



LEISURE | P2



INTERNATIONAL | P10



BUSINESS | P11



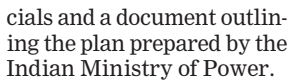
SPORTS | P12



OP PHOTO

\$12bn bailout for power discoms in the pipeline

P3



The plan marks Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

Minister Narendra Modi's toughest reform push yet to overhaul the chronically inefficient state-run electricity distribution companies, seen as the weakest link in India's energy chain.

The Power Ministry and the Ministry of Finance are discussing the final details of the bailout, with an announcement expected in the February budget, said two of the government sources.

The ministries did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comments.

Under the proposal, at least 20% of the state's total power consumption must be

met by private companies and the states must assume part of the retailer's debt, according to the Power Ministry presentation.

To do so the states can choose to privatise their distribution operations for ac-

cess to loans to pay off existing debt under two options.

First, the states can create a new distribution company, divest 51% of the equity, which will enable them to access a 50-year interest-free loan for the privatised company's debt, along with access to low-interest federal loans for five years, the presentation showed.

The second option would let states privatise up to 26% of the equity of an existing state-owned power distribution company in exchange for access to low-interest loans from the federal government for five years, it showed.

Alternatively, states that do not decide to transfer managerial control through privatisation must list their utilities on a recognised stock exchange within three years.

States that choose to list would receive low-interest loans from the federal government for infrastructure management, the presentation showed.

The state power retailers have accumulated losses of 7.08 trillion (lakh crore) rupees (\$80.6 billion) and outstanding debt of 7.42 trillion (lakh crore) rupees (\$84.4 billion) as of March 2024, the document showed.

Despite three federal bailouts over two decades, state-run power distributors remain financially strained.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogaon, Oct 29: Panic gripped people after police Wednesday recovered the decomposed body of a woman from a paddy field near Gaelpita village under Bandhapada police outpost here in Bolangir district.

When recovered, the body was found with its face burnt, prompting locals to suspect that she was murdered after rape.

Miscreants might have burnt the face of the woman to destroy evidence, they said.

The identity of the woman

India, China hold military dialogue

NEW DELHI: India and China held a fresh round of high-level military talks focusing on maintaining peace and security along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh using existing mechanisms. The Corps Commander-level meeting was held on the Moldo-Chushul border point on the Indian side of the frontier October 25. It was the first such interaction between the two militaries after the Special Representatives' talks in August between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

P8

within 30 was yet to be established when reports last came in. The incident surfaced hardly 24 hours after the murder of a youth by his three friends in the area.

The matter came to the fore after some goatherds grazing their animals near the farmland spotted the body. They immediately rushed back to the village and informed the villagers.

On being informed, the land owner informed the Bandhapada outpost police under the Deogaon police limits. Deogaon police

personnel and a scientific

team rushed to the spot and launched an investigation from various angles.

Police ruled out rape citing circumstantial evidences and preliminary investigation as the deceased was found wearing a saree with all inner garments.

However, locals insisted that the woman was raped and murdered.

The body was sent for post-mortem to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations are on, Deogaon IIC Bulu Munda said.

**DHARITRI
YOUTH
CONCLAVE 2025**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
FILM COMPETITION**

CALLING ALL YOUNG FILMMAKERS!

SUSHANT MISRA
FILMMAKER

Acclaimed filmmaker & FTII alumnus, he is known for Indradhanura Chhail and Biswaprakash, the latter winning the 2000 National Award. Co-founder of BYOFF, he has been championing independent cinema platforms.

His recent film Josef - Born in Grace (2019) earned international acclaim winning the Silver Remi Award at Houston's WorldFest.

SHEHASIS DAS
FILMMAKER

Award-winning Odia filmmaker and founder of The Naked Eye Films, his film kokoli : Fish Out of Water (2021) won Best Director & Best Feature at Mexico International Film Festival.

With 30+ documentaries and 20 short films, his work showcase social and environment concerns.

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION

31ST OCTOBER, 2025

SCAN TO SUBMIT

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesha anticipates some exciting times for you. You are likely to meet some people today who will prove to be assets in the future. You apply yourself to perfection in work, and in your thinking. Towards that end, says Ganesha, you will have to remain practical.

TAURUS
You are going to be exceptionally intense in the way you communicate your emotions and feelings. You will, no doubt, succeed in making the impact, the impression you are striving to make, says Ganesha. You will be so involved in this that you are likely to get caught in the mysterious and magical web of relationships.

GEMINI
An occurrence from the past will become a cause of worry for you today. You will also be concerned owing to the deteriorating health of the elders in your family. You will encounter medical expenses. The latter half of the day should see your worries abate somewhat, says Ganesha.

CANCER
People will surround you. You will entertain them with your hilarity. Social contacts will benefit you. Students will excel and concentrate on their work. It will be a good day, says Ganesha.

LEO
You are businesslike and practical in your approach, however, you have a tendency to lose your temper. You will be able to channelise your aggression into business today. It is a good thing, since you need an outlet for your energy. The advice of your elders will help you. You will be able to comfortably sail through the day today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Don't procrastinate matters regarding your health, advises Ganesha. Today you are raring to take on some past wounds. However, peace and quietude are the dominant flavours today. Ganesha suggests that you go ahead and enjoy yourself, if only just to recharge your batteries.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will stay in accordance with your prestige or social status. Your innovative ideas will help you progress in your work field. Now is a good time to put into completion those ideas, which had taken a back seat. Ganesha wishes you a day full of joy and happiness ahead.

SCORPIO
Blood is thicker than water, and you will experience this in true sense today, says Ganesha. Dedicate this day to your family and friends, enjoy and make merry. Feel as if you are on the top of this world when you set out on a secret date with your beloved. Life is beautiful, indeed!

SAGITTARIUS
Temper will fly today, warns Ganesha. Rein in your anger by the leash of control and restraint. But the buck will stop somewhere! When it does, dig your feet in and battle the crunch situation, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You are witty and wise. With your extraordinary vision and intelligence you will help many their career and later, thanks to you, they will be near to their goals. Whenever some dark clouds of reality hover above your head, you know how to find the silver lining and get out of a problem.

AQUARIUS
The cupid may strike you today. You don't want make a wrong first impression, so wear something nice and be presentable all the time. Professionally, the day will be favourable for you to make some important decisions. Overall, you are in a happy mood and you will spread the joy around, feels Ganesha.

PISCES
Organized and sorted as you are, you will still find yourself clouded with emotions today. Those you are thoughtful and calculative as a person, you will discover the joy of emotions and the warmth that accompanies them. You will take the time to feel things instead of thinking of them and this change in your behaviour will either be the cause of worry or amusement for those who are close to you, says Ganesha.



KEIRA NOT ANNOYED BY NEPO BABY ACCUSATIONS

Keira Knightley accepts the fact that she is a nepo baby as her parents gave her valuable connections at the start of her acting career. The 40-year-old actress – the daughter of stage star Will Knightley and playwright Sharman Macdonald – refuses to get annoyed by the label.

CHRISTY IS VERY PERSONAL, IMPORTANT TO SWEENEY

Actress Sydney Sweeney hopes her upcoming film *Christy* will raise more awareness of domestic violence issues and shared that it is a very personal issue that's important to her. The 28-year-old actress, plays boxer Christy Martin in the new biographical sports drama film,



Zain Foundation to present anthology drama *One On One Dhamaal* Nov 1

The event is part of ZFT's annual fundraiser to support people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Bhubaneswar: Noted charitable organisation Zain Foundation Trust (ZFT) is set to bring a spectacular theatrical experience to this city with Rage Productions' *One On One Dhamaal*, an anthology of plays, November 1, 2025 here at Rabin-dra Mandap. The event features some of Mumbai's finest actors and India's most celebrated playwrights, under the guid-

ance of acclaimed directors. *One On One Dhamaal* will present eight engaging plays reflecting contemporary India, exploring themes such as arranged marriages, marital compromises, resigned housewives, harried film producers, ticketing woes, and even inedible airline food. The plays mix English, Hindi, and Hinglish, offering humour, satire, and social commentary. Plays include *I'm Every Woman* – A single character juggling multiple roles of women in a household. (English, 13 mins), *Kachre Ki Hifazat* – The comic woes of a CM's bodyguard. (Hindi, 15 mins), *Keeda Saala* – Life as a junior artist growing up

in Mumbai's Dongri. (Hinglish, 10 mins, Adults Only), *Mind Blowing Mannequin* – A wo-mannequin born with a slight defect navigates life hilariously. (Hindi, 12 mins), *Laughing Hyena* – A karaoke DJ deals with out-of-tune singers and outdated lawmakers. (English, 13 mins), *Hum Hain Raahi Pyaar Ke* – The search for love and soulmates. (Hindi, 10 mins), *Hello Check* – A glamorous wannabe housewife shares her social escapades. (English, 10 mins), *TC Rasbi-hari* -A ticket collector finally stands up against repeated injustices. (Hindi, 15 mins) Rajit Kapur, Neil Bhoopal-am, Anu Menon, Gagandev Riar, Shruti Vyas, Lisha Bajaj

and Zafar Karachiwala are among the performers who will mesmerise the viewers. The event is part of ZFT's annual fundraiser to support people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Since its formation in 2015, ZFT has championed advocacy and awareness for the autism community through work-shops, rallies, sporting events, art exhibitions, and specially curated inclusive events. The Trust is now moving toward establishing Eastern India's first residential facility for individuals with autism, and proceeds from this event will contribute to this mission. ZFT has a rich legacy of theatre initiatives, having



previously hosted plays featuring renowned artists such as Shabana Azmi & Javed Akhtar (*Kaifi Aur Mein*, 2015), Naseeruddin Shah (*Einstein*, 2016), Rajit Kapoor (*Siddhus of Upper Juhu*, 2017), Darsheel Safari (*Two Adorable Losers*, 2018), Vinay Pathak (*King*

Lear, 2021), Rajit Kapoor, Vra-jesh Hirji & Sumeet Vyas (*One On One*, 2022), Kumud Mishra (*Dhumrapan*, 2023), and Kumud Mishra & Subhtajyoti Bharat (*Purane Chawal*, 2024). **Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** are the print media partners for the event. PNN

Priyamani disapproves 'pan-India actor' label

Chennai: Actor Priyamani, who has worked extensively in both Hindi and regional cinema, shared her views on the growing use of the term "pan-India ac-

tor." She expressed her disapproval of the label, saying that it unnecessarily divides the industry. "I think we should stop using the term pan-India," Priyamani said. "We're all Indian at the end of the day. What is this pan-India? I don't understand. You get work in other industries, and that's a good thing — but you don't call someone a 'regional actor' when they come from Bollywood to the South." The 41-year-old actor further pointed out that artists have been working across languages for decades without needing such a tag. "For years, actors from both sides have worked across languages. Why are we suddenly labelling people now?" she said. Priyamani highlighted examples of legendary stars like Kamal Haas-an, Rajinikanth, Prakash Raj, and Dhanush, who have successfully balanced careers in multiple languages without ever being called "pan-India actors." "It doesn't matter which language we work in — accept us for who we are and for the characters we play. This sudden trend of actors wanting to use the term too much is funny," she added. AGENCIES



