Priyamani's perception Actor Priyamani disapproves

'pan-India actor' tag, saying

that it unnecessarily divides

the industry

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US, SK trade deal

Donald Trump and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung finalise details of their fraught trade deal at a summit in South Korea

INTERNATIONAL | P10



PHDCCI plea

In pre-budget recommendations, industry body PHDCCI suggests tax reduction for individuals earning up to ₹50 lakh annually

BUSINESS | P11



Rohit on top

Rohit Sharma claims the top spot in the ICC Men's ODI batter rankings for the first time in his distinguished career

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | OCTOBER 30, 2025



An elderly woman stares at an uncertain future after the wall of her house collapsed due to cyclone-induced rainfall at Andaraguda of Nandapur block in Koraput district. Wednesday

Montha: Rain, landslides damage roads, houses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Several parts of Odisha Wednesday experienced light to moderate rain as the severe cyclonic storm Montha weakened into a deep depression and caused landslides, damaging roads, bridges and houses in southern districts, officials said.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari thanked Lord Jagannath as the severe cyclonic storm slightly changed its anticipated landfall place in Andhra Pradesh coast at a distance of about 300 km from Malkangiri district.

Pujari said that there have been reports of house collapse, tree falling, landslide and damage of roads and others. He informed reporters that Cyclone Montha has impacted people in 33 blocks and 11 urban local bodies in Odisha.

A total of 2,198 pregnant

women were shifted to safer locations as part of the state's evacuation efforts, he said. He said the government opened as many as 362 free kitchens where cooked food was provided to 18,762 people, staying at the cyclone centres.

The minister said that there is also no fear from rains as the amount of rainfall was less than 200 mm, Gosani block in Gajapati district recorded the highest rainfall of around 150 mm followed by Patrapur in Ganjam at 117.4 mm, while 56 other blocks experienced rainfall ranging between 50 mm and 100 mm.

While stating that wind speed was also manageable, the minister said that a few places in Ganjam, Gajapati, Balasore and some other districts experienced power outage, which was restored within hours due to pre-planning and preparations. Roads blocked by uprooted trees were also immediately cleared.

Doing a trade deal with India: Trump



Seoul, Oct 29: US President Donald Trump Wednesday said that the US is "doing a trade deal with India" as the two sides continue to hold talks on the proposed trade While speaking at the

APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea, Trump added that he had great "respect and love' for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"If you look at India and Pakistan ... so, I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi, we have a great relationship," Trump said.

However, without elaborating further on the subject of the trade deal, Trump once again shifted to his claims of resolving the conflict between India

and Pakistan in early May. Trump's comment came at a time when the relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including an additional 25 per cent

Russian crude oil. It is understood that Minister of External Affairs Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio broadly delved into the proposed trade pact between the two sides during their meeting in Kuala Lumpur Monday on the

levies for its procurement of

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Wednesday expressed utter displeasure at the mode and manner in which the Odisha government is proceeding for recovery of dues from the defaulting lessees which had violated the mining norms. A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih told the counsel appearing for Odisha that it is for the state to ensure that the government revenue is not evaded. Advocate Prashant Bhushan appeared for the petitioner on whose plea the apex court had earlier passed several orders in the matter concerning illegal mining. Bhushan said the issue relates to recovery of dues, which runs into crores of rupees, from mining firms and the top court had passed several orders asking the state to recover the money.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Migration is a big problem. Our people leave—our politicians never do

Mining case: S12bn bailout for power WOMAN 'RAPED', MURDERED SC displeased within 30 was yet to be est team rushed to the spot an discoms in the pipeline

The Centre is planning to bail out loss-making staterun power discoms through a proposed over ₹1 lakh crore package, as per an exclusive Reuters report. While the aim is to reform the sector. the plan effectively channels public funds into creating opportunities for private corporations. Companies such as Adani Power, Reliance Power, Tata Power, CESC, and Torrent Power are expected to benefit, gaining stakes in state utilities. Under the proposal, states must privatise utilities or list them in stock exchanges to receive bailout funds. In the first case, the privatised entities will also be eligible for a 50-year interest-free loan, allowing private players to profit from taxpayer-funded relief. The move is likely to face resistance and will require strong political will, experts said

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 29: India is considering a bailout exceeding ₹1 lakh crore (\$12 billion) for debt-laden state-run power distribution companies

To receive the bailout funds, the states will be required to privatise their electric utilities and transfer managerial control or keep control but list them on a stock exchange, according to three government offi-



cials and a document outlining the plan prepared by the Indian Ministry of Power.

The plan marks Prime 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 access to loans to pay off existing debt under two options. First, the states can cre-

ate 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 personnel and a scientific

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

within 30 was yet to be es-

tablished when reports last

came in. The incident sur-

faced hardly 24 hours after

the murder of a youth by his

three friends in the area.

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

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

team rushed to the spot and

launched an investigation

from various angles.

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

The body was sent for village and informed the ost-mortem to Bhima Bhoi

Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir. A case was registered in this connec-Bulu Munda said.

tion and further investigations are on, Deogaon IIC sidelines of ASEAN summit. DHARITRI

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 mechaer-level meeting was held on the Moldo-Chushul border the frontier October 25. It was the first such interaction 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 friendlv and cordial atmosphere,

nisms. The Corps Commandpoint on the Indian side of between the two militaries the Ministry of External

CALLING ALL YOUNG FILMMAKERS!

OUTH

ENVIRONMENTAL

FILM COMPETITION

Acclaimed filmmaker & FTII alumnus, he is known for indradhanura chhai 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

SHEHASIS DAS

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

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





German expo explores history of fragrance

prise that visitors almost re-

a button in a gallery about

World War I. The scent re-

leased from the diffuser was

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dusseldorf (Germany), Oct 29: Ever wondered what war smells like? Or ponder the odour of love, or the stench of medieval Paris, or the sacred fragrance of religion?

A new exhibition in Germany allows visitors to discover unknown worlds of smells by sniffing their way through 81 different fragrances across 37 different galleries.

The show "The Secret Power of Scents", opening to the public Wednesday at the Kunstpalast museum in the western city of Dusseldorf, combines fragrances

a journey of more than 1,000 years of cultural history. "This exhibition is an

experiment - and an invitation for our audience to discover the history of scents with their noses," said Felix Kramer, the museum's director general.

The exhibition follows a chronological order, from religious artefacts of the Middle Ages through to contemporary art of the 21st century. The various galleries are equipped with scent steles, atomizers and diffusers to create a connection between the art and the smell of a specific time period or cultural context.

Scents evoke direct created by mixing the punwith art, taking visitors on emotional reactions more gent smell of gunpowder



blood and sulphur. treat in fear when they press

"Anyone who has ever experienced war, conventional war, will hate it, because you can actually smell the brutality of war here," said Robert Muller-Grunow, the show's curator and a leadscent and scent technology. "It's the first exhibition

worldwide to bring scents into a museum in this form. format and scale," he said.

On the other side of the fragrance spectrum, there's the Venus and Adonis painting from 1610 by Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens showing two lovers.

"This room is all about passion and emotions, said Muller-Grunow, adding that the smells diffused here are dominated by roses and the scent of the civ- a cat whose scent was considered erotic in the 17th century, but made today's visitors turn up their noses in disgust.

eisure



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,





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 eelings. You will, no doubt, succeed in making the impact, the impression you are striving to make, says Ganesha, You vill 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 later half of the day should see your worries abate somewhat, savs 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 advise 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

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will stay in accordance with your prestige or social status. Your innovative deas 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

Tempers 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.

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 Prioductions' One On One Dhamaal, an anthology of plays. November 1, 2025 here at Rabindra Mandap. The event features some of Mumbai's finest actors and India's most celebrated playwrights, under the guidance 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.

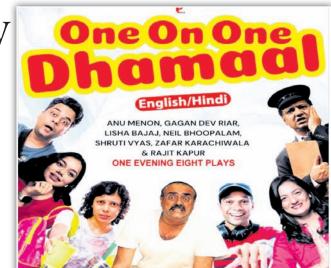
Plays include I'm Every Woman - A single character juggling multiple roles of women in a household. (English, 13 mins), Kachre Ki Hifazat - The comic woes of a CM's bodyguard. (Hindi, 15 mins), Keeda Saala - Life as a junior artist growing up

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 Rasbihari -A ticket collector finally stands up against repeated injustices. (Hindi, 15 mins)

Rajit Kapur, Neil Bhoopalam, 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 workshops, 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 Safary (Two Adorable Losers, 2018), Vinay Pathak (King

Lear, 2021), Rajit Kapoor, Vrajesh 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.

Chennai:

Actor Priyamani, who has worked extensively in both Hindi and regional cinema, shared

label her views on the growing use of the term "pan-India ac-She expressed her disapproval of the label. saying that it unnecessarily divides the industry "I think we should stop using the term

Priyamani

disapproves

'pan-India actor'

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 point-

ed 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 Haasan, 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 Rashmika Mandanna has been in the news for her engagement to Vijay Deverakonda and her recently released film Thamma. The Pushpa 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



PEANUTS

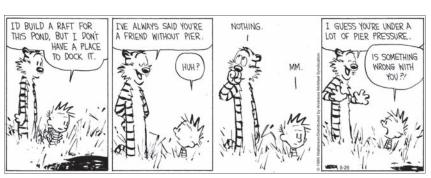








CALVIN AND HOBBES

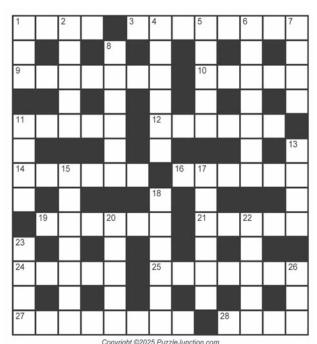


BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD



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27 Sign at an

28 Milky gem

25 Hostile

Acr	OSS
1	Have the blues
3	Aromatic bark
	used as a spice

- 9 Israeli city (3,4) 10 Lakes, in Dundee
- New Guinea
- 12 Ballerina
- 14 Minded
- 16 Bear witness
- 19 Vocation
- 21 Hazardous

- - 2 Small vascular growth

 - 4 Encroach upon
- Down 1 Encountered

airport (4-1-3)

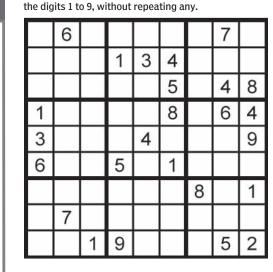
- 5 Parachute material

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 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



SOLUTIONS

QUAALPS F S E N B O U T F A C E CROSSWORD OGGIEBAG E S A L REMYBURGE

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

SUDOKU

lowntown

ODISSI EVENING

'Alap 2025', a cultura programme organised by Alap Cultural Trust. in progress at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



Tardy' pace of mining IWT key to boosting India's trade IWT key to boosting India's trade IWT key to boosting India's trade Integrate waste-to-value models in river in logistics. Mumbai/Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Inland Water Transport (IWT) will play a key role INDIA MARITIME WEEK 2025, MUMBAI INDIA MARITIME integrate waste-to-value models in river in logistics. In her concluding remarks, Padhee said, "Odisha's rivers and coastline have for centu-

New Delhi, Oct 29: The Supreme Court Wednesday expressed 'utter displeasure' at the mode and manner in which the Odisha government has been proceeding for recovery of dues from the defaulting lessees which had violated the mining norms.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih told the counsel appearing for Odisha that it is for the state to ensure that the government revenue is not evaded. Advocate Prashant Bhushan

appeared for the petitioner on whose plea the apex court had earlier passed several orders in the matter concerning illegal mining.

