhal (UP): A court here Tuesday reserved its judgment in a case filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his alleged "fighting the Indian state" remarks made earlier this year. Additional District Judge (ADJ) II Aarti Fauzdar at the Chandausi district court fixed the verdict for November 7, officials said. The case was filed by Simran Gupta, national president of the Hindu Shakti Dal, who alleged that Gandhi's comments had "hurt public sentiments".

Man held raping elderly woman

Bhadohi (UP): A man was Tuesday arrested for allegedly raping a 65-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi, police said. According to the police, Rahul Pandit (25) raped the woman at about 1 am Sunday when she was sleeping outside her house. The accused was inebriated when he committed the crime, they said, adding that he also threatened the woman and later fled from the spot.

40 kg IED planted by Naxalites seized

Sukma (Chhattisgarh): Security forces Tuesday recovered a powerful 40-kg improvised explosive device (IED), planted by Maoists, in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, officials said. A joint team of the Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) 159th battalion and district police unearthed the explosive along the Fulbagdi-Badeshetti road, they said.

Youth, uncle held for stabbing man to death

New Delhi: A 35-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death after he intervened in a quarrel between his wife and a youth who had passed lewd remarks and molested her in northeast Delhi's Seemapuri area, police said Tuesday. Muslin (18) and his uncle have been arrested in connection with the alleged murder, they said, adding that the deceased has been identified as Akbar Ali Mirza, a resident of New Seemapuri.

3 die, 2 injured in Assam road mishap

Morigaon: Three people, including a senior doctor, died and two others were injured Tuesday when their vehicle lost control and hit a divider on National Highway-27 in Assam's Morigaon, police said. A senior police officer said five people were travelling in an SUV from Jagoirad to Nagaon when the accident took place near Nellie around 3:30 am.



“Our goal is to train ten lakh skilled youth, create five lakh high-quality jobs, and provide employment for two lakh people in Global Capability Centres

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

‘INDIA TO SET UP NATIONAL AVIATION SAFETY CENTRE’

India will set up a national aviation safety centre modelled on global best practices to train aircraft accident investigators and aviation professionals, a senior government official said Tuesday



MANIFESTO FOR BIHAR POLLS

INDIA promises jobs, pension, free power



PRESS TRUST OFINDIA

Patna, Oct 28: The INDIA bloc Tuesday released its manifesto for the Bihar Assembly polls, promising, among other things, a government job to one member of every household, restoration of old pension scheme and 200 units of free power.

The 32-page-long ‘Bihar ka Tejashwi Pran’ (Tejashwi’s resolve) was released at a crowded press conference where the 35-year-old RJD leader was joined by alliance partners.

The INDIA bloc manifesto for the Bihar polls has 25 major points assuring practical solutions, Yadav said at the manifesto release.

“A new law guaranteeing employment would be introduced within 20 days of the INDIA bloc forming the government in Bihar,” he said.

An employment guarantee scheme will be implemented across Bihar within 20 months of the INDIA bloc government formation, he added.

All contractual workers in the Bihar government departments will be made permanent. Also, all ‘Jeevika Didi’s’ will be made permanent and given a monthly salary of Rs 30,000, the manifesto said.

The manifesto also promised IT parks, SEZs, dairy and agro-based industries, an education city and five new expressways in the state.

“People of Bihar want a crime-free and scam-free regime... they will teach a lesson to NDA in the polls,” Yadav said.

People want a government that would provide ‘padhai’ (better education), ‘dawai’ (better health facilities), ‘ka-

mai’ (employment) and ‘sichai’ (better irrigation facilities), he said.

“The NDA has no vision for Bihar... they have not released the manifesto for the polls so far... BJP leaders and corrupt officials have made Chief Minister Nitish Kumar a puppet... The BJP is using Nitish Kumar to further its interest... Union Home Minister Amit Shah has already made it clear that Nitish will not be the CM face,” he alleged.

“The Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act has completely failed. If the INDIA bloc is voted to power, we will remove the ban on toddy (tari),” Yadav said.

“The INDIA bloc manifesto is the roadmap for the development of Bihar. It is a resolution to make the state number one,” he added.

A banner was put at the manifesto release venue featuring the photographs of all prominent INDIA bloc leaders.

A press conference of the INDIA bloc leaders held in Patna on October 23 triggered a controversy as the banner featured only the photograph of Tejashwi Yadav and no other leader of the alliance.

All prominent leaders of the INDIA bloc were present at the release of the manifesto. While senior Congress leader Pawan Khera represented his party, CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, VIP party chief Mukesh Sahni and other INDIA bloc leaders were also present.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will join the INDIA bloc campaign for the Bihar polls Wednesday, said Khera and Yadav.

Suspected spy held, had travelled to Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Delhi Police has arrested a 59-year-old man for his alleged involvement in espionage activities, including links with a foreign-based nuclear scientist, and a fake passport racket operating from Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, an official said Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Mohammad Adil Hussaini and also known by the names Syed Adil Hussain, Nasimuddin and Syed Adil Hussaini, was apprehended from Seemapuri in Delhi two days ago, he said.

A police source said that the accused was in touch with a nuclear scientist based abroad and had travelled to several countries, including Pakistan.

He obtained three identity cards of a sensitive installation using forged documents, the source claimed.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said that Adil is a resident of Tata Nagar, Jamshedpur.

“Adil and his brother Akhtar Hussaini are suspected of supplying sensitive information to foreign countries and procuring multiple Indian passports using forged documents,” the officer said.

The entire network was allegedly being operated from Jamshedpur, where fake identity cards and passports were being prepared with the help of counterfeit documents.

During the search, police seized one original and two forged passports from Adil’s possession.

Cabinet okays ToR of 8th pay panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Cabinet Tuesday approved the terms of reference of the 8th Pay Commission, which will benefit 50 lakh central government employees and 69 lakh pensioners and will have implications on the emoluments of the staff of state governments.

The recommendations of the Commission, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desi, are likely to be effective from January 1, 2026.

The commission will submit its report in 18 months and interim reports as and when they are finalised. The announcement comes ahead of Bihar state elections, which will be held between November 6 and 11.

According to an official statement, the commission will look into “the prevailing emolument structure, benefits and working conditions available to employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings and private sector” while finalising its recommendations.

While making its recommendations, the commission will also consider the economic conditions in the country and the need for fiscal prudence, and the need to ensure that adequate resources are available

The commission will submit its report in 18 months and interim reports as and when they are finalised

The announcement comes ahead of Bihar state elections, which will be held between November 6 and 11



for developmental expenditure and welfare measures.

It would also take into account the unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes; and the likely impact of the recommendations on the finances of the state Governments which usually adopt the recommendations with some modifications, the statement said.

“The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today approved the Terms of Reference of 8th Central Pay Commission,” Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

The commission will examine and recommend changes in salaries and other benefits of central government employees.

The commission’s recommendations will cover nearly 50 lakh central government employees, including defence services personnel, and 69 lakh pensioners.

The ToR of the commission was approved by the Cabinet about nine months after it gave an in-principle nod to setting up the 8th Pay Commission.

The ToR has been finalised after consultation with various ministries, state governments and staff side of joint consultative machinery.

The Pay Commission, under Desai, will have one part-time member – IIM (Bangalore) Professor Pulak Ghosh, while Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain will be the Member Secretary. Desai is the chairman of the

SNIPPETS

DGCA may curb power bank use onboard flights

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA may put in place certain restrictions on the use of power banks onboard flights after studying global practices, according to a senior official. In the wake of the incident of a passenger’s power bank catching fire onboard an IndiGo flight October 19, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been looking into the use of power banks onboard flights. The official told PTI that some restrictions might be brought in but there are no plans to ban the use of power banks. The global practices are being looked and after that, a decision will be taken, the official said. On October 19, a passenger’s power bank caught fire on board a Dimapur-bound IndiGo plane while taxiing at the Delhi airport, and the fire was extinguished by the cabin crew.