'Overwork is not worth it'

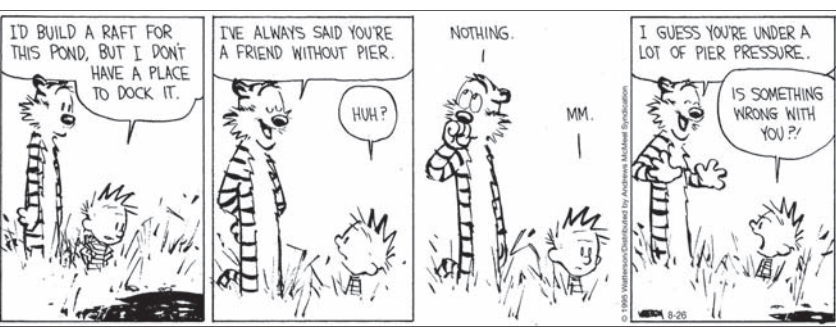
Mumbai: For the last few weeks, actor Rashmi-ka Mandanna has been in the news for her engagement to Vijay Deverakonda and her recently released film *Thamma*. The Push-pa actor has now shared her thoughts on work-life balance, explaining the importance of not 'overworking'. She recently shared that it has been months since she got a full 8-hour sleep. Referring to the same, when asked about work-life balance, Rashmika told an entertainment portal, "I think overwork is not good. I overwork, and I'm telling you, it's highly not suggestible. Don't do it. It's not sustainable. Don't do it. Do what is comfortable for you, do what is right for you." She continued: "Get those 8 hours of sleep because trust me that's going to save you in the later ages. As in, I have seen a lot of these conversations recently where people are like 'okay, you know, work timing' and all of that. I've done it both. And I'm telling you, this is not worth it." The actress said she tend to overwork because she takes on so much more than a normal human being can and should. "But I'm also not someone who will tell my teams that I can't do something for them. If I know that they are struggling and they're like 'no we have this location only till now and we have to shoot so much in this time' and all of that, I understand and I'll give in," concluded the actress. AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

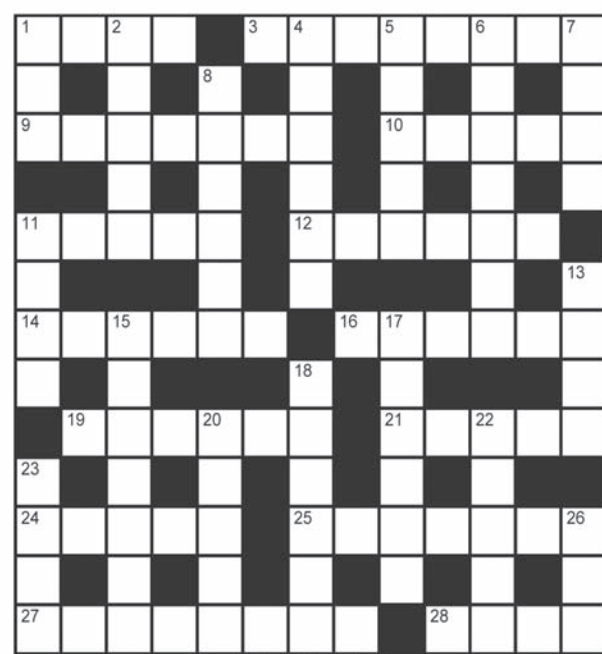


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Have the blues
 - 3 Aromatic bark used as a spice
 - 9 Israeli city (3,4)
 - 10 Lakes, in Dundee
 - 11 ___ New Guinea
 - 12 Ballerina
 - 14 Minded
 - 16 Bear witness
 - 19 Vocation
 - 21 Hazardous
 - 24 Fast
 - 25 Hostile
 - 27 Sign at an airport (4-1-3)
 - 28 Milky gem
 - Down**
 - 1 Encountered
 - 2 Small vascular growth
 - 4 Encroach upon
 - 5 Parachute material
 - 6 Panga
 - 7 It smells
 - 8 Fly
 - 11 Conspiracy
 - 13 Dog command
 - 15 Jubilance
 - 17 Flourish
 - 18 Naval unit
 - 20 Bonus
 - 22 Pancake topper
 - 23 Consumer
 - 26 Aquatic shocker

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

A	Q	U	A	L	P	S		G
M	F	S	E	N	G	U		
A	B	O	U	T	F	A	C	E
S		R				E	T	P
S	O	F	I	A	P	A	R	L
R		W	A					I
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	C
A	I							H
B	I	K	I	N	I	S		L
A	O	A						A
S	O	U		D	O	G	G	I
C	T							A
O								L

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Hunger strike called off after assurance to shift dump yard



OSPCB assures protesters of a specific deadline for BMC to relocate the dump yard and necessary legal action if the order is not complied with

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The indefinite hunger strike by members of the Sainik School Banchao, Alia Gada Hatao Abhiyan in front of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) was called off Wednesday following assurances from officials that a time-bound deadline would be issued to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Cor-

poration (BMC) for relocating the Alia Gada dumping yard.

The hunger strike saw participation from over 200 local residents and campaign members, including convener Dilip Dash Sharma, secretary Sandeep Das, Lalat Keshari Jena, and others.

Despite heavy rain, campaign members continued their protest demanding the removal of the illegal solid waste processing unit near Sainik School. On Tuesday, OSPCB had sent a written appeal urging them to call off the strike, assuring that the issue would be taken up with the Housing and Urban Development department.

During the strike Wednesday,

The board clarified that BMC had been given a Conditional Consent to Operate (CTO) for a limited period to process existing waste at the site, which could be revoked anytime

Following the assurance, protesters temporarily suspended their hunger strike but warned of resuming it if the deadline was not met

day, senior OSPCB scientist Usharani Patnaik informed the protesters that the board would set a specific deadline for the BMC to relocate the dumping yard. She also assured that further action would be taken as per legal procedures.

The board clarified that the BMC had been granted a Conditional Consent to Operate (CTO) for a limited period, solely to process the waste already accumulated at the site — a permission that could be revoked at any time.

Following the assurance, the protesters decided to temporarily suspend their hunger strike but warned that they would resume their agitation if the deadline was not met.



CALM RETURNS: Normalcy returns to Puri beach, Wednesday, as weather improves following rain caused by Cyclone Montha

OP PHOTO

State meet to frame ICU, CCU norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: In order to prepare guidelines for management of Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and Critical Care Units (CCUs) in state hospitals, Health and Family Welfare department organised a state-level conference at Indian Medical Association (IMA) auditorium here Wednesday.

In compliance with directives of Supreme Court in CA 8402 of 2016 and MA 30408 of 2024, the H&FW department invited representatives from all stakeholders — including Directorate of Health Services, State Medical Council, corporate-managed hospitals, experts with extensive experience in ICU/CCU/Trauma Centre and emergency



medical services management. At the meeting, Health Secretary and Commissioner Aswathy S emphasised the importance of teamwork, skill enhancement, holistic medical practices, and compassionate patient care, and directed that guidelines should reflect needs and convenience of

all participants in state's healthcare ecosystem.

Attendees deliberated on key aspects of ICU/CCU operations management, including determining the grade of ICU/CCU required based on the hospital's capacity and patient load.

Draft guideline will also

Participants discussed key aspects of ICU/CCU operations, including determining the required grade based on hospital capacity and patient load

The draft guidelines will cover admission and discharge criteria, ICU setup, infection control, and communication with patients' relatives

cover aspects such as admission criteria, discharge protocols, ICU setup, infection prevention, consultation and communication with patients' relatives, among others.

The draft guidelines prepared by the state will be submitted to the Supreme Court, which will assist in formulating the final directives.

Guv reviews Raj Bhavan Secretariat functioning

Bhubaneswar: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday reviewed the overall functioning of Raj Bhavan Secretariat at its mini conference hall. During the meeting, the Governor interacted with officers and assessed the performance of various sections, with a special focus on Higher Education, Tribal Welfare, and public service activities, along with upcoming programmes of the Secretariat. He emphasised the importance of teamwork, timely coordination, and effective communication among officers to ensure the smooth execution of official, institutional, and public service activities. Kambhampati urged all departments to maintain efficiency and ensure seamless execution of Secretariat's day-to-day responsibilities. Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Governor Roopa Roshan Sahoo and other senior officials of the Secretariat were present during the review meeting.

CLASSIFIED LOST

This is hereby informed to public that Benudhar Bhujabal, Age 78 years, S/o - Late Netrananda Bhujabal, At-Belapada, PO-Siko, PS-Jankia, Dist.-Khordha, Purchased Landed property from Uma Udandara and Judhistira Rout in vide sale deed No.2396 on dated 12.08.2008 in Mouza-Belapada, Khata No.154, Plot No.117/1375 of Area Ao.565 out of A 1.695 Dec. on Dt 14.10.2025 evening when he was going to Siko Market for Xerox the sale deed has been lost in this regard. He has filed as Station Dairy vide No.14 on Dt.15.10.2025 in Jankia PS. Details of which is given in the Notice. Any person claiming can make a representation within Seven days from publication of this Notice. Sd./- Benudhar Bhujabal

WORLD STROKE DAY

Apollo Hospitals promotes stroke prevention awareness



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar observed World Stroke Day here Wednesday by hosting an awareness programme, focused on stroke prevention, rapid intervention, and community education. The initiative brought together experts from neurology, neurosurgery, radiology, psychiatry, and dietetics to highlight the importance of FAST (Face, Arm, Speech, Time) action in saving lives.

Speaking at the event, chief operating officer and Medical Services Director Alok Srivastava spoke on the significance of coordinated stroke response

teams and Apollo's dedication to world-class neuro-emergency care for saving precious minutes in stroke management.

Senior Neurology consultant at Apollo Subranshu Sekhar Jena explained stroke warning signs—face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty—and the latest advances in acute stroke care.

Experts including, senior consultants Debabrata Biswal and Deepak Parida shared details on crucial role of neurosurgery in complex stroke cases, while senior consultant in Interventional Radiology Manas Ranjan Kar demonstrated minimally invasive clot retrieval techniques that can restore blood flow quickly.

BDA holds gram sabha for key CDP road at Andharua

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) recently conducted a Gram Sabha at Andharua Panchayat for construction of a key Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) road which will connect Khandagiri-Chandaka Road to Andharua and Daspur (New City).

The Gram Sabha was organised in compliance with Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The meeting was chaired by Andharua Sarpanch Swarnalata Baliyasingh and attended by several key officials including Bhubaneswar BDO Devi Prasad Mohanty, BDA Land Acquisition Officer Prateek Patnaik, Andharua Revenue Inspector Sabyasachi Khuntia, and Chandaka Wildlife Division deputy Ranger Dhyan Tudu. The Gram Sabha unanimously supported the construction of the proposed 2.72 km-long and 200 ft-wide road. Officials highlighted that the new road will not only improve local connectivity and reduce travel time but also boost economic development and open up opportunities for residents of Andharua and adjoining villages.