Bhushan said the issue relates to recovery of dues, which runs into crores of rupees, from mining firms and the top court had passed several orders asking the state to recover the

He said Odisha has recently filed a status report which revealed that 'effectively they are just dilly-dallying'.

"What are the steps you are taking?" the bench asked the state's advocate general.

The advocate general requested the bench to grant him some time so that he could have a meeting with the chief secretary and other concerned on the issue.

"Grant us a reasonable time. Whatever legal steps are required to be taken, I will ensure that they are taken," he said.

One of the lawvers appearing in the matter said that as per the apex court's August 2017 judgement, the due from the mining lease holders should have been deposited by December 31, 2017.

The bench noted the advo-



general requested the bench to grant him some time so that he could have a meeting with the chief secretary and other concerned

In August 2017, the SC had directed the recovery of compensation under Section 21(5) of the MMDR Act, 1957 from leaseholders, who had unauthorisedly extracted mineral ore on or before December 31, 2017

delivered its 2017 verdict on a plea filed in 2014 raising illegal mining

cate general's submission that he would ensure that concrete steps be taken against the defaulting lessees for recovery of dues as far as possible.

"We express utter displeasure at the mode and manner in which the state of Odisha has been proceeding for recovery of the dues from the defaulting lessees," the bench said.

It granted time till December 1 to the state to file a better status report in the matter and posted it for hearing December 3.

In its affidavit filed in the court, the state has apprised the bench about the status of the recovery process initiated by it together with the outcome of proceedings which were initiated and the status of those cases where recovery orders were set aside by the Orissa High Court.

"Periodical follow up is done in respect of the action contemplated to be taken against the defaulting lessees and earnest

effort is being made to recover the amount as demanded as compensation," the affidavit said. While hearing the matter in November last year, the SC had noted that as per a February 7, 2024 affidavit filed by the state, the amount recovered was stated to be ₹2,745.77 crore, excluding interest.

The SC had earlier noted that its August 2017 judgement had directed the recovery of compensation under Section 21(5) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 from leaseholders, who had unauthorisedly extracted mineral ore, either without clearance or beyond the limit of production approved under the environment clearance and forest clearance, on or before December 31, 2017.

The SC had delivered its 2017 verdict on a plea filed in 2014 raising the issue of illegal

port (IWT) will play a key role in shaping the future of trade connectivity in eastern India Commerce and Transport department Principal Secretary . Usha Padhee said at the India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai Wednesday.

Participating in the high-level panel discussion on 'Navigating Growth: Inland Waterways in the Forefront of Future Transport and Logistics', Padhee highlighted Odisha's proactive initiatives to strengthen inland and coastal waterway connectivity. The session deliberated on

reviving and modernising India's inland waterways as a low-cost, efficient, and environmentally-responsible

mode of cargo transport. Discussions focused on coastal-inland connectivity, multimodal integration, long-haul cargo movement, and cost compet-

itiveness, positioning IWT as a crucial component of the future logistics ecosystem.

Padhee outlined Odisha's strategic roadmap for developing blue maritime infrastructure and establishing multimodal logistics hubs that link ports, rivers, and industrial clusters. She emphasised the state's thrust on public-private partnerships, smart logistics solutions, and green transport initiatives aligned with the principles of a circular

economy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The panel also examined policy and regulatory reforms to accelerate industry participation in IWT, streamline customs and cargo handling systems, and promote standardised vessel design for efficient operations.

A thematic segment on 'Revival of Waterways and Circular Economy' highlighted opportunities to rejuvenate underutilised river routes and

and coastline have for centu ries been the lifelines of commerce and culture. The state is now committed to reviving this heritage through modern sustainable waterway infra structure that not only reduces logistics costs but also fosters greener, inclusive economic growth. Inland Water Trans port will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of trade connectivity in eastern India.'

Other eminent panellists included Sunil Kumar Singh chairman (I/C), IWAI; Harrie de Leijer, partner, Nestra (Netherlands); Pranab Jha, executive vice president, JSW Steel Ltd; Captain Priyaranjan Behera, AVP, Ultratech Ports and Shipping; Pradeep Purohit, COO, Star Cement; Vivek Arya, regional CEO - India Rhenus Logistics; and Rajnesh Gogoi, managing director, Assam Petrochemicals Ltd.

Suspected food poisoning in Ravenshaw



AGENCIES

Cuttack, Oct 29: Fifteen hostel boarders of Ravenshaw University were admitted to SCB

Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here Wednesday due to suspected food poisoning, an

official said. The students, who were vomiting, claimed that they fell ill after drinking water from a purifier at the East Hostel. However, the authorities denied the allegation, stating that the samples have been sent for laboratory

Hostel warden Sarat Kumar Rout said that the students' health condition is well and they are under medical observation.

"East Hostel has a total of 183 boarders. If there was any contamination in food or water, it would have affected other students as well. We suspect the students who fell ill, had consumed something from outside. the warden said.

The water and food samples of the hostel have been sent to the laboratory for testing. The quality of food and water can be ascertained from the test report. he added.

'Montha' damage assessment to begin today

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The state government Wednes day said that it will Thursday start the assessment of damage caused by 'Montha'-induced rain to crops and public infrastructure.

Addressing media, Revenue and Disaster Management Min ister Suresh Pujari said, "The change in Montha's trajectory spared Odisha from severe dev astation. The cyclone changed its course and touched land near Amalapuram instead of Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh reducing the potential impact on Odisha." Pujari said that the state

government had made preparations keeping in mind the IMD forecast and was prepared to face the eventuality. Highlighting that the IMD

has predicted heavy rain for five southern districts, Pujari said Odisha will remain on high alert till October 31.

"Damage assessment of crop houses, roads, and other public infrastructure will begin tomorrow," he said, adding that there are reports of damage to paddy, cotton and vegetable crops. The affected people will be provided assistance as per the norms directly to their bank accounts. Polythene sheets have been distributed to households whose walls were damaged in the calamity, he said. Pujari said normalcy will be restored across the state by

The IMD said five southern districts - Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur - are likely to experience heavy rain.

October 31.

The IMD revised the forecast considering the movement of the system which has so far weakened into a deep depression.

7 held with brown sugar in Khurda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Sevbrown sugar in Khurda district, police said Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, a raid was

conducted at a house in Daleisahi village under Bolagarh police station, they said.

A total of 314.97 gram brown sugar worth over ₹31 lakh was seized, SP Vivekananda Sharma said. "Among the accused, five are from Khurda and the rest are the residents of Ganjam. A huge amount of cash, brown sugar, a country-made gun, and other incriminating articles were seized from their possession. We have already intensified our operation to nab drug peddlers active in the district. Besides, we will continue the crackdown to keep the district drug free," the SP added.



MONTHA BLUES: Rains triggered by cyclonic storm 'Montha' hinder the construction of a makeshift stage for cultural programmes at Bali Yatra Lower Ground in Cuttack, Wednesday

Utility poles on roads spark safety concerns



POST NEWS NETWORK

Manguli/Jagatpur, Oct 29: Come to Tangi-Choudwar area here in Cuttack district and take a driving test as several electricity poles have been left in the middle of the roads after expansion works were completed, thanks to lack of monitoring

by officials concerned. According to reports, the

poles, located on roads connecting Tangi village to Tangi police station and Bhagatpur to Tangi village, were not relocated after the Works department completed road expansion projects, locals said. Lack of proper monitoring has turned the roads into accident-prone zones, they added.

Residents expressed resentment over what they described

as haphazard execution by the Works department, accusing officials of failing to monitor projects and awarding contracts to inexperienced firms. Locals have threatened protests if the poles are not removed promptly.

Before the expansion began, villagers submitted written requests to the Works and Electricity departments to shift the poles, but their pleas went unheeded, they said. Bhabani Shankar Das, junior engineer of Tangi Electricity Division, acknowledged the delay, stating, "The Works department informed us about the issue very late. Tenders have been issued for pole removal, and the work will be completed within seven days.

Works department sub-divisional officer said the contractor has been directed to install reflective signboards around the poles to prevent accidents.

Murder: Kolkata Police nabs 2 from Sambalpur

Kolkata/Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Kolkata Police Wednesday arrested two persons from Sambalpur for their alleged involvement in the murder of a young man in a hotel in West Bengal last week, an officer said.

"Shashikant Behera and Santosh Behera were nabbed from Sambalpur. We are trying to determine the motive behind the killing. They are being questioned," he said, adding that they would be brought to West Bengal on a transit remand.

The body of Rahul Lal was found in a storage compartment in a hotel room in Park Street area of Kolkata last week. Preliminary investigation suggested Lal was strangled to death with a bedsheet, police said.

Investigators linked the killing to Sambalpur through leads from the deceased's Aadhaar card and mobile phone number. "Lal had a criminal



recently acquired a valuable stolen artefact and had arranged a meeting with members of an Odisha-based smuggling ring to negotiate its sale

he hotel room was booked for that meeting. Investigators suspect Lal was murdered and the artefact stolen

background and was previously arrested for theft and fraud," he said.

"Multiple cases were registered against him at Park Street police station. He was allegedly involved in selling stolen goods, including antique items, to interstate smuggling networks for hefty profits," he said.

Police suspect Lal had recently acquired a valuable sto len artefact and had arranged a meeting with members of an Odisha-based smuggling ring to negotiate its sale.

"The hotel room was booked for that meeting. Investigators suspect he was murdered and the artefact stolen. A search is on to trace the item and identify others involved in the crime, the officer added.

OrissaPOST

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 Abhivan 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-

Guv reviews Raj

functioning

Bhavan Secretariat

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,

communication among officers to

official, institutional, and public

service activities. Kambhampati

efficiency and ensure seamless

Commissioner-cum-Secretary to

Governor Roopa Roshan Sahoo

and other senior officials of the

Secretariat were present during

execution of Secretariat's

day-to-day responsibilities

urged all departments to maintain

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 Wednes-

WORLD STROKE DAY

Apollo Hospitals promotes

stroke prevention awareness

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

ollowing 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

teams and Apollo's dedication

to world-class neuro-emergency

care for saving precious min-

Senior Neurology consultant at

Apollo Subranshu Sekhar Jena

explained stroke warning signs—

face drooping, arm weakness,

speech difficulty—and the latest

Experts including, senior

consultants Debabrata Biswal

and Deepak Parida shared

details on crucial role of neu-

rosurgery in complex stroke

cases, while senior consultant

in Interventional Radiology

Manas Ranjan Kar demon-

strated minimally invasive

clot retrieval techniques that

can restore blood flow quickly.

advances in acute stroke care.

utes in stroke management.



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

State meet to frame ICU, CCU norms

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 oraganised 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/



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.

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

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

cover aspects such as admis sion 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

4,476 e-challans in spl drive across Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: A three-day special enforcement drive was conducted across Odisha under the direction of Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, targeting four major motor vehicle rule violations. During the drive, 4,476 e-challans were issued under the Motor Vehicles Act — including 344 for carrying passengers in goods vehicles, 388 for drunk driving, 1,040 for driving without fitness, and 462

for driving without a permit.

and Commissioner Aswathy S

emphasised the importance of

teamwork, skill enhancement,

holistic medical practices, and

compassionate patient care, and

directed that guidelines should

The drive was conducted under the leadership of principal secretary Usha Padhee and the direct supervision of Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, in joint coordination with the Transport department and police administration.