Shuttle bus catches fire at Delhi airport; no casualty

NEW DELHI: A shuttle bus parked at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi caught fire Tuesday afternoon, officials said. No casualty has been reported as the Air India ground handling company’s bus was vacant at the time of the incident, they said. Visuals of the incident showed that the rear end of the AISATS bus, parked in the vicinity of an Air India aircraft, engulfed in flames. Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI) Vichitra Veer, in a statement, said the bus was not carrying any passengers or luggage at the time of the incident. The fire was extinguished within a couple of minutes. The bus was stationary and fully vacant at the time of the incident, Delhi airport operator DIAL said.

Cough syrup tragedy: Drug company’s medical representative held

CHHINDWARA (MP): Police have arrested a medical representative of Sresan Pharma, manufacturer of ‘contaminated’ cough syrup Coldrif syrup which is suspected to have caused the deaths of 24 children in Madhya Pradesh, an official said here Tuesday. Satish Verma, who worked for the Tamil Nadu-based company, was arrested from Chhindwara on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, said Parasia Sub Divisional Officer of Police Jitendra Kumar Jaat.

Why can’t Bihar have Muslim CM: Owaisi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gopalganj (Bihar), Oct 28: AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi Tuesday kicked off the election campaign of his party for the Bihar assembly elections, questioning why the eastern state cannot have a Muslim CM despite the minority community comprising 17 per cent of the state’s population.

The Hyderabad MP lambasted the ruling NDA as well as the Opposition INDIA bloc for allegedly “giving a raw deal” to the Muslim community. Owaisi, whose party is con-

testing 32 Assembly seats in the poll-bound state, launched his election campaign from Gopalganj, where he addressed a rally at a village 20 km away from the district headquarters.

“Why cannot a Muslim, who represents 17 per cent of the state’s population, become the chief minister? After all, they seem to have no problem with promising the deputy CM’s post to a person who represents only three per cent of the population,” he added. The allusion was to the INDIA bloc, which has named RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as its chief ministe-



rial candidate, promising the deputy CM’s post to Mukesh Sahni, a Nishad leader who heads Vikassheel Insan Party.

Owaisi said, “Parties like Congress, RJD and Samajwadi Party seek votes of Muslims, cashing in on the minority community’s fear of the BJP. These parties have been able to

Society won’t forgive us if we neglect our docs: SC

A bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and R Mahadevan said the government must ensure that insurance companies settle the valid claims, and added that the assumption that private doctors were working for profit making was not correct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The society will not forgive the judiciary if it doesn’t take care of doctors and stand for them, the Supreme Court said Tuesday while reserving its judgement on a plea against non-inclusion of doctors and health workers who lost their lives battling Covid-19 at private clinics, dispensaries and non-recognised hospitals in insurance policies.

A bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and R Mahadevan said the government must ensure that insurance companies settle the valid claims, and added that the assumption that private doctors were working for profit making was not correct.

“Society will not forgive us



if we don’t take care of our doctors and don’t stand for them...”

“You should compel the insurance company to pay if according to you the condition is met that they were on COVID response and they died because of COVID. Merely because they were not in government duty,

the assumption that they were making profits and then they were sitting is not correct,” the bench observed orally.

The top court directed the Centre to provide relevant data and information regarding other similar or parallel schemes available apart from the Prad-

han Mantri Insurance Scheme.

“Give the data to us and some information about other parallel schemes that are available apart from the Pradhan Mantri scheme. We will lay down the principle and on that basis claims can be made to the insurance company. It is for the insurance company to consider and pass orders on the basis of our judgment,” the bench observed.

The top court was hearing a plea by Pradeep Arora and others against a March 9, 2021, order of the Bombay High Court, which held that private hospital staffers were not entitled to receive benefits under the insurance scheme unless their services were requisitioned by the state or the Central government.

A plea was filed in the high court by Kiran Bhaskar Sur-

gade, who lost her husband -- who ran a private clinic in Thane -- to Covid-19 in 2020.

The insurance company rejected her claim under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) on the ground that her husband’s clinic was not recognised as a Covid-19 hospital.

The PMGKP was announced in March 2020, and its coverage has been extended since then.

It was launched to provide a safety net to the health workers to ensure that in case of any adversity due to Covid-19, their families are taken care of.

An insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh is provided to the health workers under the PMKGP scheme, which has become a safety net for the dependents of the Covid warriors who lost their lives to the infection.

of the day

quote

A drug-free state is my goal. Let this be your goal too. The people of Karnataka will be grateful to the police department for this. Our youth and students should not fall victim to narcotics. The police must take a firm and determined stand against drugs

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

The state government has taken corrective steps to bring qualitative improvements in the education sector

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL PRADESH CM

The process for the 2024 crop compensation has also not been completed

ASHOK GEHLOT | SENIOR CONG LEADER

X POST OF THE DAY

The migration of Malayali students abroad is indeed a CRISIS for Kerala's future economy. NOTE: Malayali Comrades should learn from China. Around 20% of students returned to Kerala in 2023, while in China, the return rate rose from around 50% in 2010 to around 80% in 2019.

@VarierAravind

SHORT TAKES

Delhi's air quality improves marginally

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality improved slightly to the 'poor' category Tuesday, with the Air Quality Index dropping to 294 at 4 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In the morning, the Air Quality Index (AQI) stood in the 'very poor' category with a reading of 305. A thin veil of haze hung over the city.

Four minors among five drown in pond

Hazaribagh (Jharkhand): Five people including four minor girls drowned while bathing in a pond in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh Tuesday, the police said. The incident took place at Sahnur panchayat in Kattkamsandi block. All the bodies have been brought to Sheikh Bikhari Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Rajinikanth, Dhanush receive bomb threats

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu police Tuesday said emails claiming that bombs have been planted at the residences of actors Rajinikanth and Dhanush here were received by the state Director General of Police According to Teynampet police, under whose jurisdiction the actors' homes fall, the first bomb-threat mail to Rajinikanth's house was received at about 8.30 am October 27. Dhanush also received a bomb-threat mail on the same day.

Air India Express looks to induct 20-24 aircraft

Mumbai: Air India's low-cost arm, Air India Express, is expecting to induct 20 to 24 aircraft in the fleet in the next calendar year, a top airline executive said Tuesday. Air India and Air India Express together currently have a fleet of 282 aircraft, of which as many as 110 planes, comprising Airbus 320/321, Boeing 737 and 737 MAX, are with the low-cost arm.



These are models of sustainability that also offer economic and social benefits. Our goal is to make waste management a part of our daily administrative and civic behavior

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

HAL TO PRODUCE RUSSIAN SJ-100 CIVIL AIRCRAFT

India and Russia have firmed up a joint collaboration to produce a twin-engine narrow-body passenger aircraft for short-haul flights in line with growing strategic ties between the two countries



WB man dies by suicide over NRC fears: Mamata

Condemning what she described as the BJP's "politics of fear and division," the Bengal CM alleged that the party's campaign around the NRC has created panic among people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 28: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee charged the BJP with spreading fear over the National Register of Citizens Tuesday, hours after the alleged suicide of a man near Kolkata, who reportedly left behind a note blaming the NRC for his death.

Barrackpore Police Commissioner Muralidhar Sharma said after visiting the spot that 57-year-old Pradeep Kar was found hanging at his residence in Panihati in North 24 Parganas Tuesday morning.

A suicide note was found in which NRC was mentioned, Sharma said, adding that preliminary investigations revealed the person was in depression after announcement of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls Monday.

The BJP asserted that the cause of the suicide must be determined only by the investigating agencies, and not through political rhetoric

Condemning what she described as the BJP's "politics of fear and division," the CM alleged that the party's campaign around the National Register of Citizens (NRC) has created panic among people.

"It shakes me to the very core to imagine how, for years, BJP has tormented innocent citizens with the threat of NRC, spreading lies, stoking panic and weaponising insecurity for votes," Banerjee said in the post.

She charged the BJP with turning "constitutional democ-



racy into a theatre of fear", and said the "tragic death" was the result of "venomous propaganda".