UNESCO, RIE to integrate health, well-being in teacher education



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: In a significant step toward strengthening the integration of health and well-being in teacher education, the UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia and the Regional Institute of Education (RIE), NCERT, Bhubaneswar, jointly launched a collaborative project aimed at shaping the future of teaching in India.

The initiative underscores the growing importance of mental and physical well-being in ensuring quality education, aligning with global development goals.

RIE Bhubaneswar is hosting a three-day (October 29 to 31) workshop that brings together educators, curriculum developers, and experts from across the region. Participants from

various Teacher Education Institutions in Odisha, along with representatives from RIEs across India, are collaborating to develop supplementary materials for integrating health and well-being into the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP).

The workshop is the first major initiative under the MoU between UNESCO and RIE, NCERT, aimed at developing nationwide curricular content on health and well-being. The collaboration seeks to equip future teachers with the knowledge, skills, and empathy to create safe and health-promoting classrooms, aligning with India's NEP 2020 and SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), and 5 (Gender Equality).

In her address, RIE Bhu-

baneswar Principal Manasi Goswami lauded UNESCO's support and stressed the need to integrate regional and global best practices in health and well-being into teacher education. "This partnership with UNESCO will offer technical guidance and global insights, ensuring health and well-being become core to our teaching practices," she said.

Former NCERT director and MoU committee chairperson HK Senapaty highlighted that the curriculum will include content on health, pedagogy, assessment strategies, and field engagement to meet the diverse needs of future educators.

National Programme Officer for Education at UNESCO's Regional Office for South Asia, Sarita Jadav stressed the need to prioritise health and well-being in today's education systems. "Promoting health and well-being among learners and educators is essential for ensuring quality education," she said, adding that the collaboration aims to build the capacity of future teachers to create supportive and inclusive learning environments.



with 26 e-challans, followed by Cuttack and Sambalpur with 25 each, Balasore 22, Bhubaneswar-II 21, and Khurda 20.

In drunk driving cases, Sambalpur led with 29 e-challans, followed by Rourkela 28, Bhubaneswar-I 23,

Jajpur 17, and Bhubaneswar-II 16. For non-fitness violations, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar-I issued 86 e-challans each, followed by Puri 57, Sambalpur 52, Rourkela 50, and Balasore 49. In cases of driving without permits, Khurda topped with 43 e-challans, followed by Sambalpur 34, Keonjhar 27, Bhubaneswar-I 24, and Puri and Nayagarh 23 each.

Overall, Sambalpur RTO recorded the highest number of challans at 449, followed by Bhubaneswar-I (378), Bhubaneswar-II (338), Sundargarh (259), and Rourkela (252).

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY

INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.34 ▲ 0.13
EURO	103.03 ▲ 0.23

BOURSES

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	84997.13 ▲ 368.97
NIFTY	26053.90 ▲ 117.70

COMMODITIES

INDEX	VARIATION
GOLD	₹120,978 ▲ ₹1332
SILVER	₹146,701 ▲ ₹2359



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.0°	29.2°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm.
Min Temp	24.6°	22.4°	
Humidity	82%	94%	
Rainfall	19.2mm	14.8mm	

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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**-Cookiemann-9439491273, **Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels**-9668284823, **Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate**- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, **Net Square**- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, **Priyadarshini Market**-Astro Point-9938134346, **R.N. General Store**-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, **Sahid Nagar**- Maa Communication- 9437353424, **Sahini General Store**- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, **Satya Nagar**-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, **Samantapur**- Download Point-7504557743, **Sailashree Vihar**-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, **Saheed Nagar**-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, **Siripur**-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, **Sushree fashion**- Jagmara-9938714347, **Shree Vision**- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, **Unit-3**-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, **Unit-7**- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, **VSS Nagar**-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, **XIMB Square**-LD Books-9658061373.

FOCUS FOREIGN RELATIONS

EDUCATION DIPLOMACY



Education diplomacy is the soft power through which a country uses education and related services to build positive, strong relationships with other countries, advancing common goals

al scholarships and fellowship programmes for nationals of more than 120 countries. ICCR has India Chairs established in several foreign universities on subjects related to Indian Studies (Political Science, Philosophy, History, Sociology, Economics, Buddhist Studies & Law) & Indian Languages (Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu & Tamil). India is also a major contributor to UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning. India hosts the UNESCO’s Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace. In addition, India has taken several steps to extend its presence at many multilateral forums, including the G20. In 2023, when India hosted G20, it presented a clear vision to the world for collaboration across boundaries by highlighting (i) need for cooperation to ensure that all children receive quality foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) and can enjoy opportunities for lifelong learning, (ii) opportunity to leverage digital resources and technologies to accelerate progress in education, and (iii) rethink education systems to focus on future of work. Some Indian higher education institutions, such as the Indian Institutes of Technology, have already started opening off-campus centres abroad. India has also permitted foreign universities to operate campuses within India.

While many of these steps are great, India must further extend its soft power by focusing attention through increased support and technical contributions to intergovernmental and multilateral organisations, including active engagements on how these organisations operate and contribute to global developments aligned with Indian interests. India’s education diplomacy must focus beyond scholarships and offer bilateral support to countries by providing technical and human resource assistance to improve their education systems. For example, India’s digital education infrastructure is among the best in the world, with a national online learning platform, several digital educational television channels, and a platform for teacher professional development. The Government of India could leverage these to support developing countries in the south in achieving SDG4. India is also a leader in open and distance learning, and the expertise available could be a source for collaboration with other countries that may need our support.

There are several countries around the world that are unable to create and establish their own school education system. They continue to depend on foreign private providers

for curricula and assessment even after independence. India’s experience in managing large systems like the Central Board of Secondary Education, producing high-quality learning materials through the National Council of Educational Research and Training, and the National Institute of Open Schooling, and the availability of robust digital infrastructure could be valuable resources for other countries to adapt and learn from. In fact, there is a massive demand for reliable support that India can provide to other countries. As such, Indian education diplomacy may look beyond higher education and consider creating a specialised organ to coordinate educational development across different countries at all levels. Such an effort could further collaborate with other international agencies and foundations to improve the financing of education needed to achieve equitable access to quality education for lifelong learning. Such an agency can also run additional marketing and outreach programmes to attract more international students to India.

The Indian diaspora worldwide wants to remain connected and learn about its cultural roots and heritage. Stronger education diplomacy could further spread awareness about Indian knowledge systems within the diaspora.

We need to strengthen our relationships with other countries by institutionalising Vidya Maitri (Education Friendship), as we did with the Vaccine Maitri initiative during COVID-19. The route to a developed India we envision goes through Vidya Maitri and sharing our expertise in science, engineering, and information technology with other countries in a systematic and targeted way.

The writer is Education Specialist at the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada.



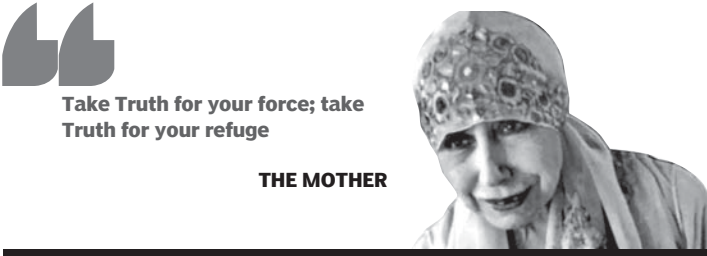
Sanjaya Mishra

INDIA’S EDUCATION DIPLOMACY MUST FOCUS BEYOND SCHOLARSHIPS



Senem Aydın-Düzgüt

Hungary and Turkey serve as reminders that evolving global dynamics can influence the survival of competitive authoritarian regimes. As the world shifts toward multipolarity, and middle powers gain greater influence, regional conflicts will probably multiply



Why Authoritarians Thrive

US President Donald Trump’s ferocious assault on American institutions over the last nine months is a particularly morbid symptom of the global decline of democracy. But Trump has merely capitalized on a process that was well underway before his return to the White House.

Several factors have contributed to this worldwide retreat. Authoritarian regimes consolidated power by sharpening their methods of control, from electoral engineering and digital surveillance to legal and institutional manipulation. Moreover, autocrats often provide each other with political and economic support, as demonstrated by the close ties between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. And the shortcomings of several high-profile democracies – not least the United States – have arguably made the model less attractive.

But what is often overlooked is how profound changes to the international order have reinforced authoritarian regimes. In today’s increasingly multipolar world, the rise of regional geopolitical conflicts has been a boon for competitive authoritarian systems, which hold elections but tilt the political playing field in their favor.

A prime example is Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine, which helped boost the domestic legitimacy of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the run-up to pivotal elections.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine came just over a month before Hungary’s parliamentary election on 3 April, 2022. Orbán hammered home the message that only he could keep Hungary safe. Unlike the opposition, whom Orbán portrayed as reckless warmongers for wanting to support Ukraine’s defense, he promised to shield Hungarians from war. Bombarded by pro-government media, many Hungarians came to see Orbán as the guarantor of peace – even opposition supporters feared that a change of government might drag Hungary into the conflict.

Orbán also leveraged the war in Brussels, threatening to block European Union efforts to help Ukraine unless the European Commission released frozen funds for Hungary. At home, he framed this as a triumph over European elites eager to spend “Hungarian money on Ukrainians.” Pro-government media echoed the Kremlin narrative, blaming EU sanctions – not Russia’s invasion – for Hungary’s economic troubles, and framed Orbán’s long-standing ties with Putin as proof of his ability to secure cheap energy, whereas electing the opposition could mean shortages. Orbán’s Fidesz-led coalition won two-thirds of the seats, retaining its parliamentary supermajority and consolidating his grip on power.

Similar dynamics played out in Turkey. In the run-up to the presidential election in May 2023, Erdoğan emphasized his personal diplomacy in the Ukraine war, highlighting the Black Sea grain deal. Facing off against a single challenger supported by a broad opposition alliance, Erdoğan also cast himself as the only leader capable of keeping Turkey out of the conflict while also elevating its global influence. Pro-government media warned that an opposition victory would mean full alignment with the West’s war effort. The race was tight and required a runoff, but Erdoğan prevailed.

Economically, Erdoğan exploited Turkey’s refusal to adopt Western sanctions: trade with Russia surged; Russian tourists and firms arrived in the country with cash to spend; and the Kremlin allowed Turkey to defer millions of dollars in gas payments. In 2022, Russia’s state nuclear-energy corporation transferred \$15 billion to a subsidiary in Turkey to ensure the continued construction of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant – which was inaugurated just a few weeks before the election. All this helped ease the economic pressures stemming from Erdoğan’s unorthodox policies and enabled him to portray himself as indispensable to Turkey’s prosperity.