The enforcement focused on major violations such as transporting passengers in goods vehicles, drunk driving, operating vehicles without valid fitness certificates, and driving without valid permits.

Bhubaneswar-I RTO topped



with 26 e-challans, followed by Cuttack and Sambalpur with 25 each, Balasore 22, Bhu-

by Rourkela 28, Bhubaneswar-I 23,

Ma

Mir

Rai

baneswar-II 21, and Khurda 20. In drunk driving cases, Sambalpur led with 29 e-challans, followed 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, Bhu baneswar-I 24, and Puri and Nay agarh 23 each.

Jajpur 17, and Bhubaneswar-II 16

Overall, Sambalpur RTO recorded the highest number of challans at 449, followed

by Bhubaneswar-I (378), Bhubaneswar-II (338), Sundargarh (259), and Rourkela (252).

CLASSIFIED

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

BDA holds gram sabha for key CDP road at Andharua

POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Apol-

lo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar

observed World Stroke Day

here Wednesday by hosting an

awareness programme, focused

on stroke prevention, rapid in-

tervention, and community ed-

ucation. The initiative brought

together experts from neurolo-

gy, neurosurgery, radiology,

psychiatry, and dietetics to

highlight the importance of

FAST (Face, Arm, Speech,

Speaking at the event, chief

operating officer and Medical

Services Director Alok Srivas-

tava spoke on the significance

of coordinated stroke response

Time) action in saving lives.

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 Balivarsingh and attended by several key officials including Bhubaneswar BDO Devi Prasad Mohanty, BDA Land Acquisition Officer Prateek Patnaik, Andharua Revenue Inspector Sabvasachi 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

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 Bhubaneswar 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





WEATHER				
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST	
x Temp	30.0°	29.2°	Partly cloudy sky	
n Temp	24.6°	22.4°	with possibility of rain or	
midity	82%	94%	thunderstorm.	
infall	19.2mm	14.8mm		

BOOKING STA

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

Unlifted rice threatens Kharif procurement 114 job seekers granted

Sonepur, Oct 29: With barely a month-and-a-half left for the 2025–26 Kharif paddy procurement to begin in Subarnapur district, concerns have been raised over the sluggish lifting of rice from mills under the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2024-25.

As of Monday, only 59.39% of custom-milled rice (CMR) from last season has reportedly been collected by the government, leaving nearly 40% of the total rice stock piled up in local mills. It leaves little room for the upcoming paddy harvest. Officials and farmer organisations fear this could disrupt the procurement process scheduled to start in the second week of December.

Subarnapur, a major paddy-producing district in Odisha, supplies around 30,000 quintals of rice monthly for the Public Distribution System (PDS). Preparations are underway to procure paddy from 71,453 registered farmers this season.

However, the slow pace of CMR lifting threatens to derail those plans. "If the existing stock is not cleared by December 10, millers will not



be able to take in new paddy, and procurement could face serious disruption," warned district officials.

During KMS 2024-25, millers in Subarnapur reportedly procured 61.88 lakh quintals of paddy, from which they were required to supply 42.31 lakh quintals of CMR to the government. So far, only 25.12 lakh quintals have been delivered, leaving a backlog of 17.18 lakh quintals in several mills in the district

It is worthwhile to mention here that millers deliver CMR to Food Corporation of ously will strain the system,' said Baikunthanath Satapathy, president of the District Farmers' Organisation, and Pradyumna Kumar Padhi, head of the Nabanirman Krushak Sangathan.

Notably, over 82,000 hectares of paddy have been cultivated in the district this year. Farmers have already registered with Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and women's self-help groups to sell their produce.

The state government, which offers ₹800 per quintal as input subsidy, expects higher paddy production this season due to favourable weather and increased farmer participation. Farmer groups have urged the administration to expedite CMR lifting to ensure uninterrupted procurement and payment.

District Supply Officer Nirad Ranjan Das said the issue has been reported to higher authorities. "We've apprised the government through various forums. If the mill godowns are not cleared soon, we may face serious difficulties during the upcoming procurement drive," he said.

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3706

bail in OPRB scam

Berhampur, Oct 29: A Special Vigilance Court in Berhampur Wednesday granted conditional bail to 114 job aspirants who were earlier arrested in connection with the much-publicized jobs-for-cash scam in the police sub-inspector recruitment examination under the Odisha Police Recruitment Board.

While as many as 123 per sons, including nine middlemen, have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the scam, the court granted bail to 114 job-seekers who had colluded with the scammers to pass the test, seven others who perpetrated the scam by luring the aspirants to get the police S job in exchange of huge sums of money were denied bail.

The middlemen were allegedly paid ₹10 lakh in advance by the job seekers, who were told to pay an additional sum of ₹15 to ₹20 lakh after getting the job.

The court allowed bail to 114 accused persons on ₹50,000 bail bond along with two sureties for each accused on the basis of three conditions. They were

asked to cooperate with investigating agencies in the probe as and when required, not to threaten the witnesses in the case and not to be involved in any criminal activities, additional public prosecutor Rajat Kumar Dash told mediapersons Wednesday. The written test of the Combined Police Service Examination, 2024, was scheduled to be held on October 5 and 6, but was postponed by the Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB) after 117 job aspirants including three middlemen were arrested in Berhampur. Later, the Crime Branch took into custody six more accused persons in connection with the recruitment scandal.

The Criminal Investigation Department wing of the Crime Branch was entrusted with investigation of the case.

 $However, bowing \ to \ demands$ from several quarters, including the Opposition and job aspirants, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on 22 October announced to hand over the investigation of the high-profile case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Another arrested in Pitabas murder case

Berhampur, Oct 29: Odisha Police has arrested another person in connection with the murder of senior advocate and BJP leader Pitabas Panda, taking the total arrests in the case to 14.

Sunya Chandra Das (61), a resident of Khodasing, was arrested Tuesday for allegedly sheltering the contract killers involved in Panda's murder October 6 night.

Police said Das had provided his rented house to four per sons, including accused locals and persons from Bihar, for four days. The vehicle used in the crime was also reportedly kept at his house. Analysis of call detail records (CDR) revealed frequent communication between Das, the conspirators and the killers, indicating his involvement in the plot.

Earlier, police had arrested 13 people, including former Berhampur MLA Bikram Kumar Panda and ex-Berhampur mayor Shiva Shankar Das allegedly for their involvement in the murder. Meanwhile, jail au thorities have decided to shift Shiva Shankar Das to Phulban jail in Kandhamal district for security reasons, officials said

Students to be roped in for tiger census

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneshwar, Oct 29: Authorities in Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary in Bargarh district have decided to rope in school and college students in the upcoming All India Tiger Estimation (AITE)-2025-26.

With the objective and theme of 'conserve today for a wilder tomorrow', the forest department has decided to engage students for the first time in such an exercise to instill proclivity to conservation of wildlife among them.

Collaborating the colleges and high schools adjoining Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary will be instrumental for growing understanding among institutions and organizations involving youth voices in wildlife conservation, said Divisional Forest Officer, Anshu Pragvan Das.

As many as 46 groups of students of Dunguri College, Kamgaon College Lakhanpur High School will be participating in the upcoming census at Debrigarh during November. "By engaging youth, we are trying to create a generation of future leaders and decision makers who will

be motivated to continue conservation efforts in the

sanctuary", Das said. Engagement in such exercise will bring creative energy, enthusiasm and passion and can inspire community efforts for conservation in this landscape. More than 50 such educational institutions adjoining Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary have been taken on exposure trips ahead of the tiger estimation programme.

Training of students with respect to sampling protocols, data collection, different types of herbivores and carnivores to be surveyed during census has already started from October 28 and will continue until the first week of November.

Their knowledge will include building understanding of signs, pugmarks, foot prints. scraps, vocalization, other marks like scent/ rake marks, she said. The scientific analysis of data collected from the census estimation will assess the status of carnivores prey species (herbivores & mega herbivores) and their abundance, human impacts on habitat and habitat status, she said.

CT & GST officer held for accepting ₹12,000 bribe

guripali and Sonepur. But

with rice movement to other

states stalled, FCI storage at

both depots has reached ca-

pacity, halting further CMR

intake. The absence of train

movement and limited space

in state-run storage cen-

tres have compounded the

problem, slowing FCI's collec-

As a result, millers are

struggling to clear stocks in

time. "The delay in rice lifting

could affect the smooth start

of the procurement season.

Both clearing old rice and re-



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 29: Odisha Vigilance Wednesday caught an assistant Commercial Tax and GST (CT & GST) officer red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹12,000 from a businessman in Titilagarh, Bolangir dis-

The accused, Umakanta Mahakur, Assistant CT & GST Officer, was apprehended after he allegedly demanded the bribe to waive off a penalty imposed on the complainant for non-payment of professional tax over three finan-

cial vears According to Vigilance sources, the businessman had defaulted on professional tax payments of ₹2,500 per year, totalling ₹7.500.

For the delay, he received a notice from Mahakur demanding ₹23.600. which included the tax amount along with fine and

When the complainant offered to clear only the tax amount, the officer allegedly refused and instead demanded ₹12,000 as a bribe to exempt the penalty and

Acting on the complaint, a Vigilance team laid a trap and caught Mahakur red-handed while accepting the bribe amount. The tainted money was recovered from his possession and seized in the presence

of witnesses Following the trap, simultaneous searches were conducted at various locations linked to the accused to verify disproportionate assets to his known sources of income.

A case has been registered against Mahakur under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. 'A further investigation into the matter is on', an official said.

BHUBANESWAR REGIONAL

OFFICE (550000),

1st Floor, Alok Bharti Tower, Sahid

Nagar - 751007, Ph: 0674-254546

COMMERCIAL SPACE ON LEASE BASIS Tender Ref. No. BBSRO/Jharsuguda 00 Shifting/Search/Select/550904/002

Sealed offers (Separate for Technical & Financial bid) are invited for acquiring commercial premises for Office Purpose of 1000 - 1200 sq.ft carpet area on lease basis (preferably at

Ground Floor/1st Floor) for operating of Jharsuguda Operating

Location: On Sarbahal to Behramal Chowk, Jharsuguda with

The tender documents can be collected from the office

(Jharsuguda Operating Office, 1st Floor, Mishra Market Complex, Mangala Bazar Road) **10.00 AM** and **5.30 PM** from

Monday to Friday on all working days. The tender offer can

also be downloaded from our company webstie:

The last date for submission of offer is 17.11.2025 upto 5.00

www.newindia.co.in (public notice section).

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BO

Bank of India

Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financian Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 o the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower(s) in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower(s) in particular and the public n general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India. Sastri Nagar Branch, for the amount stated below with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	as per Notice	Date of Possession (Symbolic) Notice	Description of Immovable Property/ies		
rowers: 1) Mr. Sudam Behera, S/o- Biswanath Behera and Mrs. Sabita Behera, W/o- Sudam Behera, Both are at achapur, Jagulai Sahi, Balugaon, Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752030.	+ interest & other	/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated at Khata No.: 321/1226, Plot No.: 615.		
S, having Area: Ac.0.035 dec. i.e. 1,524.6 sqft., Mouza: Balugaon, Tahasil: Chilika, SRO: Banapur, PS: Balugaon, PS No. 234, Dist.					