"They have turned Constitutional democracy into a theatre of fear, where people are made to doubt their own right to exist. This tragic death is the direct consequence of BJP's venomous propaganda. Those who sit in Delhi and preach nationalism have pushed ordinary Indians to such despair that they are dying in their own land, fearing they will be declared 'FOREIGNERS'," she added.

Demanding that the Centre put an end to what she called a "heartless game," Banerjee reiterated that Bengal would "never allow NRC" and would protect the dignity and rights of its people.

"Our soil belongs to Maa, Mati, Manush (mother, land and people), not to those who thrive on hate. Let the Delhi Zamindars hear this loud and clear: Bengal will resist, Bengal will protect and Bengal will prevail," she added.

Later, talking to the media, Barrackpore Police Commissioner Murlidhar Sharma said Kar's body was found hanging inside his room at his residence in Panihati.

"After a preliminary investigation and speaking to his family members and relatives, we found that Mr Kar had been very depressed due to the NRC. He had been under severe stress for quite some time, especially since yesterday's an-

nouncement regarding the rollout of the SIR of electoral rolls," Sharma told reporters.

The IPS officer said the deceased had dinner Monday night and then went to his room to sleep.

"His family members could not understand what was going on in his mind. On Tuesday morning, he was found hanging from the ceiling of his room," Sharma said.

The deceased's elder sister claimed that her brother had been frightened about the implementation of the NRC.

"My brother was very scared about the implementation of the NRC. He used to tell us that he would be taken away in the name of NRC," the sister said.

Responding sharply to the chief minister's comments, BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya accused Banerjee of "resorting to lies and theatrics" over the incident.

"The tragic death of Pradeep Kar must be investigated thoroughly - the cause of suicide can and must be determined only by the law and investigating agencies, not through political rhetoric," Malviya said in an X post.

"Let's also get the facts right - there is NO NRC anywhere in the country. Mamata Banerjee is lying and deliberately spreading panic to stoke fear among people for political gain," he added.

Malviya alleged that it was the TMC and not the BJP, that "weaponised fear" by exploiting the anxieties of poor Hindu refugees who fled religious persecution and sought shelter in India.

"The same fear was used to loot, assault, and suppress voices, as seen in Sandeshkhali and during the riots in Malda and Murshidabad," the BJP leader wrote.

Malviya accused Banerjee of using the incident as a tool to spread anxiety among voters ahead of the now-announced SIR exercise.

DOCTOR SUICIDE CASE

Autopsy report says death due to hanging

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beed/Mumbai, Oct 28: Controversy surrounds the death of a 28-year-old doctor in Maharashtra's Satara district, whose post-mortem mentioned the cause of death as "asphyxia due to hanging", but the victim's family claimed someone accessed her phone using her fingerprint to erase crucial data after her death.

The police in Satara's Phaltan town, where the doctor was found hanging in a hotel room on the night of October 23, received the post-mortem report Tuesday, a senior police official said, adding the cause of death was cited as "asphyxia due to hanging," indicating the doctor died by suicide.

The post-mortem, conducted at a state-run hospital, included preserving the viscera for chemical analysis at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), a mandatory step in unnatural death cases.



Ravindra Yadav told PTI.

According to police, Chauhan had a fascination for crime web series and used to binge-watch those. She used her forensic sci-



Fishermen secure their boats as a precautionary measure amid the impact of Cyclone Montha, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

PTI PHOTO

TWIST IN ACID ATTACK CASE

'Father poured chemical on girl to implicate others'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: In a surprising turn of events in the Delhi acid attack case, police Tuesday claimed it was the father who had poured a chemical on the hand and the bag of his 20-year-old daughter to implicate those who filed rape and acid attack complaints against him a few years earlier.

According to a Delhi Police officer, the father, along with his brother and son, had devised the plan to frame others. He then carried out the act himself to mislead investigators, the officer said.

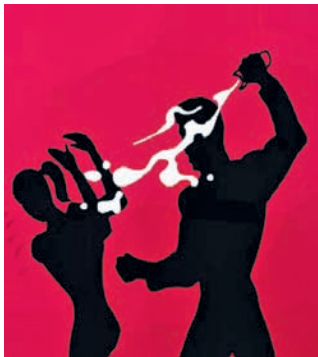
"The father poured a chemical on his daughter's hand and bag near Ashok Vihar and escaped on a motorcycle. He orchestrated the entire plan with the help of his brother and son," said the officer.

The officer further said that the woman, a second-year B.Com student enrolled with DU's Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board, and her family are being interrogated. "Further investigation is still underway, and all aspects of the conspiracy are being thoroughly verified," the officer added.

The student had claimed that three men hurled acid on her near Ashok Vihar while she was on her way to an extra class Sunday. She identified the three accused as Jitender and his associates. The two associates later turned out to be her relatives.

However, police neither found any trace of acid at the spot nor any sighting of attackers in CCTV footage. The Forensic Science Laboratory team also failed to find any discarded acid bottles in the area, and the probe revealed that the student had poured toilet cleaner on her own hand to frame the accused, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisham Singh said they thoroughly investigated the acid attack incident reported in the Ashok Vihar area, and it was found that the student's father, Akil Khan, and uncle, Vakeel Khan, had conspired to stage



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

the attack. "They attempted to falsely implicate Jitender and the two others in the case," he said.

"The student's brother, Yunus, dropped her at Ashok Vihar on a scooter. She then took an e-rickshaw and deboarded 300 meters from the main gate of her college. This raised suspicion among the investigators," said the DCP, adding that the brother did not join the investigation. Yunus was later detained by police and is being questioned in the matter.

Akil Khan was arrested Monday over the rape complaint filed against him by the wife of Jitender.

Akil is also an accused in a 2018 acid attack case in Mangolpuri that was filed by the mother of the two brothers who were named as accused by the student. In a statement, police said that Jitender's wife had earlier accused Akil Khan of rape. The matter was reported at the Bhalswa Dairy Police Station, but no written complaint was filed.

The woman alleged that between 2021 and 2024, she worked in Akil Khan's socks factory, where Khan sexually assaulted her and blackmailed her with her private photos and videos.

The two brothers, who were named as accused by the student in the false acid attack, and their mother were in Agra, and they joined the investigation last evening, police said.

The officer said strict action will be taken against those guilty in the entire matter, and charges will be framed in the case accordingly.

Patanjali varsity hosts seminar on soil health, sustainable herb farming

AGENCIES

Haridwar, Oct 28: A two-day seminar on 'Soil Health Testing and Management for Sustainable Cultivation of Quality Herbs' took place in Patanjali University, Haridwar October 27 to 28, 2025. It was a joint effort of the Ministry of AYUSH, Patanjali Organic Research Institute, and NABARD in collaboration with Bharuwa Agriscience.

This program was the first installment of the "Swasth Dhara" campaign. It is a global awareness initiative that sheds light on the importance of soil health and food security facilitated by innovative tools like the automatic soil testing machine called "Dhartika Doctor" (DKD).



The seminar commenced with the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony followed by the chanting of Dhanvantari Vandana and a devotional song rendered by Dr Archana Tiwari and her team. Acharya Balkrishna, Chancellor of Patanjali University, welcomed the guests and the dignitaries with flowers and mementos.

Shaji KV, Chairman of NABARD and the chief guest, in his address recognised NABARD's role in supporting sustainable agriculture and rural development projects.

He referred to the significance of providing a financial package to farmers, the rural-based industries, and artisans while pointing to the benefit of adopting eco-friendly farming as a source of growth in the years to come.

Moreover, Acharya Balkrishna made a point that soil health and human health deeply connection. According to him, the soil has to be restored to the natural, fertile state for crops to be healthy and for communities to be healthy as well.

The seminar ended with a poster presentation session and the felicitation of winners by certificates and gifts followed by the expression of gratitude to all those who participated, spoke and supported the seminar.

Forensic student's perfect murder foiled by CCTV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: It was supposed to be a "perfect murder" and then it was not. The meticulous planning by a forensic science student, who binge-watched crime web series, to pass off the murder of her 32-year-old live-in partner as an accident was left threadbare by CCTV cameras and experts in her field of study.