Moreover, Turkish-made drones on the Ukrainian battlefield were held up as symbols of national pride and technological prowess. As Turkey’s top defense export, these cheap and deadly drones have been central to its foreign-policy narrative, as has another military achievement that Erdoğan touted during the 2023 election campaign: the country’s first amphibious assault ship built to carry drones and helicopters.

This spotlight on defense predates the Ukraine war. Turkey’s military support for Azerbaijan in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war (which included the deployment of drones) was widely publicized and also boosted Erdoğan’s domestic legitimacy.

Political developments in Hungary and Turkey in the wake of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine hold three lessons. First, international crises do not necessarily expose an authoritarian regime’s vulnerabilities; they can just as easily create opportunities to consolidate power, marginalize opponents, and secure outside backing.

Second, public attitudes are important: The absence of strong anti-Russian sentiment in both Hungary and Turkey allowed Orbán and Erdoğan, respectively, to frame cooperation with the Kremlin as pragmatic rather than traitorous. When public opinion is divided, authoritarian incumbents can more easily manipulate crises to their advantage.

Lastly, the actors involved in regional geopolitical conflicts matter. Putin’s willingness to provide economic concessions, financial transfers, and propaganda support helped Orbán and Erdoğan weather domestic challenges.

Hungary and Turkey serve as reminders that evolving global dynamics can influence the survival of competitive authoritarian regimes. As the world shifts toward multipolarity, and middle powers gain greater influence, regional conflicts will probably multiply. If the shockwaves from the Ukraine war are any indicator, these crises are more likely to strengthen autocrats than to weaken them.

The writer is Professor of International Relations at Sabanci University and Director of the Istanbul Policy Center.

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WISDOM CORNER

Don’t gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold

BOB MARLEY

I used to live in a room full of mirrors; all I could see was me. I take my spirit and I crash my mirrors, now the whole world is here for me to see

JIMI HENDRIX

You don’t need anybody to tell you who you are or what you are. You are what you are!

JOHN LENNON

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Is economic progress caste neutral?



Sarit Kumar Rout

DESPITE DECADES OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, CASTE-BASED DISPARITIES IN INDIA REMAIN STARK

Caste as an institution has profound influence in shaping social life including marriage, occupation, faith and religious beliefs. This is deeply intertwined in the Hindu text Manusmriti. BR Ambedkar, the Indian philosopher and the constitution maker, denounced the fourfold caste order and the division of labour based upon it, which is pernicious. Selecting individuals not based on trained original capacities but according to the social status of the parents is outrageous and limits labour mobility. In 1950, the Constitution through an order (The Constitution of India Scheduled Caste order 1950) confers the President to declare a specific caste, community and race as Scheduled Caste or Tribe in consultation with the states. This marked the beginning of affirmative action through reservation for these social groups in education institutions, government jobs and targeted social interventions. This idea was admirable for transforming the social status of these vulnerable caste groups. This however, changed latter and caste politics became dominant in the electoral system of the country. Political parties

of different hues keep the caste system booming to reap electoral benefits neglecting actual political and economic transformation. The recent Bihar election campaign is a testimony to this.

Despite decades of affirmative action, caste-based disparities in India remain stark. A 2023 parliamentary report highlights that SCs (15% of population) and STs (7.5%) are underrepresented in most Central government jobs, except Group C roles. Seemingly, more safai karmacharis (37%) belong to SCs further validating the caste division of Manusmriti. Even in teaching jobs of Central universities, the representation of SCs stands at 11% and that of STs 5%. In terms of health, nutritional outcomes or incidence of poverty, the difference between SCs, STs and general castes is glaring. The last poverty estimate indicates the incidence of poverty in ST & SC households are 1.8 and 1.6 times more than the nonscheduled households. Health metrics, such as child stunting and infant mortality, also show SCs/STs lagging behind general castes (NFHS).

India witnessed a higher economic growth at 6-7.5% on an average after 2000 except a few

aberrations and the growth has lifted many from absolute poverty, but the distribution of its benefits has been uneven across social groups.

Following liberalisation, the market economy expanded opportunities for many, enhanced mobility and created social infrastructure defying traditional caste hierarchies. Moreover, people migrated to cities for jobs and educational opportunities and stayed together in communities free from the manacles of caste rules of traditional societies. Now the upper castes are working in malls, eateries and factories doing menial jobs. Social and religious gatherings have been caste neutral in urban settings allowing upper and lower caste to dine and share together. Last two decades have been liberating in multiple ways. No doubt, education and economic opportunities were instrumental in driving this change, and the market’s influence further accelerated the process. Despite, economic prosperity contributing to caste consolidation relaxing the caste hierarchy at workplace and urban dwellings, a large part of rural India still manifests oppressive caste rules. The concept

of caste continues to be a significant factor in social interactions, political mobilisation, and even everyday life. Purity and pollution regulations may have weakened a little, but still assumes a larger role in rural settings.

We need to create higher prosperity and distribute its benefits evenly. A caste census may enumerate, for instance, different sub castes within a particular caste group and their socio-economic status. This number will help determining rights for the groups neglected so far and will recategorise the quota system. On the political front, this may encourage hundreds of interest groups often organised around caste lines advocating for their rights. This may encourage identity politics, increase political fragmentation and yet expand the policy of new welfarism. The state cannot annihilate caste system, which is so entrenched in the social system, but certainly can reduce caste-based inequality meaningfully through appropriate policy actions.

The writer is Professor of Health Economics and Financing, Indian Institute of Public Health, Bhubaneswar.

China doubles down

Sir, China’s economic trajectory for 2026–2030 is being recalibrated amid a complex convergence of domestic vulnerabilities and external geopolitical shocks. Since the 2020 launch of the current five-year plan, the external environment has deteriorated with the resurgence of Trump-era protectionism and the fracturing of global trade architecture. Domestically, a protracted property market contraction has eroded consumer wealth, exposing fragilities in China’s investment-heavy growth model and diminishing confidence in the state’s policy execution following abrupt shifts from COVID-19 controls. This emerging uncertainty has intensified concerns over “neijuan”—a systemic form of economic involution in which excessive industrial investment drives diminishing returns, price wars, and capital misallocation across manufacturing sectors. Despite acknowledging these risks, the recent party communiqué reaffirms manufacturing and technological self-reliance as core strategic imperatives, signaling no substantive pivot toward consumption-led growth. Beijing’s state-directed industrial policy has undeniably propelled China into global leadership in sectors such as electric vehicles, batteries, and green technology, transforming the country from a low-cost manufacturer into a frontier competitor. Yet the same model is now generating structural inefficiencies, with overcapacity suppressing profitability, deflationary pressures mounting, and productivity growth weakening. The communiqué’s language on maintaining an “appropriate scale” of manufacturing and promoting domestic demand suggests recognition of these distortions, but the absence of concrete reforms to address the property crisis or to strengthen China’s social safety net exposes a gap between diagnostics and policy response..

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Unfair treatment

Sir, It is alarming that despite full recognition by AICTE, UGC, and the Ministry of Education, students of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) continue to face unjust rejection during college admissions. As per NIOS data, over 3.5 lakh learners graduate annually, yet many professional and technical colleges still deny them seats, labelling their education as “non-regular.” Such systemic ignorance not only violates educational equality but also damages students’ morale. Admission portals often omit NIOS from recognised board lists, further marginalising deserving candidates. The government must launch strict monitoring mechanisms, awareness drives for institutions, and counselling support for NIOS learners.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

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, Rasulgah Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

Kashmir to get direct rail connectivity soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Reasi/Jammu, Oct 29: After starting the twin Vande Bharat trains on Srinagar-Katra route, marking the completion of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link in June, the northern railways is now eyeing to provide direct connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of country, an official said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Jammu division Uchit Singhal said the work is underway to address the operational and security hassles to achieve another milestone in Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to PTI after introducing a two-minute stoppage for semi-high speed Vande Bharat trains running between Katra and Srinagar at Reasi station this morning, he said it was a dream project to bring Kashmir on the railway map.

“The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi June 6, marked a historic milestone as the first rail service connecting Kashmir with Kanyakumari. The beginning has been made with the launch of rail service between Katra to Srinagar. “The work is progressing smoothly to address operational and security



The Railway Board has approved the construction of a new railway station at Nedumbassery, a significant development for air passengers using the Cochin International Airport

This move, championed by Union Minister George Kurian, aims to enhance rail connectivity to the airport

The project gained momentum after a site inspection by the Railway Minister last year

hassles to provide a direct train service between Kashmir and other parts of the country soon,” Singhal said. Starting Thursday, the Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express, train number 26401 and 26402, will have a two-minute stop at Reasi railway station. The train will depart from Katra

railway station at 8.10 am and arrive at Reasi railway station at 8.28 am. It will then continue its journey towards Srinagar. Similarly, train number 26402 will return to Reasi railway station at 4:34 pm.

“The continuation of the stoppage at Reasi station will depend on passenger feedback and commercial viability,” he said, adding earlier, there was only one stop on the route at Banihal which is a very important trans-shipment point.

The decision to introduce the second stoppage at Reasi was taken following persistent demand from the locals and the political representatives, the official said.

He said the railway is making all out efforts to maintain connectivity and provide best services to the commuters.

J&K recorded over 2L dog bite cases in past 3 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 29: Jammu and Kashmir recorded more than two lakh dog bite cases in the past three years, and a comprehensive drive for sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs has been launched in the Union territory, the J-K government informed the Assembly Tuesday.

In reply to a question by National Conference (NC) MLA Mubarak Gul, the government said 2,12,968 cases of dog bites have been recorded in the Union territory since 2022.

While 98,470 cases were reported from the Jammu division, 1,14,498 cases were recorded in the Kashmir division,



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the housing and urban development portfolio, said in the written reply in the Assembly. According to the data shared by the government, Jammu district reported the highest number of cases during the period under review at 54,889, followed by Srinagar city with 36,406 cases.

Anantnag district in south Kashmir was third with 26,453

cases, followed by Baramulla in north Kashmir at 18,563. Shopian district in south Kashmir reported the lowest number of dog bite cases -- 1,357 -- in the past three years, the government said. A comprehensive drive for the sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs has been launched, it said. From June 2023 to September 2025, 48,998 stray dogs were sterilised and vaccinated, Abdullah said.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) tops the list with 27,237 sterilisations and vaccinations, followed by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) at 13,730.

The municipal committees in the other districts of Jammu

region carried out 7,870 sterilisations and vaccinations, the government said.

The chief minister said while Srinagar has two Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres and is establishing a third, the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, is in the process of setting up such centres in the remaining nine districts of the Kashmir Division, for which identification of land has been taken up with the deputy commissioners.

In the first phase, land/building has already been identified for three clusters at Baramulla, Kulgam and Sumbal for establishing these centres, the government said.

Omar unveils merchandise for Kashmir Marathon 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday unveiled the official merchandise for Kashmir Marathon 2025 and extended invitation to all fitness enthusiasts to participate in the second edition of the event.

The merchandise -- cap, medal and racing kit -- specially designed for the participants was displayed at a brief function held with media and tourism officers at the Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar.