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 29.10.2025

Authorized Officer, Bank of India

Government of India announces enhanced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Jute

Government of India gives MSP Support to the farmers through 110 Purchase Centres & 14 Regional Offices of The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) in Six Jute Growing States



The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) is the Central Nodal Agency for MSP in Raw Jute

MSP RATE: 2025-26

Minimum Support Prices fixed for different varieties and grades of raw Jute Mesta & Bimli all over India for the 2025-2026 Crop Season are as follows:

ALL OVER INDIA							
Variety	Grade ⇔	TD-1/W1	TD-2/ W2	TD-3/ W3	TD-4/ W4	TD-5/ W5	
Tossa/White	₹ / Qtl.	6350	6150	5650	5125	4875	
Variety	Grade ⇔	M1 / O.TOP	M2 / S.MID	M3 / MID	M4/ BOT	M5 / B.BOT	M6 / X.BOT
Mesta / Bimli	₹ / Qtl.	4135	3985	3860	3760	3660	3560

The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) supports the Jute Farmers since inception in 1971

2 killed, 7 injured in road mishap

Balasore: An illegally parked truck on highway resulted in the loss of two lives and injury of seven others, two of them seriously, after a passenger bus hit it from behind in Odisha's Balasore district early Wednesday, police said. The accident took place on National Highway 60 in Jaleswar police station area, a police officer said.

As per reports, the driver and conductor of the Kolkata-bound bus coming from Narsinghpur in Cuttack district were killed in the incident, he said. The driver has been identified as Mir Abdul Rahim, 39, from Salepur area in Cuttack district, and the conductor as Nrusingha Kathua, 40, from Mahanga in the same district. There were about 40 passengers in the bus. The injured passengers were taken to the nearby Hospital, from where two seriously injured persons were shifted to Balasore district headquarters hospital, the officer said. Police have registered a case, and further investigation is underway.

Woman comes under iron-laden truck, crushed to death

Patana: A 55-year-old woman was killed after being run over by a 16-wheeler iron-laden truck while crossing National High-way 49 near Baunsuli Chhak in Patana block of Keonjhar district Wednesday morning. The deceased has been identi fied as Bhaski Munda, wife of Kartik Munda of Tangarpada village under Patana police limits. As per reports, the couple was returning from a purification ritual in Baunsuli village and was crossing the highway to board a bus home when they came under a speeding truck that was plying on the highway. Bhaski died on the spot, her body mutilated under the truck's wheels, witnesses said. Enraged locals blocked the highway for over an hour, demanding compensation for the victim's family. Traffic was restored around noon after police intervened and pacified the protesters. The truck driver, identified as Giridhari Das, 29, of Chainpur village under Kundai police limits in Jharkhand's Jamtola district, has been detained, and the vehicle seized. A case (268/25) has been registered at Turumunga police station, said Sub-Inspector Kishore Patra.

Sd/- Dy. General Manager CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Chola Corporate Office: Chola Crest, Super B, C54 & C55, 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032, T. N

Office at the following location.

reasonable Parking Area.

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

DEMAND NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s	Loan Amt.	Dt. of Demand Notice & O/s. Amt.	Description of the Property / Secured Asset
1.	Loan A/C. No(S).: LAP3JAJ000100234 1. Mr/Mrs. Rajat Rout 2. Mr/Mrs. Palliranijena Add:- Chhatrapada, Keruna, Jajpur, Odisha, Pin- 755013, Near Shiva Temple Keruna, Jajapur, Orissa - 755013. Also At: Plot No. 185, Madhupur, Madhupur, Dasarathpur, Jajpur, Odisha - 755006.		(Rupees Twenty lakhs Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two Only) as on	District Jajpur, Tahasil Dasarathapur, SRO-Mangalpur, P. S. Mangalpur, P. S. No. 49, Mouza Madhupuar. Conversion Khata No. 957/83, Plot No. 185, Area Aco.080dec with Status-Stitiban, Kisam-Gharabari (Homestead) corresponds Khata No. 731, Plot No. 185, Area Aco.080dec. Bounded by (Asper Sale Deed) North: Govt Road, South: Plot No. 187/3404, East: Sanatan Behera Plot No. 185/3534, West: Laxmidhar Bai And Others.
vithi	n 60 days from the date of this publication to	ogethe	r with applicable inter	to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove est, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till dalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. is a secured

ises ti reditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time. The Secure Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured assets(s) including but not limite to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize paymen The Secured Creditor is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured assets(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer Subsequent to the Sale of the secured assets(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is i addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law. The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section

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

Place : Jajpur, Odisha Date : 27.10.2025

Authorized Office For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

MSP - ₹ 2400/ Per Quintal in CY 2014-15 has been increased to ₹ 5650/ Per Quintal in CY 2025-26

 MSP Operation started in new States - Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jharkhand

Disbursement of farmers' payments within

3 working days E-Supply Chain and E-Auction platforms based on Block Chain

Technology are in planning of implementation to bring transparency, traceability, price discovery and inventory management on real time



JCI has launched PAAT MITRO App providing:

MSP rates & purchase centres information.

Agronomic advisories.

Weather updates. Quality parameters of jute.

Payment status after procurement.

West Bengal:

Quantity (in lakh Value (in Crore ₹) Value (in Crore ₹) Quantity (in lakh Bales approx.)

Digitalization of operations for faster procurement

• JCI "as an Implementing Agency" has an ongoing

Jute Agronomy Development Project I-CARE for

Distribution of subsidized (50%) High Yield Certified Seeds

Programs

Free Distribution of Modern Agronomic Tools to

from 2015

Free Distribution of Retting Accelerators

Free Demonstration and Awareness

Benefiting 5.6 lakh farmers and

covering 2.15 lakh hectare land

Government of India's

MSP procurement

last two decades

(2005-2014:2015-2024)

comparison between

operations from small and marginal farmers



Head Office: Patsan Bhavan, 3rd and 4th Floor, Block-CF, Action Area – 1
New Town, Kolkata – 700156, Phone: (033) 2252 1100 / 6720 / 6770 / 7107 / 7109
Fax : (033) 2252 1771. Email: jci@jcimail.in. www.jutecorp.in ASSAM:
RO: Guwahati RO, Gauripur RO, Nagaon RO
Purchase Centres (DPC): Guwagacha, Baharihat,
Uparhali, LakhjurtSC, Kharupetia, Bechimari, Goalpara,
Gauripur, Abhayarir, Falidadak, Kaldoba, Bilasipara, Kaliab
Juria, Dumdumia, Dhing, Moirabari, Lanka, Bhuragaon

RO: Forbesganj Purchase Centres (DPC) Murliganj

West Beng...

Regional Offices (RO): Non...

Coochbehar RO, Malda RO

Purchase Centres (DPC): Champadanga, Jirat, Kolaghat. Banga...

Berachampa, Aranghata DPC, Bangalihi DPC, Bara Andalia DPC, Chakdah

Kalna DPC, Dainhat DPC, Karwa DPC, Salaudi DPC, Badwig DPC, Batdwa Kalna DPC, Baladwig DPC, Bet Rezinagar, Kalistak, Kazisaha, Tirimbini, Amtala, Patikabari, Haribarpara,

Balistah, Jangian, Jonaka, Changrahadha, Sho

"wanakhyaguri, Tufanganj, Alipurduar, Bulbulchandi, RO: Bhadrak RO Purchase Centres (DPC): Dhanmandal, Bhadrak, Kendupa

Regional Offices (RO): Kolkata RO, Krishnagar RO, Bethuadahari RO, Berhat Coochbehar RO, Malda RO

RO: Parvathipuram RO Purchase Centres (DPC):

RO: Udaipur RO









Take Truth for your force; take Truth for your refuge

THE MOTHER



Senem Aydın-Düzgit

Hungary and

Turkey serve

as reminders

that evolving

can influence

the survival of

competitive

regimes. As

the world

authoritarian

shifts toward

multipolarity,

and middle

powers gain

will probably

multiply

greater influence,

regional conflicts

global dynamics

Why Authoritarians Thrive

'S 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 Erdo an 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, Erdo an 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, Erdo an 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 Erdo an prevailed. Economically, Erdo an 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 Erdo an'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 Erdo an 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 Erdo an'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 con-

solidate 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 Erdo an, 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 Erdo an 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 Sabancı University and Director of the Istanbul Policy Center.

WISDOM CORNER

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

, 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

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

JOHN LENNON



EDUCATION DIPLOMACY

rom time to time, we come across narratives of making India a Vishwa Guru again, which align with the aspiration of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Considering India's cultural heritage and knowledge power in science, engineering, and information technology, there is a considerable scope for extending education diplomacy and becoming a Viswa Mitra for other countries of the world

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. It is an essential part of a country's foreign policy to envision the role of education in international development and cooperation. Most developed countries have been adopting such practices. Scholarship programmes such as the Fulbright (USA) or the Commonwealth Fellowship (UK) are examples of such initiatives. Many countries have also established specialised departments to support education and research, such as the International Development Research Centre (Canada). The US Department of State has run the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) since 1940. Many IVLP alums have become presidents and prime ministers in over 130 countries around the world. Similarly, an evaluation of the Commonwealth Fellowship scheme revealed that its alums include eight presidents/ prime ministers/deputy prime ministers, 60 ministers, 262 vice chancellors, and 566 CEOs in the private sector in countries around the world. What is more important to note is that over 90% of the 31,000 alumni continue to maintain professional contact in the UK after several years of their fellowship.

India also contributes to such activities through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The ICCR offers sever-



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

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 stu-

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

dents to India.

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.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Sanjaya Mishra

EDUCATION

DIPLOMACY

MUST FOCUS

SCHOLARSHIPS

INDIA'S

BEYOND

Is economic progress caste neutral?



Sarit Kumar Rout

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

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

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Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

aste 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 Ambe dekar, 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 Manusmirtti. 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

Sir, China's economic trajectory for 2026–2030 is being recalibrated amid a complex

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 weak ened a little, but still assumes a larger role in rural settings.

We need to create higher pros perity and distribute its benefits evenly. A caste census may enumerate, for instance, different sub castes within a particular caste group and their socio-eco nomic 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 vet expand the policy of new welfarism. The state cannot annihilate caste sys tem, 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

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 distor-

tions, 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



TWO STATES





Kashmir to get direct rail connectivity soon

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 securi-



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

ty 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

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

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 Mubarik 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,

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

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Anantnag district in south Kashmir was third with 26,453

city with 36,406 cases.

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 steril isations 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

Punjab police strength to cross 1L

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 Puniab Police officers here, he said the police strength in the year 2000 was around 80,000 and remains nearly the same even today, de spite 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.

and the state government is working in close coordination

interference has now ended

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 han dling drug-related cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psycho tropic Substances (NDPS) Act to ensure traffickers do not es cape 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 inaugurat-

ed 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 con-

ducted in collaboration with NGO Space2Grow and cy-



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

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE

SNPR - 08 OF 2025-26

Total No. of Work Approximate Estimated Cost

Period of Completion of bid document in the portal

for bidding Date and time of opening of

Name and address of the

Other details can be seen from detailed notice

Inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodishagov.in

available in the website

Rs. 67.27 lakh

www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Vary from Rs. 30.04 lakh to

30.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to

14.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.