Amrita Chauhan (21), her former boyfriend Sumit Kashyap (27) and their associate Sandeep Kumar (29) strangled Ramkesh Meena, a UPSC

aspirant, to death earlier this month, and poured oil, ghee and wine on his body to ensure it burned completely. Meena had allegedly refused to delete her private photos and videos from his hard disk.

She then used her forensic science knowledge to stage the incident as an accidental fire, a senior police official said.

"The case was one of the perfectly planned murders, but it was solved even more perfectly by the Delhi Police through relentless investigation and scientific analysis," Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order)

The CCTV footage changed the direction of the probe

It, combined with technical surveillance and call data records, proved that Amrita was nearby when the fire broke out

Teams tracked her movement and arrested her from Moradabad October 18

ence knowledge and the ideas he gained from the shows to plan the murder of Meena, they said. Yadav said that at the onset, it appeared to be an accidental

fire. "But no matter how perfect a plan is, criminals always leave some clue. Our team worked more perfectly and cracked the case," he said.

Police found a burnt body and an exploded gas cylinder in north Delhi's Gandhi Vihar flat. There were no clear signs of violence, and the scene appeared consistent with a cylinder blast.

"Amrita, being a forensic student, had used her knowledge to erase evidence. They had poured oil, ghee, and wine on the body to ensure it burned completely and left the cylinder valve open before igniting it,"

said the Special CP.

But a closer look by forensic experts revealed inconsistencies in the burn pattern, and that prompted a deeper investigation.

"We scanned several CCTV cameras around the area and found two masked men entering the building on the night of October 5, followed by Amrita and another man later. Moments after they left, the fire erupted," Yadav said.

During interrogation, she broke down and confessed to killing Meena along with her associate, police said.

of the day quote

Anything I can do to help Japan, we will be there. We are an ally at the strongest level



DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

What is the mandate of security forces inside of Gaza? And we hope that it is peacekeeping, because if it's peace enforcing, nobody will want to touch that



KING ABDULLAH II | RULER OF JORDAN

Educators are called to a responsibility that goes beyond their work contract: their witness is worth as much as their lessons



POPE LEO XIV | LEADER OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

SHORT TAKES

11 killed in Kenya plane crash

Nairobi: A plane crash killed 11 people, mostly foreign tourists, in Kenya's coastal region of Kwale early Tuesday while en route to Maasai Mara National Reserve. The airline, Mombasa Air Safari, said in a statement eight Hungarian and two German passengers were onboard, and that the Kenyan pilot was also killed. The plane crashed in a hilly and forested area about 40 kilometres from Diani airstrip, authorities said. The airline did not confirm what time the aircraft departed Diani airstrip, saying the pilot failed to communicate upon departure and the airport control tower tried to reach him for 30 minutes before the plane was located. Investigating agencies were looking into the cause of the crash that happened at 05:30 am local time, Kwale County Commissioner Stephen Orinde told The Associated Press. There was heavy rain in coastal Kenya at the time. The aircraft burst into flames, leaving a charred wreckage at the scene, officials said. Witnesses told the AP that they heard a loud bang, and upon arriving at the scene, they found unrecognisable human remains. The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority had earlier said that 12 people were onboard the Cessna Caravan-type aircraft.

South Africa exits FATF 'grey list'

Johannesburg: South Africa has been delisted from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 'grey list' nearly three years after being added to it. The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog announced the decision in Paris last week after the conclusion of its three-day plenary meeting. Countries on FATF's 'grey list' are under increased monitoring and have to address strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. "Over the past 32 months, South Africa has engaged with a team of reviewers assigned by the FATF to assess progress against the Action Plan," South Africa's National Treasury said in a statement. "This culminated in an on-site visit at the end of July 2025, when the assessors came to the country to confirm the sustainability of the reforms that had been reported to them," it said. The statement added that FATF was assured of the government's commitment to sustainably improve the country's Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) system. "South Africa's progress in addressing the AML/CFT deficiencies and exiting the FATF grey list represents a major policy and institutional achievement for the people of South Africa, particularly following the weakening of key law enforcement and other institutions during the state capture era," the statement added.

'Ukraine's strikes cut Russia's oil refining capacity by 20%'



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Oct 28: Ukraine's long-range strikes on refineries inside Russia have reduced Moscow's oil refining capacity by 20 per cent, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, citing intelligence from Western governments.

Over 90 per cent of those deep strikes on Russian soil were carried out by Ukrainian-made long-range weapons, according to Zelenskyy. He said Ukraine needs additional foreign financial help to produce more of them. "We just need to work on this every day," he said in comments to the media on Monday that were embargoed until Tuesday.

Oil exports play a key role in funding Russia's invasion of its neighbour Ukraine. While Ukrainian weapons take aim at the refineries, new sanctions from the US and the European Union are aiming to cut into Moscow's oil and gas export earnings. Despite renewed US-led peace efforts, the war shows no sign of ending after nearly

Sanctions-hit Lukoil to sell global assets

Frankfurt: Russian oil company Lukoil says it is selling its international assets in response to sanctions imposed by US President Donald Trump that aim to push Russia to agree to a ceasefire in its war against Ukraine. The company said in a statement that it was already talking with potential purchasers. The transactions would be carried out under a sanctions grace period that allows transactions with Lukoil until Nov. 21, and the company said it would seek an extension if necessary to complete the transactions. Lukoil has stakes in oil and gas projects in 11 countries. It has refineries in Bulgaria and Romania and a 45% stake in a refinery in the Netherlands, as well as gas stations in a number of countries. Trump on Oct. 22 announced new sanctions against Lukoil and Rosneft, Russia's two biggest oil companies accounting for roughly half of the country's oil exports. Oil and gas revenues are a major source of government revenues in Russia. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called on Russia to immediately agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine.

four years. With the Kremlin showing no willingness to compromise, US President Donald Trump raised the stakes by announcing sanctions last week against Russian oil giants Rosneft and Lukoil.

Those sanctions are due to come into force November 21, and Zelenskyy says Trump "probably will use this as a tool of pressure or dialogue with the Russians."

China and India are the biggest customers for Russian oil. Zelenskyy said India "has definitely given all the signals that it will reduce imports of energy resources" from Russia.



I'll let the temperature go up 0.1 degree to get rid of malaria. People don't understand the suffering that exists today

BILL GATES | MICROSOFT CO-FOUNDER



People paddle a boat on a flooded street in Hue, Vietnam, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Shinzo Abe's shooter pleads guilty

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tokyo, Oct 28: A man charged for assassinating former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2022 pleaded guilty Tuesday, in his first court hearing since the fatal shooting that shocked the nation and drew attention to Unification Church and its connection to political leaders, local media reported.

During the hearing at the Nara District Court, Tetsuya Yamagami said, "It is true. There is no doubt that I did it." Yamagami (45) is accused of killing Abe with a handmade firearm during an election stump speech in Japan's Nara on July 8, 2022.

The defence has insisted that the personality and behaviour of the accused were shaped by an upbringing marked by religious abuse. The defence counsel has insisted that Yamagami's mother, a follower of the Unification Church, donated

100 million yen to the group. She is among 12 witnesses who will testify before the court's ruling on January 21.

During the hearing, prosecutors said Yamagami had resentment against the Unification Church after his mother became the group's follower and shot Abe, thinking that shooting him will result in group facing "attention and criticism."

Prosecutors have argued that the crime's repercussions were "unprecedented" in postwar Japan and insisted that the difficult upbringing of the defendant should not be used to justify a "substantially reduced sentence." Kyodo News reported citing investigative sources that Abe was targeted since his grandfather Nobusuke Kishi, who has also served as Japan's PM, helped introduce the group, which was established in 1954 by a staunch anti-communist

in South Korea to Japan. Tetsuya Yamagami has also been indicted for damaging building by conducting test-firing and breaching laws that regulate explosives, firearms and the manufacturing of weapons.

The Unification Church has come under intense attention due to its ties with members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which was led by Abe previously. The church, famous for its predatory fundraising practices, faces dissolution after court's order to disband, which has been contested by the group.

Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving leader, died at the age of 67 after being shot while delivering a stump speech in Nara in 2022. Abe was born into a prominent political family and served as a secretary for his father, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1993.

US strikes on 'drug-running' boats kill 14

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 28: Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced that the US military carried out three strikes Monday in the waters of the Eastern Pacific against boats suspected of carrying drugs, killing 14 and leaving one survivor.

The announcement made on social media Tuesday, marks a continued escalation in the pace of the strikes, which began in early September spaced weeks apart. This was the first time multiple strikes were announced in a single day.

Hegseth said Mexican search and rescue authorities "assumed responsibility for coordinating the rescue" of the sole survivor but didn't say if that person would stay in their custody or be handed over to the US.

In a strike earlier in October which had two survivors, the US military rescued the pair and later repatriated them to Colombia and Ecuador.

JAMAICA HIT BY 'STORM OF THE CENTURY'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kingston, Oct 28: Hurricane Melissa intensified Tuesday before making landfall in Jamaica, where officials and residents braced for catastrophic winds, flash flooding and landslides from the Category 5 storm, one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes in history.

The streets in the capital, Kingston, remained largely empty as Melissa approached with 185 mph (295 kph) winds, save for the lone stray dog crossing puddles and a handful of people walking briskly under tree branches waving in a stiff wind.

Desmond McKenzie, deputy chairman of Jamaica's Disaster Risk Management Council, urged people to seek shelter and stay indoors as the storm crosses the island.

"Jamaica, this is not the time to be brave," he said.

The Jamaican government said it had done all it could to prepare as it warned of devastating damage from the strongest hurricane to hit the island since recordkeeping began 174 years ago.

"There is no infrastructure



in the region that can withstand a Category 5," Prime Minister Andrew Holness said. "The question now is the speed of recovery. That's the challenge."

Massive wind damage is expected in Melissa's core and Jamaica's highest mountains could see gusts of up to 200 mph (322 kph), said Michael Brennan, director of the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

"It's going to be a very dan-

gerous scenario," he said, warning that there would be "total building failures."

Melissa is the fifth most intense Atlantic basin hurricane on record by pressure and the strongest to make landfall since Hurricane Dorian in 2019, according to hurricane specialist and storm surge expert Michael Lowry.

It is "a worst-case scenario unfolding for Jamaica," he said. Landslides, fallen trees



Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Volkswagen and Audi.

Except for American-produced Japanese cars such as Honda, Mazda and Nissan, the top-selling American brand is Jeep, according to the Japan Automobile Importers Association.

ciation.

Many American cars have their steering on the left side, the opposite of the standard right-side steering in Japan, where expressway tolls are on the right side, for instance. Lower mileage and lack of

maintenance and service networks also help explain why American brands except for Jeep have struggled in Japan.

"Why don't American cars sell well in Japan? Because they lack understanding for road conditions and housing situations, as well as energy conservation," former Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba told parliament in April.

When Trump heard of the Ford truck idea as he flew to Asia on Air Force One, he reacted enthusiastically.

"She has good taste," Trump told reporters of Takaichi. "That's a hot truck."

The underlying context is Takaichi's need to figure out how to navigate the complex trade relationship that Trump shook up earlier this year with tariffs.

Trump wants allies to buy

more American goods and also make financial commitments to build factories and energy infrastructure in the United States.

Japan's previous administration agreed in September to invest USD billion in the US, which led Trump to trim a threatened 25 per cent tariff on Japanese goods to 15 per cent. But Japan wants the investments to favour Japanese vendors and contractors.

In Japan, sport utility vehicles and are becoming popular among people with families and for outdoor activities such as camping, but buyers often go for more stylish, smaller models.

Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler withdrew from the Japanese market because of slumping sales, Ford in 2016 and Chrysler in 2017.

of the day

quote

We believe that the correction in gold will persist, with a potential downside of 5-10 per cent, likely as big players take profit after the price increased by more than 50 per cent this year

SAUMIL GANDHI | SENIOR ANALYST, COMMODITIES, HOFCS SECURITIES

If sanctions were so impregnable, international oil prices would have jumped at least \$5-10 per barrel on news of such large volumes going out of the market

ANUJ JAIN | IOC DIRECTOR (FINANCE)

India's oil refining capacity currently stands at about 258 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) and is on track to reach around 310 MMTPA by 2030

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | PETROLEUM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

NIIT profit falls

New Delhi: NIIT Ltd Tuesday posted 88.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 1.37 crore for September quarter FY26, although revenues rose by 15.6 per cent. The firm had reported a profit (attributable to owners of the parent company) of Rs 11.8 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in Q2 FY26 rose 15.6 per cent to Rs 104.94 crore from Rs 90.7 crore a year ago. Sequentially, the profit fell 68.6 per cent while revenues increased 24.7 per cent.

Adani Green Q2 grows

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) Tuesday posted a 28 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 644 crore in the September quarter, driven by the renewable power business. The company had clocked a net profit of Rs 515 crore in the July-September period of the preceding 2024-25 financial year, the Adani Group entity said in an exchange filing. The company's revenue from power supply rose to Rs 2,776 crore from Rs 2,308 crore in the second quarter a year ago. Total income dropped to Rs 3,249 crore in the September quarter from Rs 3,396 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses stood at Rs 2,874 crore as against Rs 2,857 crore in Q2 FY25.

Airtel Africa profit zooms

New Delhi: Telecom operator Airtel Africa Tuesday reported a multifold growth in net profit to \$177 million for the quarter ended September, as the firm prepares for its public listing next year. It had posted a net profit (attributable to owners of the company) of \$24 million in the year-ago period. Revenue increased to \$1,567 million in Q2 FY26 from \$1,214 million in Q2 FY25.

TVS Motor net rises

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Tuesday reported a 42 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 832.76 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, riding on robust vehicle sales. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 588.13 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal, TVS Motor Company said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the second quarter stood at Rs 14,051.22 crore as against Rs 11,197.19 crore in the year-ago period, it added.



“Infra should be comfortable for people. We built 670 road and amenities. It is to provide facilities to commuters. There is a defect liability of 10 years when a contractor signs a project. In case of any issue, the officer concerned must also ensure that the project is in good condition

NITIN GAWKARI | UNION MINISTER

14TH ROUND

Underground Coal Gasification for auction

This innovative step is expected to reduce dependence on imported natural gas and crude oil while unlocking new avenues for investment, technological advancement, and employment generation across related sectors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The government will for the first time bring in underground coal gasification specific provisions within the auction framework in the upcoming 14th round of sale of mines as it targets to gasify 100 million tonne of coal by 2030 to reduce the dependence on fossil fuel.

Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) will harness the country's deep-seated coal reserves resources that are otherwise unmineable through conventional methods.

The 14th round of commercial coal mine auctions will be launched Wednesday.

This innovative step is expected to reduce dependence on imported natural gas and crude oil while unlocking new avenues for investment, technological advancement, and

employment generation across related sectors.

Coal and mines minister G Kishan Reddy will be the chief guest of the launch event.

During the auction a fresh set of fully explored and partially explored coal blocks will be put on offer, inviting participation from experienced miners, new entrants, and technology-driven enterprises alike.

The commercial coal mine auction launched in 2020 has played a key role in ramping up the domestic production of fossil fuel and ensuring a reliable supply to meet the nation's growing energy needs.

The upcoming auction aims to promote ease of doing business, attract diverse investments, and encourage wider industry participation.

The commercial auction framework has transformed



the coal sector by introducing transparency, fostering competition, and increasing coal availability for domestic industries thereby reducing import dependence and supporting the vision of self reliance.

The ministry will also launch two digital platforms i.e the CLAMP and Koyla Shakti portals during the event.

The Coal Land Acquisition, Management and Payment (CLAMP) Portal is a unified digital platform developed to streamline and digitise processes related to land acquisition, compensation, and rehabilitation & resettlement (R&R) in the coal sector.