The chief minister extended an open invitation to all fitness enthusiasts to participate in the marathon November 2 and test their endurance.

Punjab police strength to cross 1L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patiala, Oct 29: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday said the strength of the state police will soon cross one lakh as the government is conducting a major recruitment drive.

Addressing a gathering after launching a six-day certified investigator course for Punjab Police officers here, he said the police strength in the year 2000 was around 80,000 and remains nearly the same even today, despite increasing challenges, an official statement said.

He said none of the previous governments had paid attention to the issue, but the present government is filling vacancies and expanding the force.



“Today, a new and significant initiative is being undertaken with 730 investigating officers participating in this six-day training workshop,” Mann said, according to the statement.

He said it is essential to train police officers to deal with criminals using advanced methods, adding that drug traffickers in the past often escaped conviction by exploiting legal loopholes and political interference. The chief minister said such

interference has now ended, and the state government is working in close coordination with the Centre.

With the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), several legal procedures have changed, making this training even more relevant, he added. Mann said preservation of evidence and awareness of evolving legal frameworks are vital responsibilities of police officers.

The chief minister said the course will equip investigating and supervisory officers with professional expertise in handling drug-related cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act to ensure traffickers do not escape conviction.

Punjab police launches ‘Cyber Jago’ initiative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 29: Punjab Police’s cybercrime division Tuesday launched ‘Cyber Jago’, a flagship statewide programme aimed at spreading awareness on internet safety and safe online use among school children.

The initiative was inaugurated by Special DGP (Community Affairs Division) Gurpreet Deo in the presence of senior police officers, educators, and representatives from partner organisations, according to an official statement.

The initiative, being conducted in collaboration with NGO Space2Grow and cy-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

bersecurity firms Starlight Data Solutions and Cybercops Compliance Solutions, aims to reach nearly five lakh school children across Punjab through workshops.

The first training of trainers (ToT) workshop was attended by 75 teachers from government schools. A poster and brochure on online safety for children were also released

Under the programme, teachers will educate students in their respective schools, empowering them to identify potential dangers and respond effectively when faced with online threats

on the occasion, the statement said Addressing the inaugural session, Punjab’s Special DGP (Cyber Crime) V Neeraja highlighted the urgent need for collective responsibility in ensuring

online safety for children.

“The present generation of children are deeply immersed in the digital world.

The Covid pandemic brought internet and smartphones into every household through online classes, making children more tech-savvy than their parents. While this connectivity brings opportunities, it also exposes children to significant online risks,” she said. Quoting recent data from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2025, Neeraja said that 76 per cent of children aged 14-16 years in India now use smartphones for social media, and 57 per cent use them for education.

Punjab govt to launch Aam Aadmi clinics in central jails

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 29: The Punjab government will open Aam Aadmi Clinics in central jails to provide comprehensive and quality healthcare, including crucial mental health support, to inmates, said state health minister Balbir Singh Monday.

He said that apart from treating physical ailments, taking care of the mental health of inmates is equally important.

“We recognise that many of those behind bars are mentally disturbed, which can be a factor in them committing crimes,” he said.



Terming jails as reform homes, Singh affirmed that true justice lies in reforming individuals.

“When an inmate leaves jail, they should be healthy in both body and mind. This holistic reform is essential for realising Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann’s dream of a ‘Rangla Punjab,’” he said in a

statement here. The health minister stated that psychologists and psychiatrists will be deputed in Aam Aadmi Clinics at jails to provide essential psycho-social counselling to the inmates.

The expansion into the correctional facilities comes on the back of the outstanding performance of the 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics already functional in the state, Singh said. These clinics have achieved a landmark by providing free treatment to over 4.20 crore people, with more than 2.29 crore diagnostic tests conducted free of cost since their inception August 15, 2022, he said.

Duped by travel agent, Punjab woman recalls ordeal in Iraq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 29:

“One day, they beat me until the stick broke,” recalls a 29-year-old woman from Punjab, describing the horrifying abuse she allegedly faced in Iraq where she was forced to work as a domestic servant after a travel agent lured her with a promise of a tailoring job.

The woman, who hails from Moga district, was able to return to India last month after she approached Rajya Sabha member Balbir Singh Seechewal for help. She claimed that around 20 to 25 Punjabi women are still trapped in Iraq.

The woman claimed she was duped by a travel agent from Jagraon who



had promised a tailoring job abroad.

“The travel agent had promised a tailoring job, weekly holidays and permission to use a mobile phone to contact her family, but the reality was completely opposite,” she said.

Narrating her ordeal, the woman said she left for Iraq January 8, 2024. After she reached Iraq, she was “forced” to work as a domestic servant.

She claimed that the employer tried to assault her, but when she resisted and recorded a

video as evidence, she was brutally beaten at the “behest” of the travel agent and his wife.

“One day, they beat me until the stick broke,” she said. The continuous abuse and violence took a toll on her mental health, leaving her in deep depression for months.

Finally, August 10, 2025, she reached out to Seechewal, who is also a noted environmentalist, through social media for help.

He intervened in the matter and, as a result, she returned safely to Punjab September 28.

Even after returning, she “remained in shock for an entire month”. She said she could never forget the horrific days she spent in Iraq.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, GHUMSUR NORTH DIVISION

Bheijput, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin-761126

Tel/Fax : 06821-240164, E-mail : dfo.ghumsurnorth@odisha.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE

E-Procurement Bid Identification No. GH(N)-BNJ-F-E & C.C.-01/2025-26

No. MM-250 : The dates for availability of tender paper in portal/date of receipt of bids in the portal and date of opening of the tender in the portal for the works vide Bid Identification No. GH(N)-BNJ-F-E & C.C.-01/2025-26 published vide Letter No.6993 dtd.16.10.2025 is revised as follows :

1. Name of work	: Construction of Buildings
2. No. of works	: 03 Nos.
3. No. of covers	: Single Cover
4. Estimated Cost	: Rs.11.37 to Rs.15.35 Lakhs
5. Period of Completion	: Three Calendar Months
6. Date & Time of availability of bid documents in portal	: From 10.00 A.M. of dated 31.10.2025 to 05.00 P.M. of dated 09.11.2025
7. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Up to 5.00 P.M. of 09.11.2025
8. Date of opening of bid documents	: At 11.30 A.M. of 10.11.2025
9. Class of Contractor	: ‘C’ & ‘D’ Class Contractor
10. Name and address of officer inviting Bid	: Divisional Forest Officer, Ghumsur North Forest Division, Bheijput, Bhanjanagar

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Ghumsur North Division

OIPR-08033/11/0018/2526

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH

Email : rd_bgh@yahoo.co.in, Gmail : rwd.bgh@gmail.com

No. O-1162

e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH-12 OF 2025-26

1 Name of the Work	: Building work during 2025-26 in the district of Bargarh
2 EMD	: @1% of the estimated cost put to tender
3 Other details	: As per DTCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bargarh	ONLINE-BGH-12 OF 2025-26	30.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	12.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	12.11.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.	13.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

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

Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Bargarh

OIPR-25062/11/0038/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH

At/Po-Nabaghanpur, Dist.-Nayagarh, Ph-06753-252049, E-Mail : nayagarhrw2006@yahoo.in

No : Tender-Online-Nayagarh Divn.-04/2025-26

Date : 25.10.2025

e-Procurement Notice

1. Name of the work	: Road works
2. Total No. of Projects	: 37 (Thirty Seven) Nos. of projects
3. Class of contractor	: B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
a) Estimated cost above Rs.20.00 Lakhs & up to Rs.3.00 Crore	: C Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
b) Estimated cost up to Rs.40.00 Lakhs	: D Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
c) Estimated cost up to Rs.20.00 Lakhs	: Rs.5.06 Lakhs to Rs.42.37 lakhs
4. Estimated cost put to tender	: 03 (Three) & 02 (Two) calendar months
5. Time for completion	
6. Other details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date & Time of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nayagarh	No : Tender-Online-Divn. Nayagarh-04/2025-26	31.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	11.11.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.	12.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

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

Sd./- Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Nayagarh

OIPR-25106/11/0033/2526

Government of Odisha “e” procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE

No.O-1203

No. 4107

SNPR - 08 OF 2025-26

Dated : 25.10.2025

1. Name of the Work	: Building Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
2. Total No. of Work	: 02 (Two) Nos.
3. Approximate Estimated Cost	: Vary from Rs. 30.04 lakh to Rs. 67.27 lakh
4. Period of Completion	: 6 (Six) to 9 (Nine) Calendar months
5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding	: 30.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 14.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
6. Date and time of opening of Tender	: 15.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. (Technical Bid) & (Financial Bid will be intimated later on)
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: S.E.R.W. Division, Sonepur

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice

(2) Inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodishagov.in

(3) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website : www.tenderodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Sonepur

OIPR-25054/11/0045/2526

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport

Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone - A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023, Phone : 0674-2300885, Email : portsnitw.od@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. DPIWT - 22/2025-26

No. JJ-62

01. Name of the work	: Procurement of 1000 Nos. Child Life Jacket for the Passenger Boats plying in different water bodies of Odisha
02. Approximate value of work	: Rs.20,00,000.00
03. No. of Covers	: Double cover
04. Bid Cost	: Rs.6,000.00
05. Period of Completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar Months
06. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: 03.11.2025 to 17.11.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.
07. Date & Time of Bid Clarification	: 03.11.2025 to 07.11.2025 upto 03.00 P.M.
08. Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 17.11.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.
09. Date of opening of bid document (Cover-I)	: 18.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
10. Name and address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	: Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751023

Phone : 0674-2390355, Fax - 2396885, E-Mail : portsnitw.od@nic.in

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place, <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hoisted in the website only.

Sd./- Director Ports & IWT, Odisha

OIPR-38035/11/0054/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KANDHAMAL

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.-08/2025-26

Letter No. 2437

Date : 25.10.2025

Name of work	: Improvement to M.I. Projects under Critical Grant and DPIW scheme for 2025-26.
No. Works	: 10 (ten) Nos.
Estimated Cost	: from Rs.8.11 lakh to Rs.24.52 lakh Approximately
Tender paper cost	: Rs.4000 & Rs.6000.00 (Non-refundable).
Period of Completion	: 90 (ninety days) only.
Availability of Bid documents	: From 10.00 A.M. of 01.11.2025 to 17.30 hrs of 10.11.2025 in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Time of receipt of bid through on line	: From 10.00 A.M. of 01.11.2025 to 17.30 hrs of 10.11.2025 through online
Date of opening of bid documents	: At 11.00 hrs of 11.11.2025 in the O/o S.E., M.I. Division, Kandhamal, Phulbani.
Digital signature certificate	: The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of class II or class-III

The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website <http://dowrorissa.gov.in>

Name & Address of the OIT : Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Kandhamal, Phulbani, At/PO : Phulbani, PS : Phulbani Town, Dist. : Kandhamal, E-mail : kmidplb@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- (Er.Surjya Narayana Panigrahi) Superintending Engineer M.I.Division, Kandhamal

OIPR-32040/11/0013/2526

of the day **quote**

Omar did not betray the PDP, but all the poor people from whom he wants to snatch shelter from over their heads



MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

It is essential to support the BSP directly, instead of the SP and Congress, with the solidarity of the Muslim community, so that the BJP's 'ghaatak raajneeti' (destructive politics) can be defeated in the elections



MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

The government is ready to discuss every issue concerning farmers



DEVENDRA FADNIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

CBI books Punjab DIG HS Bhullar in fresh case

New Delhi: The CBI filed a fresh FIR Wednesday against Punjab Police DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar, already arrested in connection with a bribery case, for amassing disproportionate assets after seizure of documents and cash from his residence indicated huge wealth beyond his known sources of income. The CBI had arrested Bhullar October 16 along with a middleman for allegedly accepting ₹5 lakh in a bribe from a scrap dealer as “sewa pani”. During searches at his residence at House No. 1489, Sector 40B, Chandigarh, the CBI seized cash worth over ₹7.36 crore, cash worth over ₹2.32 crore, 26 branded and expensive watches besides documents of immovable properties in the names of family members.