6 (Six) to 9 (Nine) Calendar months

15.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. (Technical

Bid) & (Financial Bid will be intimate

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

Sd./- Executive Engineer OIPR-25054/11/0045/2526

Punjab govt to launch Aam Aadmi clinics in central jails

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.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER. GHUMSUR NORTH DIVISION

Bhejiput, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin-761126 Tele/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 bid n the portal and date of opening of the tender in the portal for the works vide Bioldentification No.GH(N)-BNJ-F.E & C.C.-01/2025-26 published vide Letter No.6993

dtd 16 10 2025 is revised as follows Name of work Construction of Buildings

No. of works No. of covers

Estimated Cost

Period of Completion

Date & Time of availability of bid documents in portal

bids in the portal Date of opening of bid

Rs.11.37 to Rs.15.35 Lakhs

Last date/time for receipt of

documents Class of Contractor 10. Name and address of officer

Single Cover

Three Calendar Months

Up to 5.00 P.M. of 09.11.2025

"C" & "D" Class Contractor

inviting Bid Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer

OIPR-08033/11/0018/2526

From 10.00 A.M. of dated 31.10.2025 to 05.00 P.M. of dated 09.11.2025

At 11.30 A.M. of 10.11.2025

Divisional Forest Officer, Ghumsur North Forest Division, Bhejiput, Bhanjanagar

Ghumsur North Division

The chief minister said such

No. 4107

Period and time of availability

No. of Covers Bid Cost

document in the portal

Date of opening of bid document (Cover-I)

Inviting Tender (OIT)

bids in the portal

Last date & time for receipt of

Name and address of Officer

03. 04.

05

09.

10.

: S.E.R.W. Division, Sonepul Officer Inviting Bid

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. DPIWT - 22/2025-26 01 Name of the work Procurement of 1000 Nos. Child Life Jacket for the Passenger Boats plying in

Approximate value of work Rs.20.00.000.00 Double cover Rs.6,000.00 Period of Completion

03 (Three) Calendar Months 03.11.2025 to 17.11.2025 upto 05.00 P.M. Date & Time of Bid Clarification

different water bodies of Odisha

03.11.2025 to 07.11.2025 upto 03.00 P.M. 17.11.2025 up to 05.00 P.M

18.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M. Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar,

Phone : 0674-2390355, Fax - 2396885, e-Mail : portsniwt.od@nic.in Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place, https/

tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hoisted in the OIPR-38035/11/0054/2526

Odisha, PIN-751023

Duped by travel agent, Punjab woman recalls ordeal in Iraq

Chandigarh, Oct 29: "One day, they beat me until the stick broke,' recalls a 29-year-old woman from Puniab, 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

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

of a tailoring job.

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



had promised a tailoring

Narrating her ordeal, the woman said she left as a domestic servant.

job abroad "The travel agent had promised a tailoring job,

2025, she reached out to weekly holidays and permission to use a mobile phone to contact her family, but the reality was completely opposite," she said.

for Iraq January 8, 2024. After she reached Iraq, she was "forced" to work She claimed that the

employer tried to as-

sault 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,

Seechewal, who is also a noted environmentalist, through social media for help. He intervened in the matter and, as a result, she

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.

returned safely to Punjab

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER <u>RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH</u>

e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH-12 OF 2025-26 No.O-1162 Building work during 2025-26 in the district of Bargarh Name of the Wo @1% of the estimated cost put to tender : As per DTCN Availability of Tender online for bidding | Last Date & Time Bid Identification Date & Time of Procurement clarification Superintending Engineer, Rural ONLINE-BGH-12 30.10.2025 at 11.00 12.11.2025 upto 12.11.2025 upto Works Division,

e-Procurement Notice

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH**

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

Total No. of Projects Class of contractor a) Estimated cost above Rs.20.00 Lakhs & up to Rs.3.00 Crore b) Estimated cost up to Rs.40.00 Lakhs c) Estimated cost up to Rs.20.00 Lakhs

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

13.11.2025 at 11.00

No.O-1220 At/Po-Nabaghanpur, Dist.-Nayagarh, Ph-06753-252049, E-Mail: nayagarhrw2006@yahoo.in Date: 25.10.2025

R.W. Division, Bargarh

37 (Thirty Seven) Nos. of projects B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licencing authorities C Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities D Calss (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities

Rs 5.06 Lakhs to Rs 42.37 lakhs

Sd./- Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Nayagar

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 etter No. 2437 Date: 25.10.2025

mprovement 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
Rs.4000 & Rs.6000.00 (Non-refundable Tender paper cost 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) Fime of receipt of bid through From 10.00 A.M. of 01.11.2025 to 17.30 on line hrs of 10.11.2025 through online

Date of opening of bid At 11.00 hrs of 11.11.2025 in the O/o

Digital signature certificate The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of class II or class-III he detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR webs

nttp/dowrorissa.gov.in Name & Address of the OIT Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division Kandhamal, Phulbani, At/PO: Phulbani PS: Phulbani Town, Dist.: Kandhama 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) OIPR-32040/11/0013/2526

Superintending Engineer M.I.Division, Kandhamal

S.E., M.I. Division, Kandhamal, Phulban

Nayagarh

Bargarh

OIPR-25062/11/0038/2526





No : Tender-Online-Divi Nayagarh-04/2025-26





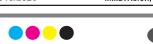








documents



national



doing politics; let them do whatever they want

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



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



Mehbooba Mufti | PDP President













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' Asaram Bapu, who has been serving life sentence for raping a minor, on medical grounds. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Sanieev 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

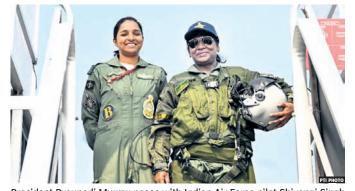
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his new Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi Wednesday agreed to work closely to further deepen bilateral relations. Last week, Takaichi (64) became Japan's first woman prime minister, succeeding Shigeru Ishiba. In his first conversation with Takaichi since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

President flies in Rafale fighter jet

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 sport-

ing 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



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

capabilities. I congratulate the Indian Air Force.

Air Chief Marshal A P Singh also flew a sortie in a separate aircraft from the same air base.

Upon arrival in Ambala, the President was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour. Prior to the flight, President Murmu was pictured with Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh, the country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot.

Singh was claimed to have been captured during 'Opera tion Sindoor' by a pro-Pakistan social media handle. The Press Information Bureau Fact Check had previously confirmed this claim as fake. President Murmu's flight follows in the footsteps of former Presidents who have flown in fighter jets, starting with A P J Abdul Kalam (Sukhoi 30 MKI) June 8, 2006, and Pratibha Patil (Suk hoi 30 MKI) November 25, 2009

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 hots 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 Gandhi, 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.

'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 Gitaniali 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 De-

"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 vears and stated that "it is the saddest day of his life".

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 mecha-

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 interac-

tion 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 bor-

"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 faceoff 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 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-Com mander 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 con tinue 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 tranquillity 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 disrupt ed 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 Chandraba bu Naidu Wednesday said two persons died in the state due to the severe cyclonic storm Mon tha, observing that precaution ary measures minimised loss.

Montha, which means a fra grant flower in Thai, crossed Andhra Pradesh coast around Antarvedi village in Konasee ma 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 Telan-

Naidu undertook an aerial survey of the cyclone-affected areas, which included Bapatla,

Palnadu, Krishna, Konaseema and Eluru districts. As part of his tour, he visit ed 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.



A caravan or group of camels during the Pushkar Fair in Ajmer, Rajasthan

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



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

continued to stay in the "poor" range with an AQI of 279, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). According to the 24-hour average recorded by the CPCB, the city's AQI stood at 279 Wednesday, compared to 294 Tuesday. On Monday, the AQI was 301, falling under the "very poor" category.

Delhi's air quality remains "poor"

Despite pollution levels dropping marginally, the national capital's air quality

Once IIT-Kanpur has concrete information on the moisture content needed to induce rain. we will be able to utilise it to have artificial rain in Delhi when needed," he told PTI.

According to IIT-Kanpur, which executed the trials, ₹60 lakh was incurred on the exercise.

The institute said Tuesday's

reduction of 6 to 10 per cent in PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations, indicating that even under limited moisture conditions, cloud seeding can contribute to improved air quality. A senior official said that the

data showed a measurable

government is awaiting clarity on whether the next trial will be carried out Thursday.

national



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

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



stabilise the global economy and strengthen democratic forces S IAISHANKAR | FXTERNAL 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

IITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER



4 news today from 1) 15 yo girl was gangraped for 9 Hours in a car in Haryana.

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.

2) A man killed

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 hoat cansised in the Kaudivala river near forested area of this district, officials said. The incident occurred around 6 nm when 22 people from Khairativa 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.



TMC ups the ante against BJP Right time to invest in shipping sector: Modi

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 Suvendu 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

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'

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

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.

The Prime Minister also met a select chief executives of global majors, including DP World and APM, at a specially convened meeting on the sidelines of the India Maritime Week 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday exhorted global investors to take bets on the Indian shipping sector, pointing out that this is the "right time" for such a move.

The Prime Minister also met a select chief executives of global majors, including DP World and APM, at a specially convened meeting on the sidelines of the India Maritime Week 2025 held here.

"For all of you hailing from different countries, this is the right time to work in the In dian shipping sector and also expand (your presence)," Modi said during a public address before the closed-door meeting with CEOs. Modi listed several targets being chased by India in the maritime sector over the next few years, and underlined the importance of the global community in the same.

"You all are an important partner who will help us achieve all our aims. We welcome vour ideas, innovations and investments," Modi said.

He said that India allows 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the shipping and ports sector, and also provides incentives under the "Make In India,



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.

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 Chhattis garh Wednesday, police said. Hailing the development

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said, under the leader ship of Prime Minister Nar endra 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, includ-

ing 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 - Punarwas 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' Libera tion Guerrilla Army) battal ion 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

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

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

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

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 in juries 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.'

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

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 strokeready 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 vounger 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 dramatically 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 interven-

The event concluded with a strong call to shift from reac tive 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 vas cular stress long before symp toms appear.

international



The threats we (US and Japan) face are real, and they are urgent. China's unprecedented military buildup and its aggressive military actions speak for themselves PETE HEGSETH

HOLOCAUST COMPENSATION

The organisation that handles claims on behalf of Jews who suffered under the Nazis said that Germany has agreed to extend another \$1.076 billion for Holocaust survivors 'home care around the globe for the coming year. The compensation was negotiated with Germany's finance ministry and is the largest budget for frail and vulnerable Holocaust survivor home care in the organisation's history



create ample space for peaceful reunification and this prospect with the utmost

sincerity. However, we absolutely will not renounce the use of force and reserve the option to take all necessary measures PENG QING'EN | SPOKESPERSON, CHINA'S

TAIWAN AFFAIRS OFFICE





The Catholic Church decries hatred, persecutions, displays of antisem itism, directed



POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

SHORT **TAKES**

Election day: Internet disrupted in Tanzania

Nairobi: Internet connectivity was disrupted across Tanzania as the country Wednesday held an election marked by concerns from human rights groups and the detention of opposition members. Netblocks, an internet access advocacy group, confirmed the outage, saying on X that "live network data show a nationwide disruption to internet connectivity." Just before the disruption was confirmed, users noted an internet slowdown in the African country. President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is seeking a second term, belongs to the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party that has governed the country since it gained independence in 1961.