The Koyla Shakti Dashboard is a digital platform designed to revolutionise the coal sector through enhanced transparency, efficiency, and real-time coordination.

MERC, ZOHO TO LAUNCH DMS

Mercedes-Benz India and Zoho have partnered to launch a decentralised dealer management system (DMS) to enhance customer experience and digitise the luxury automobile brand's nationwide dealership network. The system 'SKYLine', will digitise the complete service lifecycle from booking and digital check-in to skill-based technician assignment, and final delivery through real-time data integration, streamlined workflows, and unified backend operations



IIP remains steady at 4% in September

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: India's industrial production (IIP) growth remained steady at 4 per cent in September this year due to the good performance of the manufacturing sector, according to official data released Tuesday.

The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had expanded by 3.2 per cent in September 2024. National Statistics Office (NSO) revised the industrial production growth to 4.1 per cent for August 2025 from the provisional estimate of 4 per cent released last month.

The latest NSO data showed that the manufacturing sector's output expanded by 4.8 per cent in September 2025 against 4 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production contracted by 0.4 per cent against a growth of 0.2 per cent recorded a year ago. Power production rose by 3.1 per cent in September 2025 against 0.5 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

During the April-September period (H1) of FY26, the country's industrial production grew by 3 per cent compared to 4.1 per cent in the first half of 2024-25. Within the manufacturing sector, 13 of 23 industry groups recorded positive growth in September 2025 compared with September 2024. As per the use-based classification, capital goods segment grew 4.7 per cent in September 2025, up from 3.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

Consumer durables (or white goods production) growth accelerated to 10.2 per cent during the reporting month from 6.3 per cent growth in September 2024. In September 2025, consumer non-durables output declined by 2.9 per cent, as against a growth of 2.2 per cent a year ago.

BIZ BUZZ

PNB organises mega credit outreach program

Cuttack : Punjab National Bank (PNB) organised a MEGA Credit Outreach Program at Rashmi Palace, Cuttack. This initiative promoted the bank's innovative loan products under MSME, Retail & Agriculture segments, designed to empower small and medium enterprises, retail customers, and farmers with seamless financial solutions. Assistant General Manager from Zonal Office Bhubaneswar along with the Circle Head and branch heads from the Cuttack Urban Area attended the event. During the program, attendees got the opportunity to learn about PNB's tailored offerings for MSMEs, salaried individuals, and professionals including quick loan approvals and specialized services designed to meet the unique needs of small businesses. "We are dedicated to empowering MSMEs & Agri Entrepreneurs and helping them realize their full potential," said Sujit Negi, Circle Head.



Canara Bank opens new branch

Bhubaneswar: Canara Bank opened its 283rd Branch at Janla, Khordha Monday. The Branch was inaugurated by Suman Chakraborty, GM (D), Circle Office, Bhubaneswar, Sarat Chandra Bhoi, DGM & RO Head, Bhubaneswar and Chief Guest Shradhanjali Behera, Sarpanch Janla and Sarat Kumar Sahoo, & Councilor Janla. The ceremony was attended by many prospective customers of the area that included Businessman, salaried people, women from SHG groups, etc.

RBI sets price for premature redemption of gold bonds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 28: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a price of Rs 12,198 per unit for the premature redemption of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) 2020-21 Series-I date October 28, 2020. Investors will receive the option to redeem the SGB tranche prematurely from Tuesday, according to an RBI statement.

The RBI further stated that the redemption price has been calculated using the simple average closing price of gold at 999 purity as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Based on this estimate, the Reserve Bank has announced that the premature redemption price for the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) 2020-21 Series-I, due October 28, 2025, will be Rs 12,198 per unit. This price is based on the simple average of the closing prices of gold over three business days of October 23, 24, and 27.

When this series was first



issued, investors who applied online paid Rs 4,589 per gram, while those who bought offline paid Rs 4,639 per gram.

At the current redemption value, the price has jumped nearly three-fold over the five-year period. In addition, investors holding these bonds have earned an annual interest over the five-year period.

At the current redemption value, the bonds will deliver an absolute return of nearly 166 per cent for online investors.

The RBI has also clarified that the premature redemption of the SGB series will be permitted after the fifth year from the date of issue of such gold bonds on the date on which interest is payable.

Services sector employs 30% Indians, lower than global average

According to the report, India faces a growing mismatch: education levels are rising faster than the quality of service jobs, underscoring the urgency of aligning skilling with sector needs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: India's services sector employs nearly 30 per cent of the country's workforce, which is still lower than the global average of 50 per cent, reflecting a slower structural transition, NITI Aayog said in a report Tuesday.

The Aayog, in a report titled 'India's Services Sector: Insights from Employment Trends and State-Level Dynamics', further said that services remain the mainstay of India's employment growth and post-pandemic recovery, but challenges persist.

"Services employment rose to 29.7 per cent in 2023-24 compared to 26.9 per cent in 2011-12 with 40 million jobs creat-

ed in the last six years," the Aayog said.

"However, it still lags the global average of 50 per cent, reflecting a slower structural transition," it said, suggesting the need for structural reforms, fast-tracking social protection, digitising informal worker registration and formalising care services to boost formal employment in the services sector.

The report noted that while services contribute over half of national output, they provide less than a third of jobs, most of which are informal and low-paying.

"This disconnect between growth and employment defines the central challenge for India's services-led development," it said.



It said over 60 per cent of urban workers employed in services compared to less than 20 per cent in rural areas.

Gender divides remain striking: only 10.5 per cent of rural women are engaged in services compared to 60 per cent of their urban counterparts, and their participation is largely confined to low-val-

ue activities, the report said.

According to the report, India faces a growing mismatch: education levels are rising faster than the quality of service jobs, underscoring the urgency of aligning skilling with sector needs.

"Retail trade and transport dominate services jobs in large states, sustaining employment

AI DOMINANCE

Amazon confirms massive job losses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seattle, Oct 28: Amazon will cut about 14,000 corporate jobs as the online retail giant ramps up spending on artificial intelligence while trimming spending.

In June CEO Andy Jassy, who has aggressively sought to cut costs since becoming CEO in 2021, said that he anticipated generative AI would reduce Amazon's corporate workforce in the next few years.

Jassy said at the time that Amazon had more than 1,000 generative AI services and applications in progress or built, but that figure was a "small fraction" of what it plans to build.

Jassy encouraged employees to get on board with the company's AI plans. Earlier that month Amazon announced that it was planning to invest \$10 billion toward building a campus in North Carolina to expand its cloud computing and artificial intelligence infrastructure.

Since 2024 started, Amazon has committed to about \$10 billion apiece to data center projects in Mississippi, Indiana, Ohio and North Carolina as it ramps up its infrastructure to compete with other tech giants to meet growing demand for artificial intelligence products.

Amazon is competing in the AI space with giants like OpenAI, Google and Microsoft. In a conference call with industry analysts in May, Jassy said

the potential for growth in the company's AWS business is massive.

If you believe your mission is to make customers' lives easier and better every day, and you believe that every customer experience will be reinvented with AI, you're going to invest very aggressively in AI, and that's what we're doing. You can see that in the 1,000-plus AI applications we're building across Amazon. You can see that with our next generation of Alexa, named Alexa+, he said.

Tuesday, the online giant said it was reducing bureaucracy.

"The reductions we're sharing today are a continuation of this work to get even stronger by further reducing bureaucracy, removing layers, and shifting resources to ensure we're investing in our biggest bets and what matters most to our customers' current and future needs," Beth Galetti, Senior Vice President of People Experience and Technology at Amazon, said in message to employees Tuesday.

Teams and individuals impacted by the job cuts will be notified Tuesday. Most workers will be given 90 days to look for a new position internally, Galetti said. For those who can't find a new role at the company or who opt not to look for one will be provided transitional support including severance pay, outplacement services and health insurance benefits.

Markets slip amid weak Asian cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 28: Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 150 points in a volatile session Tuesday due to profit-taking in IT, consumer durables and realty shares and weak trends in Asian markets.

In a see-saw trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 150.68 points or 0.18 per cent at 84,628.16. The index opened strong but erased gains in the late morning as investors took profits.