Asaram gets six-month bail

Jodhpur: The Rajasthan High Court has granted six months' bail to self-styled godman Asaram Bapu, who has been serving life sentence for raping a minor, on medical grounds. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Justice Sangeeta Sharma passed the order while hearing his plea for suspension of the sentence and a regular bail. Asaram's counsel Devdutt Kamat argued that he has been suffering from prolonged illness and that proper treatment is not possible in jail.

Goods train derails in Simdega

Ranchi: A goods train derailed in Jharkhand's Simdega district Wednesday morning, affecting railway services, officials said. The incident happened near Kanaroan railway station around 10.15 am in the Ranchi division of South Eastern Railway, they said. “As many as 10 wagons of the goods train derailed, and eight of them overturned. The train was transporting iron ore,” Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Suchi Singh told PTI.

PM congratulates new Japanese PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his new Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi Wednesday agreed to work closely to further deepen bilateral relations. Last week, Takaichi (64) became Japan's first woman prime minister, succeeding Shigeru Ishiba. In his first conversation with Takaichi since her assumption of office, Modi congratulated her and agreed that stronger India-Japan ties were vital for global peace, stability and prosperity.



The BJP is doing politics; let them do whatever they want
DK SHIVAKUMAR | KARNATAKA DEPUTY CM

KERALA GOVT ANNOUNCES WELFARE PENSION HIKE

With local body elections approaching in Kerala, the state's Left government Wednesday unveiled a package of financial measures -- including an increase in welfare pensions, higher honorariums for ASHA workers, and a new women's security scheme -- aimed at broadening social support



President flies in Rafale fighter jet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ambala (Haryana), Oct 29: President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday took a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet from the Indian Air Force Station in Ambala, and described the experience as “unforgettable”, one that instilled a “renewed sense of pride” in India's defence capabilities.

Murmu made history as she became the first President of India to fly in two different fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF). Previously, she undertook a sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI in April 2023 from Tezpur in Assam.

Donning a G-suit and sporting sunglasses, Murmu, who is also the commander-in-chief of the Indian Armed Forces, was seen posing for pictures and flashing a thumbs-up gesture before the French-made jet, flown by Group Captain Amit Gehani, Commanding



PTI PHOTO

President Droupadi Murmu poses with Indian Air Force pilot Shivangi Singh at Air Force Station Ambala, following Pakistan's false claims of the pilot's capture during 'Operation Sindoor', at Air Force Station in Haryana's Ambala

Officer of the 17 Squadron, took off at 11:27 am.

The sortie lasted for approximately 30 minutes, covering about 200 kilometres. The aircraft reached a height of about 15,000 feet above sea level and a speed of approximately 700 kilometres per hour, according to a statement

from the President's office.

Upon landing, the President shared her delight in the visitor's book, saying, “The sortie on Rafale is an unforgettable experience for me. This first flight on the potent Rafale aircraft has instilled in me a renewed sense of

‘Wangchuk’s right to dissent stifled’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: The Supreme Court Wednesday sought response of the Centre and the Ladakh administration on an amended plea of Sonam Wangchuk's wife which termed the climate activist's detention under the stringent National Security Act as illegal, arbitrary exercise violating his fundamental rights.

A bench of justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Union territory of Ladakh to file the response to the amended plea of Gitanjali J Angmo in 10 days and posted the matter for hearing November 24. It allowed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Angmo to file any rejoinder if any.

The amended plea said, “The detention order is founded upon stale FIRs, vague imputations, and speculative assertions, lacks any live or proximate connection to the purported grounds of detention and is thus devoid of any legal or factual justification.”

“Such arbitrary exercise of preventive powers amounts to a gross abuse of authority, striking at the core of constitutional liberties and due process, rendering the detention order liable to be vitiated by this court,” it said.

The plea said that it is wholly preposterous that after over three decades of being recognized at the state, national, and international levels for his contributions to grassroots education, innovation, and environmental conservation in Ladakh and across India, Wangchuk would suddenly be targeted.

“Merely two months before the elections and the final rounds of dialogue between ABL (Apex Body of Leh), KDA (Kargil Democratic Alliance), and the Ministry of Home Affairs, he was served with notices for land lease cancellation, FCRA cancellation, initiation of a CBI investigation, and summons from the Income Tax Department.

“These coordinated actions, taken in close temporal proximity, make it prima facie evident that the order of detention is not based on genuine concerns of public order or security but is instead a calculated attempt to silence a respected citizen exercising his democratic and constitutional right to dissent,” Angmo submitted in her plea.

She said the unfortunate events of violence in Leh September 24 cannot be attributed to the actions or statements of Wangchuk in any manner.

“In fact, there have been no provocative statements made by Sonam Wangchuk on the days/ weeks prior to September 24, 2025 which could remotely be linked to the violence September 24, 2025. There is no evidence or material on record to show that any statement made by Sonam Wangchuk could have caused or led to any violent incident, especially the incident September 24, 2025,” it said.

She said that Wangchuk himself condemned the violence through his social media handles and categorically stated that violence would lead to the failure of Ladakh's “tapasya” and peaceful pursuit of five years and stated that “it is the saddest day of his life”.

Cloud seeding trial in Delhi paused due to low moisture content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: A day after two cloud seeding trials did not lead to artificial rain in the city, the Delhi government paused the exercise Wednesday citing low moisture content in clouds, even as a political slugfest erupted between the ruling BJP and AAP over the issue.

IIT-Kanpur Director Manindra Agrawal admitted that they did not achieve success in ensuring rainfall in the national capital, but said they received “key insights” from the activity.



However, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa asserted that cloud seeding trials conducted Tuesday were “successful”. “We reached a

stage where we could conduct the trials. Nine to 10 trials will be conducted and then, we will get to know at what moisture content rain can be induced.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: India and China held a fresh round of high-level military talks focusing on maintaining peace and security along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh using existing mechanisms.

The Corps Commander-level meeting was held on the Moldo-Chushul border point on the Indian side of the frontier October 25.

It was the first such interaction between the two militaries after the Special Representatives' talks in August between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

It said the two sides noted the progress since the 22nd round of Corps Commander level meeting in October 2024 and shared the view that peace and tranquility has been maintained in the India-China border areas.

“Both sides agreed to continue to use existing mechanisms

LAC PEACE

India, China hold high-level talks



It said the two sides noted the progress since the 22nd round of Corps Commander level meeting in October 2024 and shared the view that peace and tranquility has been maintained in the India-China border areas

to resolve any ground issues along the border to maintain stability,” it said.

In the last few months, India and China have initiated a series of measures to normalise their relations after ending the over four-year military face-off along the LAC in eastern Lada-

kh October last year. The face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang. Following Wang's visit to New Delhi for the Special Representatives' talks in August 19, India and China

Bihar polls: Rahul, Priyanka to address 15 rallies in all

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are likely to address around 15 rallies in all in poll-bound Bihar, party sources said Wednesday, as the electoral contest heats up in the crucial Hindi heartland state.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who recently underwent a pacemaker implantation procedure, is set to address three rallies in Bihar along with a few press conferences as well, they said.

Rahul Gandhi began his campaign with two rallies in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga Wednesday. Priyanka Gandhi, who is presently in Wayanad, will visit Bihar later this week and address poll rallies.

Congress president Kharge and senior leaders Sonia Gand-

hi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Kanhaiya Kumar and Independent MP Pappu Yadav are among the party's 40 star campaigners for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly polls.

The party's Bihar affairs in-charge, Krishna Allavaru, its state unit chief Rajesh Ram, Congress general secretaries K C Venugopal, Bhupesh Baghel, Sachin Pilot, Randeep Surjewala and Syed Naseer Hussain, as well as senior leaders Ashok Gehlot, Tariq Anwar, Gaurav Gogoi, Mohammad Jawed and Akhilesh Prasad Singh, are also on the list.

The opposition INDIA bloc, which has the RJD, Congress and Left parties as the main constituents, has declared RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial candidate for the Bihar polls.

unveiled a series of measures for a “stable, cooperative and forward-looking” relationship that included jointly maintaining peace along the frontier, reopening border trade and promoting investment flows.

“This was the first meeting of the ‘General Level Mechanism’ in the Western Sector since the 24th round of Special Representatives talks held August 19,” the MEA said on Corps-Commander talks.

A Chinese readout on the Corps-Commander talks said the two sides engaged in active and in-depth communication on the management of the western section of the China-India border. The two sides decided to maintain communication and dialogue as decided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, it said. “They agreed to continue communication and dialogue through military and diplomatic channels under the guidance of the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the China-India border areas,” the readout by the Chinese defence ministry said.

CYCLONE MONTHA

Two dead in Andhra, crops suffer damage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Oct 29: Cyclone Montha, which crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast past midnight Tuesday, left two persons dead, damaged standing crops over 1.50 lakh acres and disrupted power and transportation. The government said the loss was minimised due to the precautionary measures put in place.

Neighbouring Telangana also received heavy rains.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Wednesday said two persons died in the state due to the severe cyclonic storm Montha, observing that precautionary measures minimised loss. Montha, which means a fragrant flower in Thai, crossed Andhra Pradesh coast around Antarvedi village in Konaseema district, near Narasapur in West Godavari district in the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Following its landfall, Montha weakened into a deep depression over coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining Telangana.

Naidu undertook an aerial survey of the cyclone-affected areas, which included Baspatla, Palnadu, Krishna, Konaseema and Eluru districts.

As part of his tour, he visited a relief camp at Odalarevu village of Allavaram mandal in Konaseema district, where he distributed essential supplies to evacuees, which included 25 kg rice and other items and an amount of Rs 3,000 cash per family.

of the day **note**

Discussed how India & the European Union can maximize convergences and deepen cooperation. This can stabilise the global economy and strengthen democratic forces

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

The Congress meeting started with singing of Bangladesh's national anthem instead of the Indian national anthem. It is a blatant disrespect to the people of India and its national anthem

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

If the party in power in the state is not on the same page with the ruling party at the Centre, people are often deprived of development and welfare schemes. Mizoram requires BJP representatives to usher in development

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

POST OF THE DAY

4 news today from India-
1) 15 yo girl was gangraped for 9 Hours in a car in Haryana.
2) A man killed her wife by throwing her from the terrace for 'saying no to Sex' in UP.
3) A woman was raped in a moving bus in MP.
4) Rape convict Asharam got bail for another 6 months.