More than 460 killed in Sudan hosp: WHO

Cairo: The head of the UN health agency said Wednesday that more than 460 people were reportedly killed in a hospital in a city in the western Darfur region that was overrun by Sudanese paramilitary forces over the weekend. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, said in a statement the 460 patients and companions were reportedly killed at Saudi Maternity Hospital in el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur. He said the WHO was "appalled and deeply shocked" by the reports.

Rape of PIO woman: **British man charged**

London: A man arrested on suspicion of the racially aggravated sexual assault of an Indianorigin woman in Walsall has been charged with rape and appeared before **Birmingham Magistrates** Court Wednesday. The West Midlands Police said John Ashby, "who is a white British man aged 32 from Stockland Green", was charged Tuesday evening. The rape charge comes after a woman in her 20s, identified locally as a Sikh student, was attacked in the Park Hall area of Walsall Saturday night.

40 killed after Rio's deadliest police op

Rio De Janeiro: More than 40 dead bodies were seen on a street in Rio de Janeiro's Penha favela complex early Wednesday, according to witnesses, a day after the most lethal police operation in the city's history targeting a major gang. Rio de Janeiro state authorities said Tuesday that at least 64 people, including four police officers, were killed in the raids.

RUSSIA FLEXES N-CAPABLE SUPER TORPEDO

Moscow, Oct 29: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia had tested a Poseidon nuclear-powered super autonomous torpedo and that it had been a great success.

There are few confirmed details about the Poseidon in the public domain but it is essentially an autonomous nuclear-capable torpedo which is capable of triggering radioactive ocean swells to render coastal cities uninhabitable.

CHINA-MEDIATED TALKS

Myanmar rebels sign

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ceasefire with military

tory for Myanmar's military

government, which has regained

territories ahead of elections

scheduled to start December 28.

during talks mediated by Chi-

na Monday and Tuesday in

Kunming, a Chinese provincial

capital about 400 km from the

border with Myanmar, the TN-

LA said in a statement Wednes-

day on the Telegram messaging

Beijing has major geopoliti-

cal and economic interests in

Myanmar and is deeply con-

cerned about instability along

its borders. China is also the

most important foreign ally

of Myanmar's military, which

took power after ousting the

elected government of Aung

San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

The takeover led to nationwide

peaceful protests that escalated

The ceasefire announcement

came after the rebels gave up

control of Nawnghkio, Kyaukme

and Hsipaw, three strategic

towns on a major highway link-

ing central Myanmar to China.

back to the army in a fierce mil-

platform.

into civil war.

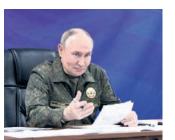
itary offensive.

The ceasefire was signed

Putin, drinking tea with Russian soldiers wounded in the Ukraine war at a hospital in Moscow, said that the test had taken place Tuesday.

"For the first time, we managed not only to launch it with a launch engine from a carrier submarine, but also to launch the nuclear power unit on which this device passed a certain amount of time," Putin said. 'There is nothing like this.'

"This is a huge success," Putin said, adding that the power of the Poseidon exceeded the Sarmat intercontinental mis-



sile, known as SS-X-29, or simply Satan II.

"The Poseidon's power significantly exceeds the power of even our most promising Sarmat intercontinental range

missile," Putin said. MISSILE MANIA Putin last week held a nu-

power of ever

promising

interconti-

VLADIMIR PUTIN

clear launch drill and Sunday announced that Russia has successfully tested its nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile, a nuclear-capable weapon Moscow says can pierce any defence shield.

Since first announcing the Poseidon and Burevestnik in 2018, Putin has cast them as a response to moves by the United States to build a missile defence shield after Washington in 2001 unilaterally withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and to enlarge the NATO military alliance.

'TARGETED INCIDENT' Indian-origin bizman shot dead in Canada



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ottawa, Oct 29: A 68-year-old Indian-origin businessman was shot dead outside his house in Canada's British Columbia province in a suspected "targeted incident", according to media reports and police.

Darshan Sahsi was killed Monday in the province's Abbotsford city.

Police responded to a report of a shooting on Ridgeview Drive, where they found Sahsi inside a vehicle, suffering from life-threatening injuries Abbotsford Police said in a statement Monday.

He succumbed to his injuries despite the lifesaving medical efforts of first responders. While the statement did not

identify Sahsi, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) later named him as the victim. In a statement Tuesday, IHIT

spokesperson Sgt Freda Fong said, "Early indications suggest this was a targeted incident and no one else was injured as a result of the shooting.' "Investigators are working

diligently to determine the motive and the circumstances sur rounding the shooting," she said. No arrests have been made in

the case yet, and the investigation is ongoing. Investigators also released a

surveillance image of a silver Toyota Corolla involved in the shooting, CTV News reported. Police urged anyone with

information related to the in cident to contact the IHIT.

According to the Vancouver Sun newspaper, Sahsi operated a textile recycling business called Canam International. The company's website states that he was the child of a Sikh farmer and grew up in Punjab, and that he served as president

In SK, Trump bags trade deal

Bangkok, Oct 29: A major ethnic rebel group in Myanmar Gyeongju, Oct 29: Donald announced Wednesday it signed Trump and South Korean a cease-fire with the military fol-President Lee Jae Myung finalised details of their fraught lowing China-mediated talks, easing months of intense fighttrade deal at a summit in South ing in the country's northeast Korea on Wednesday, and the near the Chinese border. US president also sounded an The ceasefire with the Ta'ang optimistic note about a loom-National Liberation Army, or ing summit with China's Xi TNLA, marks a significant vic-Jinping.

"We made our deal, pretty much finalised it," Trump said at a dinner with Lee and other regional leaders on the sidelines of an Asia Pacific forum.

The allies unveiled a deal in late July under which Seoul would avoid the worst of US tariffs on its imports by agreeing to pump \$350 billion of new investments into the United States in return for lower tariff rates. But talks over the structure

of those investments had been deadlocked and both sides had played down expectations for a deal during Trump's visit.

"Prospects were not bright even last night, and there was dramatic progress on the day, Kim Yong-beom, South Korea's top presidential policy chief, told reporters.

AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENTS

Trump and Lee agreed that Seoul can split its promised \$350 billion investment fund into \$200 billion in cash to be paid in instalments and capped at \$20 billion per year, Lee's aides said. The other \$150 billion is to be spent on investments in ship-

South

building, which South Korea has promised to help Trump restore.

The South Koreans said the two sides agreed to split profits 50/50 before the initial investments are recouped, and to only pur-

ects. US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick would head an investment committee to assess potential projects. Arriving from Tokyo hours after North Korea test-fired a nuclear-capable cruise mis-

sue commercially viable proj

sile, Trump was given a lavish welcome by Lee in Gyeongju, a historic city hosting this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

His talks with Xi are set for Thursday in the port city of

welcomes Trump with highest award China's Xi. Trump to meet in South Korea today

> North Korea test-fires ly focused on his meeting with Xi, leader of the

> > omy. "I think we're going to have a very good outcome for our country and for the world, actually," Trump said. Lee wooed Trump with gifts

and praise, presenting him with a gold crown and the "Grand Order of Mugunghwa" medal, South Korea's highest decoration. At the start of a working lunch topped off with a "golden dessert", Lee pledged to spend more on defence, seeking to head off a Trump concern that

Busan

North

world's second-largest econ-

Speaking

route to South

Korea, Trump

dismissed the

missile test and

said he was square-

Korean

en

reporters

India-Pakistan clash with 250% tariff warning

Trump claims he averted

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday he prevented a war between India and Pakistan this year by threatening both nations with 250% tariffs, the highest he has mentioned on any country. If you look at India and Pakistan ... they were going at it, Trump said at the Asia-Pacific summit in South Korea. Seven planes were shot down. They were really starting to go." Trump said he called Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan's leaders to say that Washington would halt trade and impose the massive tariffs if the fighting that briefly flared up in May continued. "I said I was going to put 250% on each country, which means you'll never do business ... That's a nice way of saying we don' want to do business with you," Trump

he referred to trade deals with several Asian countries in a speech. US allies are not pulling their

said, to applause from the audience, as

weight militarily.

In contrast to the official

welcome, hundreds of protesters gathered near the summit venue for anti-Trump rallies and there were some scuffles with police.

ernments are busy flattering Trump and displaying every possible act of diplomatic charm just to persuade him to lower US tariffs by a few perfrom a minor South Korean leftwing party attending the rally. "How absurd is it."

ANTI-TRUMP PROTESTS

"World leaders and gov-

cent," said Kwon Young-guk, a former presidential candidate

of the company.

Pak warns to 'obliterate' Afghan Taliban, push them back to caves

Islamabad, Oct 29: Pakistan's defence minister threatened on Wednesday to "obliterate" the ruling Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan, a dramatic escalation of rhetoric after the collapse of talks towards a lasting peace between the South Asian nations.

Truce negotiations concluded in Istanbul without a "workable solution". Pakistan's information minister said early Wednesday, in a blow for peace in the region after this month's deadly clashes.

Pakistan reacted with fury to the failure of the talks, which sources said ended with a disagreement over militant groups allegedly using Afghanistan as a base to attack its security forces along their border.

"Pakistan does not re-**TALKS** quire to employ even a **FAIL** fraction of its full arsenal to completely obliterate the Taliban regime and push them back to the caves for hiding," Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said.

Dozens were killed this month along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the worst such violence since the Taliban took power in Kabul in 2021.

Death toll from heavy strikes in Gaza reaches 104 ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Oct 29: Israel's military said Wednesday that the ceasefire was back on in Gaza after it carried out heavy airstrikes overnight across the Palestinian territory that killed 104 people, including 46 children, according to local health officials.

The strikes, the deadliest since the ceasefire began Oct 10, marked the most serious challenge to the tenuous truce to date. Israeli Prime Minister Benja-



Israel resumes truce after overnight carnage

min Netanyahu said he had ordered the strikes after accusing Hamas of violating the ceasefire for handing over body parts this week that Israel said were partial remains of a hostage recovered earlier in the war.

That was compounded by the shooting and killing an Israeli soldier during an exchange of gunfire in Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza.

US President Donald Trump, on a trip to Asia, defended the strikes, saying Israel was justified in carrying them out after Hamas killed the Israeli soldier, who also held US citizenship.

Hamas denied any involve ment in the deadly shooting and in turn accused Israel of "a blatant violation of the ceasefire deal". It also said it would delay handing over the body of another hostage to Israel because of the strikes.

Netanyahu called the return Monday of body parts a "clear violation" of the ceasefire agreement, which requires Hamas to return all the remains of hostages in Gaza as soon as possible. Israeli officials also accused Hamas of staging the discovery of some of the remains Monday, sharing a 14-minute, edited video from a military drone in Gaza.

VINDICATED **BUT VULNERABLE**

PIO freed after 43 yrs, now faces deportation

Subramanyam Vedam who spent over four decades in prison before his conviction was overturned now faces deportation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia, Oct 29: After waiting more than four decades to clear his name in a friend's 1980 killing, India-born Subramanyam Vedam was set to walk free from a Pennsylvania prison this month.