The barometer tanked nearly 560 points to hit a low of 84,219.39 during the day, but buying support at lower levels helped it recover some losses in the final half hour of trade.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 29.85 points or 0.11 per cent to 25,936.20. Among Sensex firms, Trent, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Tata Consultancy Services and Bajaj Finance were the major laggards.

economy skills; and balanced regional development through service hubs in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

In another report titled 'India's Services Sector: Insights from GVA Trends and State-Level Dynamics', also released Tuesday, the Aayog said that the services sector has become the cornerstone of India's economic growth, contributing nearly 55 per cent of national gross value added (GVA) in 2024-25, up from 51 per cent in 2013-14.

At the sectoral level, the report recommended prioritizing digital infrastructure, logistics, innovation, finance and skilling to accelerate diversification and competitiveness.

At the state level, it called for developing tailored service strategies based on local strengths, improving institutional capacity, integrating services with industrial ecosystems, and scaling up urban and regional service clusters.

T20I: Focus on SKY's form

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Canberra, Oct 28: The leader in Suryakumar Yadav will nudge the batter in him to take centrestage and start contributing handsomely with the willow when India take on Australia in the opening T20 International here Wednesday. It promises to be a battle on even keel with both countries having won eight of their last 10 T20I games with a defeat each. While India had one tied game, Australia saw one game washed out.

While the captain's prolonged bad patch remains a cause of worry, the Indian T20 team has been the best of three national outfits, almost operating on autopilot with the new players taking on their roles like fish to water.

Since being appointed captain, Suryakumar's record has been phenomenal in terms of results, with 23 wins in 29 games so far, adhering to the new template of fearless cricket where every batter goes all guns blazing from ball one.

The Australia series marks the beginning of India's real preparation going into the T20 World Cup early next year with 15 games to get into the groove.

"I feel I have been working



really hard. Not that I wasn't working hard before. I have had good few sessions back home, good 2-3 sessions here, so I am in good space," the skipper said at the pre-series press conference at the Manuka Oval.

The skipper again stressed on the team goal.

"Runs, it will come eventually but I'm working hard towards the team goal. It's more important what team wants from you in different situations and I take one game at a time and if it starts then I think it will be a good thing."

For someone like Abhishek Sharma, who became the toast of the nation in Asia Cup, tackling the extra bounce on Australian pitches will be a new challenge and hence skipper's contribution becomes all the more important.

It will not only be a new set of question for someone like Abhishek but also old set of queries for the Indian skipper, whose critics always point out that he hasn't consistently scored against big teams in past few years.

of bowling attack, Jasprit Bumrah's presence and Varun Chakravathy's guile will be the important factors if Indian batters can put up a decent score. The 12 overs from Varun, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel will be very important alongside Bumrah and Arshdeep's opening spells against Travis Head and the dangerous Mitchell Marsh.

Teams:
India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (VC), Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel,

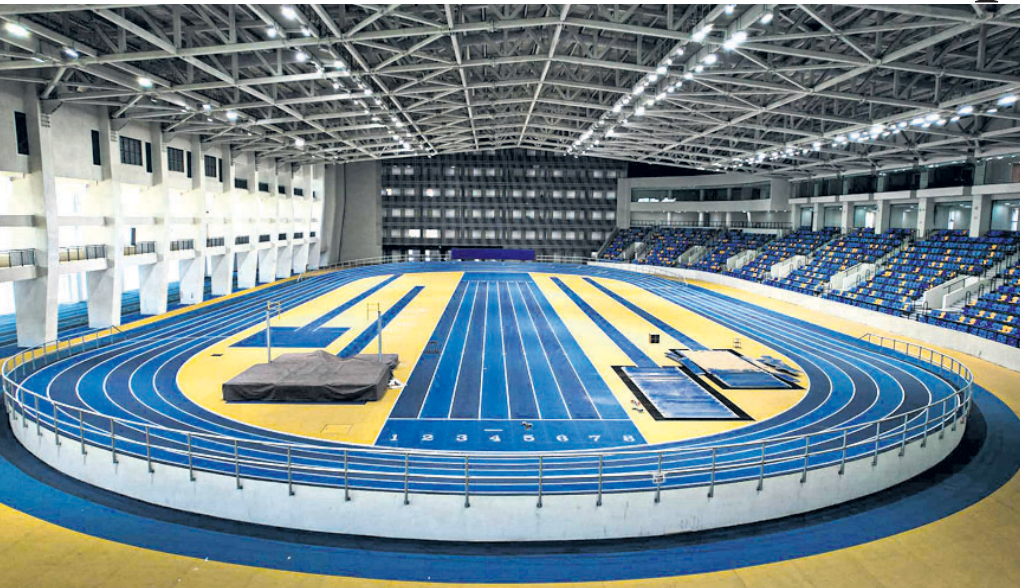
Jitesh Sharma (WK), Varun Chakaravathy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

Australia: Mitchell Marsh (c), Sean Abbott (games 1-3), Xavier Bartlett, Mahli Beardman (games 3-5), Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis (games 4-5), Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood (games 1-2), Glenn Maxwell (games 3-5), Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Josh Philippe, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis.

Iyer out of ICU, remains stable

New Delhi: India's ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer, who suffered a ruptured spleen and rib cage injury during the third ODI against Australia, has been shifted out of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a Sydney hospital and is now in a stable condition, easing concerns over his health. "He has been shifted out of ICU and may take a few more days to be discharged from hospital as a BCCI source privy to the development told PTI on condition of anonymity. Iyer sustained a lower left rib cage injury while attempting a difficult running catch to dismiss Alex Carey off Harshit Rana's bowling. Though he initially walked off the field with assistance from the physio, his condition later deteriorated as his vital parameters dropped, prompting immediate hospitalisation. Subsequent tests revealed internal bleeding caused by a laceration in the spleen, following which he was admitted to the ICU for close monitoring. "Now see, we are not doctors. When we saw from outside, when the catch was taken (by Shreyas), it looked like it was normal," said India T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav on the eve of the first T20I against Australia in Canberra. "But none of us were there, only those who were there can tell what actually happened. So they said after going inside it was felt you will have to pay good attention (to him). Then he was rushed to the specialist, and we were told about what happened." "After that we talked to him, when he was talking normally, we felt that it is a little better now, because doctors and physios told us that it was an unfortunate incident, which happens rarely. But sometimes rare incidents happened to rare talent." It is understood that BCCI's head of medical services, Dinshaw Pardiwala, in his communication to the board, commended the on-field medical staff for their swift and efficient response, which helped avert a potentially critical situation. "God is with his side, he is recovering really well, doctors are supporting him, BCCI is in full support, he will recover soon and then we will take him home with us," Suryakumar said.

Bhubaneswar likely to host Asian Indoor Athletics C'ship



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: India has submitted bids to host the 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships as well as the 2026 Asian Relays, in line with the country's efforts to stage continental and global events in the coming years.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has proposed Bhubaneswar as the host city for the 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships while the venue for the 2026 Asian Relays is yet to be finalised.

If India succeeds in its bids for the events, it would be the first time the country would be hosting the two continental competitions.

"We have submitted the bid for 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships with Bhubaneswar as the host city. There is no other venue in India which can host the event other than the indoor facility at the Kalinga Stadium complex in Bhubaneswar," a top AFI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"For 2026 Asian Relays, we have not yet decided on

We have submitted bid for 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships with Bhubaneswar as host city. There is no other venue in India which can host the event other than the indoor facility at the Kalinga Stadium complex in Bhubaneswar
AFI OFFICIAL

the venue."

As of now, the AFI is considering a north Indian city for the Asian Relays, likely to be held in April, but it is not yet final and can be changed later, it is learnt. The state-of-the-art indoor facility at the Kalinga Stadium complex in Bhubaneswar was inaugurated in 2024. It has a 200m running track, a 100m practice track, designated areas for long jump, triple jump, pole vault, and shot put, warm-up areas for athletes, as well as a gym.