@Nher_who

SHORT TAKES

UP: 8 people missing after boat capsizes

Bahraich (UP): A 60-year-old woman drowned and eight people, including five children, went missing Wednesday after a boat capsized in the Kaudiyala river near Bharathapur village in a densely forested area of this district, officials said. The incident occurred around 6 pm when 22 people from Khairatiya village of neighbouring Lakhimpur district were travelling by boat to Bharathapur, they said, adding efforts are on to trace the missing persons. Locals said the boat overturned in the river because the flow of the water was strong.

Lukewarm response to BJP's bandh

Chaibasa/Seraikela: The 12-hour bandh, called by the Jharkhand BJP in three districts to protest against alleged baton charge on tribals, evoked a lukewarm response Wednesday with schools, offices and business establishments functioning as usual and normal vehicular movement noticed, officials said.

HC criticises conduct of ANI

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Wednesday deprecated the conduct of news agency Asian News International (ANI) for directly approaching YouTube to block Dynamite News Network's channel despite the matter being pending in the court over alleged copyright infringement.

Murder convict dies during treatment

Chatra (Jharkhand): Family members of a murder convict, who died during treatment in a hospital in Ranchi, demonstrated with the body seeking justice in Jharkhand's Chatra district, police said Wednesday.

The Election Commission is planning to carry out the SIR of voter lists in many states, including Kerala, and we will strongly oppose it

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS MP

MNCB BUSTS DRUG NETWORK; ARRESTS DAWOOD AIDE, HIS WIFE

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested Danish Chikna, a close aide of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and "kingpin" of a drug syndicate, along with his wife from Goa, officials said Wednesday



51 Naxals surrender in Ch'garh's Bijapur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bijapur/Kanker, Oct 29: As many as 51 Naxalites, 20 of them carrying a collective bounty of ₹66 lakh, surrendered in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh Wednesday, police said.

Hailing the development, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the country is now rapidly moving towards achieving the goal of a Naxal-free India.

Fifty-one Naxalites, including nine women, returned to the mainstream citing that they were impressed by the state government's rehabilitation policy and development initiatives, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said.

Their decision to quit the path of violence marks another significant step in the state government's ongoing mission to eradicate Naxalism through peace, dialogue and development, he said.

Their surrender was part of 'Poona Margham - Punarwar se Punarjeevan' (rehabilitation for social integration), a rehabilitation initiative launched by Bastar Range police for Naxalites.

Among those who surrendered were five members of the PLGA (Peoples' Liberation Guerrilla Army) battalion number 01 and company numbers 01, 02 and 05, one area committee member, seven members of area committees party and platoon, three members of the LOS (local organisation squad) group, one militia platoon commander, 14 militia platoon members and 20 lower-rung members, he said.



and Make For The World" vision. Addressing an audience, including leaders of various companies, the Prime Minister affirmed India's commitment to strengthening the supply chain resilience at a global level.

He also said that India is engaged in creating world-class mega ports, and cited the work undertaken on the VadHAVAN Port to the north of the financial capital, which entered the top-10 firms in the world on the first day.

The government is also looking to grow the capacity at 12 major ports by four times and increase India's share in containerised cargo at the global level. Later, Modi held a meeting with top CEOs of shipping sector companies from across the world.

As per people in the know, he met AP Moller-Maersk Chairman Robert Maersk Uggla, DP World Group Chairman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Mediterranean Shipping Company Chief Executive Soren Toft, Adani Ports and SEZ Managing Director Karan Adani and French company CMA-CGM's Senior Vice President Ludovic Renou. The participation from over 85 countries in the IMW sends a strong message, Modi said, noting the presence of CEOs of major shipping giants, startups, policymakers, and innovators at the event.

Juvenile guilty of rape, murder of 60-year-old with iron rod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: A Delhi court has found a juvenile guilty of raping and murdering a 60-year-old woman in 2017, expressing shock that he inflicted iron rod blows on every body part of the deceased and "mercilessly inserted" it in her private parts.

A final order regarding the sentence will be passed on a later date. Additional Sessions Judge Amit Sahrawat was hearing the case against the juvenile against whom a case was registered for the penal offences of rape and murder.

The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in 2018 concluded that the child in conflict with law (CCL), aged between 16 and 18 years, was required to be tried as an adult, following which the case was transferred to the present Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court.



According to the prosecution, the juvenile inflicted injuries on

the woman with the iron rod and then attempted to rape her in the afternoon of November 11, 2017. It said that a security guard, upon witnessing the crime, raised an alarm, following which the juvenile was apprehended.

In an order dated October 28, the court said, "It is a proved fact that the metallic rod recovered from the spot was inserted by CCL into the private parts of the deceased and due to that the deceased sustained fatal injuries inside her private parts."

BENGAL 'SIR SUICIDE' ROW

TMC ups the ante against BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 29: West Bengal's political domain remained abuzz Wednesday, with the TMC and BJP exchanging sharp accusations over the suicide of a man on the outskirts of Kolkata and a suicide bid by another person in Cooch Behar, both of who allegedly panicked in the wake of the SIR exercise to determine voting eligibility.

While Trinamool's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee called people to confront and "tie up" local BJP leaders to "trees and poles" if they asked for their parents' birth certificates, the state's Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari slammed the ruling dispensation for "peddling lies over the tragic death of a man for political dividends".

Abhishek made his remark after visiting the family of 57-year-old Pradeep Kar, who allegedly died by suicide at Panihati in North 24 Parganas district Tuesday, allegedly over fear of SIR while leaving a suicide note behind where he reportedly mentioned his anxiety over 'NRC'.

The Election Commission Tuesday announced the schedule for conducting SIR, or Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, in 12 states and UTs, including poll-bound West Bengal, after completing the exercise in Bihar where names of over 45 lakh ineligible voters were deleted.

The NRC, or National Register for Citizens, is an initiative of the central government to identify and list legal Indian citizens and deport illegal immigrants and has, so far, only been implemented in Assam.



Various Opposition parties, including the TMC, have alleged that the SIR is the Centre's "ploy" to use the EC and implement NRC "through backdoor"

Various Opposition parties, including the TMC, have alleged that the SIR is the Centre's "ploy" to use the EC and implement NRC "through backdoor". Amid the ongoing imbroglio, TMC claimed that a 63-year-old man in Cooch Behar district attempted suicide on Wednesday fearing harassment under SIR, and accused the BJP and the EC of triggering panic across the state. Police said Khairul Sheikh, a resident of Jitpur in Dinhata, allegedly consumed poison as "he was anxious over his name being wrongly recorded in the 2002 voter list". He is currently undergoing treatment at the Cooch Behar district hospital.

Abhishek, meanwhile, accused Union Home Minister

Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of being responsible for the "climate of panic" and demanded criminal action.

"Kar died due to anxiety over NRC and SIR. An FIR should be filed against Shah and Kumar" he said.

Banerjee was flanked by TMC MPs Partha Bhowmick and Nirmal Ghosh and youth leader Debraj Chakraborty when he met the deceased's family.

TMC leaders said the handwritten note found near Kar's body reflected his fear of documentation requirements and looming exclusion.

Addressing supporters later, Banerjee escalated his attack on the BJP's demand for legacy papers. "Next time local BJP leaders come to your area, stop them and ask them to furnish their parents' certificates. Tie them to a tree or lamp post and tell them they won't be released until they produce their parents' and grandparents' documents," he said. "We do not believe in violence. Don't assault them, just tie them up if they ask for your parents' birth certificates," he added.



Aspirants work out while preparing for the upcoming Army recruitment, in Ranbir Singh Pura, Jammu and Kashmir

PTI PHOTO

Experts warn of rising stroke cases among youths

On World Stroke Day 2025, doctors reiterated that India's stroke response must evolve beyond emergency care to data-led prevention, powered by AI-driven imaging, advanced pathology, and faster clinical decision systems, a public health necessity capable of reducing disability and mortality rates by measurable margins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: As India observes World Stroke Day, medical experts have sounded alarm over a worrying rise in stroke cases among younger adults, warning that the disease is no longer confined to the elderly.

At the World Stroke Day forum organised by Mahajan Imaging and Labs Wednesday, experts emphasized how AI-enabled, integrated pathology and imaging systems are transforming stroke diagnosis and management, making it possible to detect and treat strokes faster, and even prevent them before symptoms appear.

India's stroke crisis is worsening, with new findings published in the International Journal of Stroke (IJS), revealing that the country records nearly 1.5 million stroke cases

every year, yet only one in four Indians has access to a stroke-ready hospital.

The study highlights a significant gap in emergency preparedness.

Experts noted that the rise in cases among people in their thirties and forties is driven by stress, hypertension, sedentary lifestyles, and chronic exposure to air pollution, underscoring an urgent need for AI-enabled, preventive, and integrated stroke care systems.

Dr MV Padma Srivastava, chairperson of Neurology at Paras Health, Gurugram, and former Professor and Head of Neurology at AIIMS, New Delhi, said that environmental and lifestyle factors are now major contributors to the rising stroke burden, particularly among younger adults.

Chronic exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5),



for instance, is known to trigger inflammation and vascular damage, significantly heightening the risk of ischemic stroke.

"In cities like Delhi, where PM2.5 levels are often 10-15 times higher than WHO-recommended limits, individuals with hypertension, diabetes, or pre-existing heart disease face an even greater risk. This

makes preventive screening and early diagnosis more critical than ever. Equally important is timely treatment, reaching a stroke-ready centre within the 'golden hour' can dramatically improve recovery and functional outcomes," Dr Srivastava said.

The profile of a stroke patient has changed dramati-

cally in the last decade, said Dr Harsh Mahajan, founder and managing director, Mahajan Imaging and Labs.

The first publication on AI in the prestigious medical journal The Lancet was in October 2018, authored by Qure.ai and Mahajan Imaging and Labs, on AI-based automated diagnosis and report generation from head CT scans in patients with hemorrhagic stroke, a revolutionary step in applying AI to the diagnosis of critical illnesses, Dr. Mahajan said.

On the laboratory side, specialists highlighted how pathology is equally crucial in decoding the clot.

Advanced tests such as D-dimer, PT/INR, fibrinogen levels, lipid subfraction analysis, and genetic marker screening help determine who is predisposed to stroke or at risk of recurrence. Blood biomarkers like

Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein (GFAP) and Neurofilament Light Chain (NfL) can even detect neuronal injury within hours of onset, enabling faster and more precise interventions.

The event concluded with a strong call to shift from reactive treatment to preventive, patient-centric stroke care driven by early detection and continuous monitoring.