Vedam and Thomas Kinser were the 19-year-old children of Penn State University faculty. Vedam was the last person seen with Kinser and was twice convicted of killing him. despite a lack of witnesses or

In August, a judge threw out the conviction after Vedam's lawyers found new ballistics evidence that prosecutors had never disclosed.

As his sister prepared to

bring him home October 3, the thin, white-haired Vedam was instead taken into federal custody over a 1999 deportation order. The 64-year-old, who legally came to the US from India when he was 9 months old, now faces another daunting legal fight.

Amid the Trump Administration's focus on mass deportation, Vedam's lawyers must persuade an immigration court that a 1980s drug conviction should be outweighed by the years he wrongly spent in prison. For a time, immigration law allowed people who had reformed their lives to seek such waivers. Vedam never pursued it then because of the murder conviction.

"He was someone who's suf-

fered a profound injustice," aren't a blank slate. He lived said immigration lawyer Ava Benach. "(And) those 43 years prison.'

a remarkable experience in

Vedam earned several degrees behind bars, tutored hundreds of fellow inmates and went nearly half a century with just a single infraction, involving rice brought in from His lawyers hope immigra-

tion judges will consider the totality of his case. The administration, in a brief filed Friday, opposes the effort. So Vedam remains at an 1,800-bed US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in central Pennsylvania.

"Criminal illegal aliens are not welcome in the US," a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said in an email about the case.

The Vedams were among the first Indian families in the ar-

ea known as "Happy Valley," where his father had come as a postdoctoral fellow in 1956. An older daughter was born in State College, but "Subu, as he was known, was born when the family was back in India in 1961. One day in December 1980,

Subramanyam asked Kinser for a ride to nearby Lewisburg to buy drugs. Kinser was nev er seen again, although his van was found outside his apartment. Nine months later, hik ers found his body in a wooded area miles away. Vedam was detained on

drug charges while police investigated, and was ultimately charged with murder. He was convicted in 1983 and sentenced to life without parole.



businessi



Most developed countries have glass roofs which can be easily broken and the passengers can be rescued. The bus designs, especially of sleeper coaches, is such it takes hours and special cutting tools to cut the vehicle and rescue passengers

K K KAPILA | PRESIDENT EMERITUS.

AI CHIPMAKER NVIDIA IS FIRST \$5 TRILLION COMPANY

Nvidia has become the first \$5 trillion company, just three months after the Silicon Valley chipmaker was first to break through the \$4 trillion barrier. Hitting the new benchmark puts more emphasis on the upheaval being unleashed by an artificial intelligence craze that's widely viewed as the biggest tectonic shift in technology since Apple co founder Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone 18 years ago





adaptation plans but rich nations have offered only

finance flows decreasing last year HARJEET SINGH | CLIMATE ACTIVIST

Any underground coal gasification (UCG) project before it actually takes off means to have a pilot study

done. Since it's a new technology or it will be done for the first time in the country, a pilot phase is necessary VIKRAM DEV DUTT | COAL SECRETARY



not only me (BPCL), every refiner goes for it. So that is the stand, be it Russian oil or any oil for that

SANJAY KHANNA | CHAIRMAN, BPCL

SHORT **TAKES**

Cognizant revenue rises

New Delhi: US-based IT major Cognizant, which has a substantial number of employees in India, Wednesday reported a better-than-expected growth with its revenue rising 7.3 per cent year-over-year to \$5,415 million for the quarter ended September 2025. In the last quarter, the company had guided its third-quarter revenue to be between \$5.27-5.35 billion. Cognizant - which follows a January-December financial year- had earned revenue of \$5,044 million in Q3 2024.

NMDC Steel loss narrows

New Delhi: NMDC Steel Wednesday reported narrowing of net loss to ₹114.78 crore for September quarter FY26, driven by increase in revenues. The company had incurred a net loss of ₹595.37 crore in July-September FY25, an exchange filing said. Total income rose to ₹3,411.03 crore from ₹1,535.46 crore in the second quarter a year ago. Total expenses also increased to ₹3.593 crore from ₹2.364.39 crore during the same period of FY25

L&T profit up

New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Wednesday reported a 15.6 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹3,926.09 crore for the September quarter on the back of higher revenues. The company had posted consolidated net profit of ₹3.395.29 crore in the year-ago period, L&T said in a filing

BHEL net rises

to the BSE.

New Delhi: State-owned **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd** (BHEL) Wednesday said its consolidated net profit more than tripled to ₹374.89 crore in the September quarter compared to a year ago, mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company had a consolidated net profit of ₹106.15 crore in the quarter ended on September 30, 2024, a regulatory filing showed.

CG Power Q2 jumps

New Delhi: CG Power and Industrial Solutions Wednesday posted a nearly 30 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹284 crore in the September quarter, driven by revenues from the core power systems business. The company had clocked a net profit of ₹220 crore in the July-September period of the preceding 2024-25 financial year.

PHDCCI calls for tax reduction

The taxpayer is burdened with this high tax rate where 40 per cent of his/her income goes to the government and the balance 60 per cent is left for selfconsumption, the chamber said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: Industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Wednesday made a case for substantially reducing the income tax rates for individuals earning up to ₹50 lakh annually, and levving the highest rate of 30 per cent only on those earning more.

The highest tax rate of 30 per cent is levied on individuals earning more than ₹24 lakh in a year in the new income tax regime.

In its pre-Budget recommendations submitted to Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava, besides a raft of reforms in the direct tax regime, the industry chamber also made several recommendations on the indirect taxation front.

The government has started the process for the presentation of the next Union Budget. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present it to Parliament in February.

One of the major suggestions on the direct taxes front is "request for reduction in rates of taxation for individuals, partnership firms and limited liability partnership".

PHDCCI said the corporate tax rates have been reduced to 25 per cent, including surcharge.

In spite of the fall in corporate tax rate from 35 per cent (approx) to 25 per cent, the corporate tax collections have increased from ₹6.63 lakh crore in 2018-19 to ₹8.87 lakh crore in 2024-25, thereby showing a substantial increase.

"This clearly shows that moderation of tax rates has resulted in more compliance and an increase in tax revenues," it argued. It further said the personal tax rates have the highest slab of 30 per cent, and with surcharge ranging from 5 per cent to 25 per cent, the peak of tax rate reaches 39 per cent in some cases.

"The taxpayer is burdened with this high tax rate where 40 per cent of his/her income goes to the government and the balance 60 per cent is left for self-consumption," the chamber said. In the representation the chamber also highlighted the benefits and facilities that taxpayers get in developed countries.

"...it is requested that the maximum tax rate for income up to ₹30 lakh should be 20 per cent and from ₹30 lakh to ₹50 lakh should be 25 per cent and beyond ₹50 lakh it could be 30 per cent which will not only increase compliance and tax buoyancy but also lead to major relief to the middle class,' it said.

PHDCCI said that to promote the setting up of new manufacturing units in India, it is very important to reintroduce Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act, wherein a concessional rate of corporate tax of 15 per cent plus surcharge was introduced for new manufacturing units complying with certain

Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act was introduced in September 2019, allowing a concessional rate of income tax of 15 per cent plus surcharge in respect of new companies

March 31, 2023, which was later extended to March 31, 2024.

"A concessional rate of tax of 15 per cent would provide as a major incentive for foreign companies to set up subsidiaries in India and invest in manufacturing units and this could help in growth of the economy. iob creation and could result in India being one of the major manufacturer of goods in the world," the chamber said in its representation to the finance ministry.

Other suggestions relate to taxation of buy-back of shares, payment to MSMEs, TDS/ TCS certificate requirement, presumptive tax scheme, and deduction against dividend income.

On the indirect tax front, PHDCCI has suggested that faceless assessment and audit should be made mandatory, similar to the Income Tax Act.

It further said input tax cred it (ITC) should be made available on advance payments for services after payment of GST, even before receipt of the tax invoice.

It also made a case for enabling the refund of GST Compensation Cess to Duty Free Operators (DFS) for "Made in India" goods sold through DFS from the Departure area of international airports.

The industry body also recommended that companies with multiple locations and distinct GST registrations (in the same or different states) should be allowed to transfer ITC between units linked to the same PAN

Govt notifies packaging rules for medical devices

This ensures that exemptions under legal metrology apply only to non-medical products and not to items governed by the specialised medical devices framework.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: The government has notified the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2025, introducing specific provisions for medical device packaging that align with the Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

The move is aimed at eliminating regulatory overlap and enhancing consumer protection in the healthcare sector, the consumer affairs ministry said in a statement.

The amendment will take precedence over general packaging norms for height and width of numerals and letters used in product declarations.

While mandatory disclosures remain compulsory, the font size and dimensional standards will now follow medical device-specific regulations rather than general legal metrology Significantly, the relaxations

provided under Rule 33 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, which exempt certain declarations, will no longer apply to medical devices. This ensures that exemptions

under legal metrology apply only to non-medical products and not to items governed by the specialised medical devices framework. The amendment also clarifies

that declarations need not be made on the Principal Display Panel as mandated by the Legal Metrology Rules. Instead, labelling can follow the provisions of

the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 By requiring adherence to a single set of labelling stan dards, the amendment reduces compliance burden and pro motes ease of doing business.

For consumers, the harmonisation provides a consistent labelling standard for medical devices, eliminating confusion and ensuring clear, accurate information tailored to healthcare products. Legal metrology enforcement

officers will also benefit from clearly defined jurisdiction and applicability, enabling uniform interpretation and compliance across states and enforcement agencies.

The harmonisation reflects the government's push towards simplifying regulations while maintaining robust consumer safeguards, particularly in the sensitive healthcare domain The amendment is seen as a step forward in ease of living and doing business initiatives

CBDT extends ITR

Mehli Mistry removed from Tata Trusts

Mumbai: Mehli Mistry, a close associate of the late Ratan Tata, has been ousted from Tata Trusts following a majority vote by the trustees. Mistry, who had significant influence over the Trusts and the broader Tata group, was informed that a circular seeking his reappointment was not approved. While this decision could be legally contested, there has been no indication of any court action as of now. The Charity Commissioner of Maharashtra, overseeing trusts in the state, has not seen any formal grievance filed. The situation marks the latest chapter in ongoing internal power struggles within Tata Trusts.

Uplifting oral hygiene

a bright smile, it's vital for overall well-heing and may help lower the risk of several cancers. says Dr Sonia Datta, MDS, PhD, and Professor of Public Health Dentistry. Studies from AIIMS and the INHANCE consortium show that maintaining oral hygiene through daily brushing, flossing, and regular dental visits can modestly reduce the risk of head and neck cancers. Poor oral health



cancers. Simple habits such as brushing twice daily with Ayurvedic toothpaste (like Dabur Red Paste), using antibacterial mouthwash, and avoiding tobacco and alcohol, not only protect the mouth but also improve immune function and cancer treatment outcomes. Experts stress that oral hygiene should be integrated into routine and oncology care, especially in high-risk regions like India. Regular dental check-ups allow early detection of suspicious lesions, aiding prevention and timely treatment. Good oral care isn't just dental hygiene — it's cancer prevention in practice.

PNB organises Vigilance Awareness Week-2025

Sambalpur: PNB Sambalpur circle has conducted walkathon for creating awareness regarding vigilance in public. The walkathon was led by Circle Head Ajit Kumar Meher and participated by staffs. A total no of 60 staffs participated in this walkathon. The walkathon was started



from Circle office at Budharaja to Ainthapali. Blood donation camp was also organised at Circle office on the occasion of Vigilance awareness week.