The oval shaped track lies below a spectator gallery which can house 2000 people. The facility also houses 60 twin-sharing rooms and a dining hall

for those undergoing full-time training. The inaugural Asian Relays was held in May 2024 in Bangkok where India won gold in the mixed 4x400m, and a silver each in men's and women's 4x400m.

The Asian Indoor Athletics Championships, a biennial event, was first held in 2004 in Tehran. Iran has hosted the event four times, all in Tehran, the most by any country.

The Iranian capital hosted the last edition also, in 2024, with India winning three gold medals and one silver. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (men's shot put), Jyothi Yarraji (women's 60m hurdles) and Harmilan Bains (women's 1500m) won a gold medal each while Ankita Dhyani (women's 3000m) got a silver.

The 2026 edition of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships will be held in Tianjin in China from February 6 to 8.

India has also formally expressed its interest to host the 2028 World U20 Championships as well as either of the 2029 or 2031 editions of the senior World Athletics Championships.

Yashita bags gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manama (Bahrain), Oct 28: Teenage wrestler Yashita dug deep into her reserves of energy to overcome a gritty Kazakh opponent and clinch the girls 61kg gold on a day when six Indian boxers sailed into the final to assure the country of half-a-dozen medals in the Youth Asian Games here Tuesday.

In an extremely keenly-contested bout, Yashita, 17, defeated Kazakhstan's Zhaidar Muktar on the basis of the final point scored after the two were tied at 5-all.

Earlier, Yashita had defeated Kyrgyzstan's Akylai Chynybaeva 6-0 in the semifinal.

Yashita's top-podium finish took India's tally of medals to 26, including four gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze. The country is placed 11th on the medals tally led by China with a total of 100 medals, including 47 gold.

Diya Chitale, Manush Shah qualify for WTT Finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: In a first for India, Diya Chitale and Manush Shah have qualified for the season ending WTT Finals in the mixed doubles category.

The WTT Finals Hong Kong 2025 will be held from December 10 to 14.

The event marks the culmination of the global WTT Series, featuring only the top-ranked players — the top 16 in men's and women's singles, and the top eight in mixed doubles pairs — competing for a total prize purse of USD 1.3 million.

Diya and Shah's consistent performances through the year — including a mixed doubles silver medal at the WTT Star Contender Brazil 2025 — have earned them the ticket to the Finals.

"It's a huge honour to compete in a Finals event, and an even bigger one to be the first Indians to do so. This moment isn't just ours — it's a sign of how much Indian table tennis has grown, and how bright its future looks. I'm proud to play even a small part in this story, and we'll give everything to make it a memorable one," said Diya.

CHAMPIONS SHOWDOWN Gukesh takes calm revenge on Nakamura

AGENCIES

Saint Louis, Oct 28: Reigning world champion Gukesh Dommaraju avenged his loss to Hikaru Nakamura in the Checkmate: USA vs India exhibition match, showcasing his composed style as he secured a well-deserved victory over the American grandmaster at the Clutch Chess: Champions showdown here Tuesday.

Nakamura had triggered a major controversy weeks earlier when he took Gukesh's king and threw it into the crowd after winning the Checkmate: USA vs India exhibition match.

In the parallel mini-match on the opening day, Gukesh secured a win over Nakamura with a Ragozin Variation from a QGD. A dominant bishop positioned on d3, supported by pawns on c4 and e4, overwhelmed Black's position until resistance faltered, ChessBase reports.

Their second game reached a closed pawn formation, and peace was agreed on move 34. After the win, the two players shook hands with a smile, with Nakamura leaving immediate-



ly, and Gukesh followed his well-known ritual of calmly rearranging the pieces before getting up.

After winning in the second round, Gukesh emerged as the sole leader after the opening day of the Clutch Chess: Champions Showdown. He scored four points from six games despite starting with a defeat against Magnus Carlsen.

The Indian star recovered confidently with three wins and two draws to finish the day at the top.

Carlsen is closely behind with 3.5 points, having started strongly with two wins and two draws before losing to Hikaru Nakamura. Nakamura stands on 3 points, while Fabiano Caruana, who struggled in several encounters, is on 1.5.

My motivation is to stay fit & be ready: Shami

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 28: Senior pacer Mohammed Shami Tuesday said he is "fit" and "ready" for an India comeback, having backed up his desire to return with exceptional performances in the season's first two Ranji Trophy matches.

The Bengal speedster has made a strong claim for international comeback with a fiery spell that saw him take a match haul of eight wickets and propel his team to a 141-run win over Gujarat at the Eden Gardens.

"A lot of hard work is there and I believe luck too plays a part. Every person wants to play for the country. So, I am ready for that (again)," Shami told reporters after his five-wicket haul in Gujarat's second innings.

"My motivation is to stay fit

and be available for the Indian team at all times. In the ground, I will continue to perform and the rest is on the selectors' hands."

He added, "It's a relief. Mentally, physically, it feels very good, because, you are coming back from such a difficult time (injury), and you stay on the ground after that."

"After that, all the things... Ranji Trophy, domestic season, white ball cricket, then IPL, Champions Trophy, then Duleep Trophy, and now these two matches. So, the rhythm, the flow was there. Now it feels like cricket is still there (left in me)."

It was Shami's exceptional final-day spell that helped Bengal beat Gujarat for the first time in the Ranji Trophy since 2003.

Shami was not selected in the Indian team for the white-ball tour of Australia, follow-



ing which there was a public back-and-forth between chief

selector Ajit Agarkar and the senior cricketer.

The pacer though has emphasised that he is fully fit after recovering from an ankle surgery, and is available for all formats of the game.

When he was asked for his thoughts on India comeback Tuesday, he preferred to stay clear of controversy.

"I am always involved in some controversy, thanks to you guys (laughs). It's a misunderstanding..." he said.

Shami thanked the Bengal team management for their support during a difficult phase and now when he is coming back after a long layoff.

"I played a match against MP 11 months ago, and I am playing this match now. I feel good, but the important thing is that your team is with you at this time, when you are competing."



Jamwal (65kg), both medalists from the earlier World Boxing Cup stages this season.

The prestigious event will feature three Paris Olympic medallists—Aeji Im of South Korea and Wu Shih-Yi and Chen Nien-Chin of Chinese Taipei—alongside multiple World Boxing Championships and World Cup gold medallists from around the world.

Speaking on the occasion, BFI President Ajay Singh said, "Hosting the World Boxing Cup Finals is a proud moment for Indian boxing and a reflection of how far we've come on the global stage. Bringing the world's top nations and Olympic medallists to compete here is not just an honour, but a testament to India's growing stature as a boxing powerhouse. Our athletes have shown they can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best, and this event gives them the perfect platform to prove it once again."

Poona golf: Azhar shoots seven-under for first-round lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 28: Hyderabad golfer Mohammed Azhar shot a superb seven-under 64 to emerge leader by one stroke on the opening day of the Rs one crore The Poona Club Open, here Tuesday.

PGTI Order of Merit leader Yuvraj Sandhu fired six-under 65 to be placed second at the Poona Club Golf Course, while Gurugram's Veer Ahlawat (66), the 2024 PGTI Ranking champion, was a further shot behind in third position.

The quintet of Akshay Damale, Aaron Rockey, Aditya Bhandarkar, Adityaa Garg and amateur Arkin Patel were the highest-placed among the Pune-based players as they returned scores of 71 to occupy tied 29th place.

Azhar, who has been in decent form in recent times with four top-10s to his name in his last six starts, began his week with a birdie-bogey. However, he soon began to stamp his authority by adding three more birdies on the front-nine including a 35-foot conversion on the third.

Azhar, ranked 23rd in the PGTI Order of Merit, picked up four more birdies on the back-nine including a tap-in and an 18-foot conversion.

"I hit it close to the flags all day. Here at the Poona Club Golf Course, there is a premium on hitting fairways and I hit a lot of fairways today. On the back-nine, my chipping and putting was outstanding because I did not hit any greens from hole 14 onwards and just made a lot of quality chip-putts," said Azhar.