Experts urged that screening for blood pressure, cholesterol, coagulation factors, and blood sugar become as routine as annual check-ups, especially for those with sedentary lifestyles, high stress, or a family history of heart disease.

They further stressed the need to assess homocysteine and C-reactive protein (CRP) levels, which can reveal vascular stress long before symptoms appear.

ICC MEN'S RANKINGS

IN A FIRST, HITMAN HITS TOP SPOT

Rohit Sharma becomes oldest cricketer to be world's No 1 ranked ODI batter after heroics Down Under

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 29: Former India skipper Rohit Sharma Wednesday claimed the top spot in the ICC Men's ODI batter rankings for the first time in his distinguished career.

The 38-year-old Rohit created history as he rose two spots on the back of his superb unbeaten century (121 not out) in the third and final ODI between India and Australia in Sydney where he led his side to an emphatic nine-wicket triumph in style.

STRAINED TIES

Men's Hockey Jr WC: Oman replace Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lausanne, Oct 29: Oman will replace Pakistan in the FIH Men's Junior World after the latter withdraw from the tournament to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 till December 10, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed Wednesday.

"After the Pakistan Hockey Federation has notified the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that they have not accepted the invitation to participate in the upcoming FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025, after their team had qualified for this event at the Asia Junior Cup last year, the Men's Junior team of Oman will now join the list of participating teams for this event that will take place from 28 November to 10 December 2025 in the cities of Chennai and Madurai, India," the FIH said in a statement.

Oman joins as the next highest placed team in the continental championship (Junior Asia Cup 2024), which was the qualifying tournament for the Junior World Cup.



"For the very first time, the FIH Hockey Junior World Cups 2025, women and men, will involve 24 teams each, enabling greater accessibility to FIH events, which is one of the fundamental principles of the FIH Empowerment and Engagement strategy," the FIH statement further read.. Pakistan were placed in Group B alongside India, Chile, and Switzerland. This is the second event in India that Pakistan has pulled out from after the men's Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar held from August 29 to September 7 this year.

The Indo-Pak relation has deteriorated since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor.

FUTURISTIC LANDMARK

NEOM Stadium, set to be built for FIFA World Cup 2034, will be situated 1,150ft above desert floor with an overall investment of \$1bn

AGENCIES

Riyadh, Oct 29: Saudi Arabia has confirmed it will host the FIFA World Cup 2034, and one of its most ambitious projects is already turning heads, the NEOM Stadium, described as the world's first "sky stadium." The 46,000-seat arena will be built 1,150 feet (350 metres) above the ground in the planned smart city called The Line.

Construction is expected to start in 2027 and finish by 2032, two years before the World Cup kicks off. The project, valued at \$1 billion, will be powered entirely by renewable energy from solar and wind sources, as revealed in Saudi Arabia's official World Cup bid.

The NEOM Stadium is set to host matches during the group stage, Round of 32, Round of 16,

The experienced right-hander was in a damaging mood alongside fellow India legend Virat Kohli (74 not out) as he smashed 13 fours and three massive sixes on his way to scoring his 33rd ODI century for his country.

Rohit's efforts see him overtake Afghanistan dasher Ibrahim Zadran and India teammate Shubman Gill and claim the top ranking for batters in ODI cricket for the very first time, having always held a spot inside the top 10 for the majori-



ty of the last decade.

The former skipper wasn't the only India player to make some ground on the updated rankings this week, with spinner Axar Patel rewarded for a strong game in Sydney with gains in both the bowling and all-rounder category.

Axar jumped six places to 31st behind No.1 ranked Rashid Khan on the list for ODI bowlers and improves four spots to eighth overall behind Azmatullah Omarzai on the rankings for ODI all-rounders.

Rain washes out first India-Australia T20I



Captain SKY finds some form but rain plays spoilsport

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Canberra, Oct 29: Rain had the final say at the Manuka Oval in the Australian Capital Territory of Canberra, forcing the first T20I between India and Australia to be called off after persistent showers interrupted play twice Wednesday. India had a promising outing with the bat before the weather intervened, racing to 97 for 1 in 9.4 overs when the match was abandoned.

Under gloomy skies in the Australian capital, home skipper Mitchell Marsh won the toss and opted to bowl first. The Indian openers, Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill, gave the visitors a solid start, adding 35 runs for the first wicket before Nathan Ellis removed the left-hander.

Suryakumar Yadav then walked in and made an immediate impact, beginning his innings with a trademark whip over deep backward square leg — a shot that also brought up his 150th six in T20 internationals.

The game was halted for around 40 minutes after five overs due to rain, and play resumed with the contest reduced to 18 overs per side. Once back, both Suryakumar and Gill found their rhythm, stitching together a brisk 62-run stand off

35 balls. The duo struck some crisp boundaries and began accelerating before another spell of rain ended any hopes of further play.

At the time of the second interruption, Suryakumar was unbeaten on 39 and Gill on 37, guiding India to 97/1 in 9.4 overs. Despite the limited action, India's top order looked in fine touch, setting a positive tone before the rain washed it all away.

Much like the ODI series, which was also affected by weather, this T20 leg began on a damp note.

"At least in Perth, we got a result. No such luck today," the broadcasters summed up the mood as fans left disappointed. The focus now shifts to the second T20I in Melbourne on Friday — though forecasts there too hint at possible showers.

Reddy ruled out

Meanwhile, the BCCI confirmed that all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy has been ruled out of the first three T20Is due to fitness concerns.

"Nitish Kumar Reddy has been ruled out for the first three T20Is. The all-rounder, who was recovering from his left quadriceps injury sustained during the second ODI in Adelaide, complained of neck spasms, which have impacted his recovery and mobility. The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring his progress," the board said in an updated statement.

CHAMPIONS SHOWDOWN

Gukesh slips to last, Carlsen takes sole lead

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Saint Louis, Oct 29: Reigning world champion Gukesh Dommaraju faced a difficult day at the Clutch Chess Champions Showdown as he dropped to the bottom of the table with no wins, while Magnus Carlsen took the lead with four wins and two losses on the second day.

Gukesh, who began the day in the sole lead, suffered two defeats against Carlsen. Afterwards, he drew the first game against Hikaru Nakamura, whom he had previously defeated on the first game day to avenge his Checkmate: USA vs India exhibition match loss.



In the second game, the Indian GM had a solitary opportunity in a relatively balanced rook endgame. However, he missed it, and the game ended in a draw. He lost the following game against Fabiano Caruana and finished the day with a draw, ChessBase reports.

Gukesh said he was "not exactly happy with his play and was just not able to be sharp today. I was taking a lot of time, which I shouldn't have. Forget what happened and come fresh tomorrow."

Carlsen lost his first game of the event against Caruana. The World No 1 also suffered a second loss to Caruana. He has taken sole lead with 11.5/18. Caruana is close behind on 10.5. Nakamura and Gukesh are both on 7.

Clutch Chess is a unique tournament format created by Grandmaster Maurice Ashley, where the stakes escalate each round, with increasing points and cash prizes available daily.

Acid test for eves

WOMEN IN BLUE FACE STERN TEST AGAINST AUSTRALIA IN WOMEN'S WORLD CUP SEMIFINAL



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Oct 29: Alive in the tournament by a touch of fortune, hosts India will search for a spark of magic reminiscent of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's legendary knock eight years ago as they take on the mighty Australia in a blockbuster Women's World Cup semifinal here Thursday.

Kaur's 115-ball 171 not out at Derby, England, in 2017 semifinal against Australia was sem-

A victory over the seven-time world champions would not only ignite India's campaign but also fuel belief that an elusive ICC crown is within reach

inal moment which catapulted women's cricket from the footnote to the headlines.

For a team that has flirted with inconsistency, Thursday's game offers India a chance to defeat one of sport's most dominant sides.

India's campaign has been as taxing as it can be for a World Cup host, especially when the team had its back pressed firmly against the wall following three defeats on the trot, from which they fought back to find a place in the semifinals. But

YOUTH ASIAN GAMES

Jaiveer settles for silver in wrestling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahrain, Oct 29: India's Jaiveer Singh settled for silver in the boys' 55 kg freestyle wrestling while Rachana clinched the bronze medal in the corresponding 43 kg girls' event in the Youth Asian Games here Wednesday.

Jaiveer went down 2-6 to Japan's Yamato Furusawa in the final. He had ousted Kazakhstan's Ibrahim Yskakbek 5-0.

In the bronze medal match, Rachana got the better of Kyrgyzstan by an emphatic 11-0 margin. Later Komal Verma added another bronze to India's kitty in the girls' 49kg freestyle, defeating China's Mo Xiaoqing.

She had earlier lost to Japan's



Yuu Katsume 0-10.

Later Gaurav Punia will face Morteza Haj of Iran in the boys' 65 kg freestyle gold medal match, while Moni Moni will take on Kyrgyzstan's Sezim Zholdoshebekova in the girls' 57 kg freestyle final.

Moni had defeated China's

Xu Xiaohan 8-0 in the semifinal bout. India will have a chance to win another gold through Ashvini Vishnoi (girls' 69 kg freestyle) who will face China's Min Zhao.

Ashvini got the better of Kyrgyzstan's Aiana Asamalikova 3-0 in the semifinal.

Saudi Arabia building world's first 'sky stadium'



An aerial concept video of the sky-high venue has already gone viral on social media, sparking awe and curiosity among football fans worldwide

other sports — making it a year-round attraction in Saudi Arabia's futuristic cityscape. **Netizens call it 'Final Destination'** Netizens had mixed reac-

tions to the ambitious "sky stadium" plan. While many were amazed by the futuristic concept, others couldn't resist poking fun at it. Some

compared it to scenes from the thriller Final Destination, joking about the risks of being 1,150 feet above the ground.

Others quipped that there would probably be "a long queue for the elevators" during match days, turning the internet's excitement into a mix of awe and amusement.

Industrialist Sanjiv Goenka, who owns IPL team Lucknow Super Giants and ISL club Mo-hun Bagan Super Giants, also joined the global buzz around Saudi Arabia's futuristic football venue. Sharing the concept on his X account, he wrote, "The idea of a stadium in the sky captures the essence of modern ambition. Sustainability, technology, and creativity are no longer separate pursuits. They are now converging to shape the world ahead."

The NEOM Stadium isn't the only mega project in Saudi Arabia's World Cup plans. Another major development is the King Salman International Stadium in Riyadh, which Arab News reported "will become the largest

stadium in the Kingdom, with a capacity of 92,760, when it is completed in 2029."

FIFA has already given preliminary endorsement to the Sky Stadium project, recognising its potential to set new global standards for sustainable sports infrastructure. The venue's planned location near the Health and Well-Being District and University aims to create a sports-centric community within the NEOM smart city.

Although the larger NEOM project is scheduled for full completion by 2045, the section containing the stadium is expected to be ready by 2032 — just in time for the 2034 FIFA World Cup.

However, engineers are facing major design and construction challenges because of the stadium's unusual height and location. Delays in other parts of the NEOM project have raised concerns, but officials insist World Cup-related developments will stay on schedule.