Awareness camp heldon EPFO, ESI at NIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 29: An awareness camp on EPFO and ESI under Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 was organised at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST), Berhampur, Monday,

Central observer and chief guest Maushumi Lata Padhi. Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-II and the first Odia woman PF Commissioner, urged participants to stay informed about social security benefits such as provident fund, pension, insurance, and ESI medical facilities. She said a strong and Viksit Bharat depends on a robust social security network. and the Government of India aims to extend these services to subscribers' doorsteps through Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0.

Padhi also handed over pension payment orders to three pensioners Apunda Pradhan, Shvam Sundar Samal and M Panda under the Prayas scheme. District Nodal Officer Prabhat Kumar Maharana gave a presentation on EPFO schemes and the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana while ESIC officials Sneh Siddhi and Sandeep Swain briefed participants on ESI benefits. NIST VC Priyadarsan Patra urged students and faculty to promote social security awareness

Markets rally on fresh foreign fund inflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 29: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled in the positive territory Wednesday, tracking a rally in global peers, amid hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 368.97 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 84,997.13. During the day, it jumped 477.67 points or 0.56 per cent to 85,105.83.

A total of 2.482 stocks advanced, while 1,668 declined and 175 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 117.70 points or 0.45 per cent to 26,053,90.

"Markets edged higher on Wednesday, gaining nearly half a per cent amid upbeat global cues. Investor sentiment remained supported by expectations of a potential US Federal Reserve rate cut and encouraging updates on possible trade deals," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the Sensex firms, Adani Ports, NTPC, Power Grid, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma,

Trent and Asian Paints were among the major gainers.

However, Bharat Electronics, Eternal, Mahindra & Mahindra and Maruti were among the lag-The BSE midcap gauge

climbed 0.68 per cent and smallcap index went up by 0.56 per cent. Sectorally, power index jumped 2.72 per cent, utilities (2.61 per cent), oil & gas (2.55 per cent), metal (1.68 per cent), energy (1.51 per cent), services (1.33 per cent), commodities (1.16 per cent) and capital goods (1.01 per cent). In contrast, auto emerged

as the only laggard. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled higher.

Markets in Europe were trading mostly higher. US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday.

"The upcoming Fed decision remains a key event for global markets; although a 25-bps rate cut is widely anticipated, investors will closely track its commentary for further rate cuts, which will guide the future market trajectory," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

filing deadline PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: The income tax department on Wednesday extended the deadline for filing I-T returns for AY 2025-26 by corporates and those assessees who need to get their accounts audited to December 10.

Under the Income Tax law such taxpayers are required to file their returns of income by October 31. The department further said these taxpayers can file the audited report till November 10.

According to the tax law, October 31 is the deadline for ITR filing for those who have to get their books of accounts audited like companies, proprietorship and partnership firms, while for individuals and HUFs the deadline is July 31.

Following industry representa tion, the income tax department had on September 25 extended the deadline for submission of audit reports for the 2024-25 fiscal by one month till October 31. This has now been further extended till November 10.

The reasons cited in these representations include disruptions caused by floods and natural calamities in certain parts of the country, which have impeded normal business and professional activity.

Vedanta supports 'SURAVI' children's festival

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium has extended its support to the 'SURAVI' Children's Festival in Sundargarh district, reinforcing its commitment to community and youth development. The festival, organised by



a creative platform for students from rural communities to showcase their talent. More than 1,500 students from 42 schools across six Gram Panchayats under Hemgir and Lakhanpur blocks participated in the event. As many as 30 competitions were held, spanning art and craft, music, dance, debate, elocution, and creative writing. The programme was attended by Ashish Patel Cluster Resource Centre Coordinator (CRCC), along with teachers, parents, and community members. Patel lauded the initiative, stating that SURAVI serves as a celebration of creativity and encourages students to dream beyond academic boundaries. Rajiv Kumar, CEO of Vedanta Aluminium, highlighted the company's focus on nurturing young talent, saying, "True progress begins with empowering the next generation. Initiatives like the SURAVI Children's Festival help children explore their potential and grow into confident, well-rounded individuals.

BOI inaugurates new branch

Sundarpada in the capital city. The branch was formally opened by Vikash Krishna,

FGMO Bhubaneswar, marking a further expansion of the bank's footprint in the region. This newly launched Sundarpada branch becomes the 85th branch under the Bhubaneswar Zone. The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior officials including



Private Limited, the parent company of the iconic Jawa and Yezdi motorcycle brands, has strengthened its retail

the launch of its largest dealership in the state. The new outlet, operated by Shree Bharat Motors Limited, is located at Plot No 65, Industrial

footprint in Odisha with



Estate, Ganeswarpur, near Remuna Square on NH-5. The dealership was inaugurated in the presence of Dipti Ranjan Biswal, State Head - Classic Legends Pvt Ltd.; Ramakant Parida, CEO - Shree Bharat Motors Ltd; and Sanjay Pandit, GM-Sales -Shree Bharat Motors Ltd. Spanning 5,000 sq ft, the state-of-the-art facility brings the entire range of Jawa and Yezdi motorcycles under one roof. It aims to offer an enhanced premium retail and ownership experience. The showroom also houses a dedicated service centre equipped with factory-trained technicians to ensure topquality after-sales support. Speaking on the launch, Ramakant said, "We are proud to bring the timeless Jawa and Yezdi brands closer to riders in Northern Odisha. This flagship dealership reflects our focus on delivering an exceptional customer experience right from the moment a customer steps into our showroom to the long-term service journey that follows."

Classic Legends unveils new outlet

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India (BOI) has inaugurated a new branch at

General Manager,

Bijay Kumar Malik, Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone; Shyamal Kumar Das, Deputy Zonal Manager; and Chittaranjan Mishra, Branch Manager of the new branch, along with other dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, General Manager Krishna emphasised the bank's commitment to delivering high-quality services, stating that the new branch will play a key role in catering to the financial needs of local residents and promoting greater awareness of modern banking facilities in the area.

ICC MEN'S IN A FIRST, HITMAN HITS TOP SPOT Rain washes out first

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:

Lausanne, Oct 29: Oman will

replace Pakistan in the FIH

Men's Junior World after the

latter withdraw from the tour-

nament to be held in Chennai

and Madurai from November

28 till December 10, the Interna-

tional Hockey Federation (FIH)

Federation has notified the In-

ternational Hockey Federation

(FIH) that they have not accept-

ed 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 participat-

ing teams for this event that will

take place from 28 November to

10 December 2025 in the cities

of Chennai and Madurai, India."

Oman joins as the next high-

est placed team in the conti-

nental championship (Junior

Asia Cup 2024), which was the

qualifying tournament for the

"For the very first time, the

FIH Hockey Junior World Cups

2025, women and men, will in-

volve 24 teams each, enabling

greater accessibility to FIH

events, which is one of the fun-

damental principles of the FIH

Empowerment and Engagement

strategy," the FIH statement fur-

ther 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 Ra-

igir, Bihar held from August 29

The Indo-Pak relation has

deteriorated since the April

22 Pahalgam terror attack and

India's subsequent Operation

to September 7 this year.

Junior World Cup.

the FIH said in a statement..

"After the Pakistan Hockey

confirmed Wednesday.

Oman replace Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

experienced righthander 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-



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.

then they lost a key batter in

There is no room for error

now as India are left in the ring

with each of those opponents

who had outmatched them in

But before they take the field,

India will face some most perti-

nent questions on nailing their

The inclusion of the big-hit-

ting Shafali Verma, who was nei-

ther in India's plans nor among

the six reserve players, indeed

But her record with vice-cap-

tain Smriti Mandhana -- 893 runs

in 25 innings at 37.20 -- looks in-

ferior to Rawal and Mandhana's

1,799 runs in 23 innings at 78.21

Should India pick Shafali,

whose aggressive style could

put pressure on the opponents

and match Mandhana's rich

form and resolve to deliver rich

results, or should they promote

Harleen Deol in the opening

adds more fuel to the fire.

Pratika Rawal to injury.

league meetings.

team combination.

as an opening pair.

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 Territorv 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 un beaten 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 quad riceps injury sustained during the second ODI in Adelaide, complained of neck spasms, which have impacted his re covery and mobility. The BCC Medical Team is monitoring his progress," the board said in an

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-

Bahrain, Oct 29: India's

Jaiveer Singh settled for silver

in the boys' 55 kg freestyle wres-

tling while Rachana clinched

the bronze medal in the corre-

sponding 43 kg girls' event in

the Youth Asian Games here

pan's Yamato Furusawa in the

final. He had ousted Kazakh-

stan's Ibrahim Yskakbek 5-0.

Jaiveer went down 2-6 to Ja-

In the bronze medal match,

Rachana got the better of Kyr-

gyzstan 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 dom-

YOUTH ASIAN GAMES

Jaiveer settles for silver in wrestling

Yını Katsume 0-10.

57 kg freestyle final.

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

Moni had defeated China's

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

slot in order to accommodate a sixth bowler? This, perhaps, is the toughest question the dressing room is facing. Despite forecasts of unseasonal rains, the pitch remains a batting haven and scoreboard pressure may not work as effectively on the chasing side.

Anahat stuns defending champion to reach semis

This was 17-yr-old's biggest win in her career and first against a top-10 player

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Toronto (Canada), Oct 29: India's 17-year-old rising star Anahat Singh stunned defending champion and second seed Tinne Gilis of Belgium to storm into the semifinals of Canadian Women's Open squash tournament here.

Unseeded Anahat won 3-0 (12-10, 11-9, 11-9) against her world number 7 opponent in the quarterfinal match that lasted 36 minutes Tuesday night. The Indian is currently



She has been in tremendous form in the tournament, a PSA Tour silver level event, having also beaten world number 20 Melissa Alves of France in the pre-quarterfinals.

She now faces world number 10 and fourth seed Gina Kennedy of England in the semifinals.

CHAMPIONS SHOWDOWN

updated statement.

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, After wards, 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

FUTURISTIC LANDMARK

Saudi Arabia building world's first 'sky stadium'

Min Zhao.

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

Ashvini got the better of Kyr-

gyzstan's Aiana Asamalikova

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

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

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,

and quarter-finals.

"Saudi Arabia plans to build Neom Stadium, a 350-meter-high, renewable-powered arena in The Line. Set to open around 2032, it will host 2034 World Cup matches up to the quarterfinals," a viral post by @ Rainmaker1973 on X read. **Beyond the World Cup**

According to Construction Review magazine, citing the Saudi Giga Projects Report, the NEOM Stadium will be constructed using sustainable materials and will feature cutting-edge cooling systems, advanced lighting, and immersive digital fan experiences.

After the World Cup, the arena will serve as the home ground for a professional football club in the NEOM region. It is also expected to double as a multipurpose venue for concerts, cultural events, and



other sports - making it a

year-round attraction in Saudi

Netizens call it 'Final Destination'

Netizens had mixed reac-

Arabia's futuristic cityscape.

venue has already gone viral on social media. sparking among football fans

concept

sky-high

video

of the

awe and curiosity worldwide

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 Mohun 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 Rivadh, 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.

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 Carua na and finished the day with a draw, ChessBase reports.

Gukesh said he was "not ex actly 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 Ash ley, where the stakes escalate each round, with increasing points and cash prizes avail able daily.

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