



Samantha's vision

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu talks about the kind of cinema she wants to nurture

LEISURE | P2



Xi holds court

South Korea hosts Pacific Rim leaders, but focus was on China's Xi Jinping meeting Canada, Japan, and Thailand leaders

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Fiscal deficit widens

Centre's fiscal deficit stands at 36.5 per cent of the full-year target at the end of the first half of FY26, according to data released by CGA

BUSINESS | P11



Oz dominate India

Captain Mitchell Marsh leads from the front after Josh Hazlewood's excellent bowling as Australia beat India by four wickets

SPORTS | P12

751 FIRs, charged only in one: Khalid



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Seeking bail in the UAPA case linked to February 2020 riots in Delhi, activist Umar Khalid Friday told the Supreme Court that there is no evidence linking him to violence and denied conspiracy charges against him.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Khalid, told a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria that there has been no recovery of funds, weapons or any material evidence linking him to the 2020 Delhi riots.

“There are 751 FIRs, I am charged in one, and if it’s a conspiracy, it’s a bit surprising!”

“If I (Umar Khalid) conspired riots, on dates in which riots took place, I was not in Del-

hi,” Sibal said and added, “No funds, weapons and physical evidence connecting me to violence have been found yet.”

“No witness statement actually connects petitioner to any act of violence,” he pointed out.

Sibal submitted that Khalid is entitled to bail on grounds of parity, noting that fellow activists Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita and Asif Iqbal Tanha were granted bail in June 2021.

Sibal said that the Delhi High Court, while denying bail, had termed Umar Khalid’s speech at Amravati on February 17, 2020, as ‘inflammatory.’

“It is available on YouTube. It was a public speech where I (Khalid) spoke about Gandhian principles,” Sibal added.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gulfi-sha Fatima, argued that she has been in jail for five years and five months since April 2020.

Singhvi pointed out that while the main chargesheet was filed on September 16, 2020, the prosecution has made it an “annual ritual” to file supplementary chargesheets every year.



RUN FOR UNITY: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj and others take part in 'Run for Unity' at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar organised to celebrate 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Friday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

GST returns pending for 3 yrs to get time-barred

NEW DELHI: Businesses will not be able to file GST returns which are due for three years or more beginning the November tax period, GST Network (GSTN) has said. In an advisory, GSTN, which handles the technology backbone, said monthly, quarterly and annual returns for all GST-registered businesses will be barred from filing after the expiry of three years from the due date. “The said restriction will be implemented on the GST portal from November 2025 Tax period, which means any return whose due date was three years back or more and hasn’t been filed till November Tax period will be barred from filing,” GSTN said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our names won't be in the register of regular deaths... we are SIR victims

Woman pawns ration card for son's treatment

PNN & AGENCIES

Subarnapur, Oct 31: In a heartbreaking incident that underscores the challenges of rural poverty, a woman in Subarnapur district was forced to mortgage her ration card to cover the medical expenses of her injured minor son.

According to reports, Krishna Nayak, a Class VIII student at Sindurpur Nodal High School, was participating in a district-level running competition held at Ichchapur School in Dunguripali block. During the event, he missed a step, fell, and fractured his arm. Teachers at the venue rushed the boy to the nearest hospital in Dunguripali for immediate treatment.

When his condition did not improve, doctors referred him to the district headquarters hospital for further treatment. Facing an urgent need for funds, Krishna’s mother, Padmini Nayak, approached a local moneylender. With no significant assets to offer as collateral, she was forced to pawn her ration



card in exchange for ₹4,500 to pay for her son’s treatment.

The incident drew widespread attention, prompting swift action from the district administration.

District Collector Nruparaj Sahu visited the hospital and assured Padmini that the administration would cover all the medical expenses for her son’s surgery.

Meanwhile, District Physical Education Officer Jyotikant Bhoi was suspended pending further inquiry into the circumstances that led to the incident.

Additional District Medical Officer (ADMO) Durgadutta Das later informed reporters that Krishna is now out of danger and receiving the best possible care. Efforts are underway to ensure his full recovery and early discharge from the hospital, the ADMO added.

With irregular incomes and limited access to formal credit, poor families in rural parts of the state are often forced to resort to such desperate measures in case of exigencies.

State to irrigate 15L-ha in 5 yrs: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Odisha government has set an ambitious target to provide irrigation facilities to 15 lakh hectares of agricultural land across the state by 2029-30, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced Friday.

During his visit to the State Hydrological Data Centre, Majhi reviewed water levels in reservoirs and rivers, and examined the centre’s real-time monitoring system.

He also conducted a detailed review of the Water Resources department’s functioning and ongoing projects. Speaking to the media, the Chief Minister said that the government is taking concrete steps to ensure water supply reaches the tail end of canals.

“The Water Resources department will be transformed into a more efficient and smart organisation,” he stated.

The State Hydrological Data Centre plays a key role in managing Odisha’s water resources using updated, real-time data.

Majhi also inspected various sub-divisions of the department and interacted with officers, engineers, and staff members. Expressing satisfaction with their performance, he urged them to work with greater dedication to achieve the government’s irrigation goals.

Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources) Anu Garg, Chief Engineer Chandrasekhar Padhi, and other senior officials accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.

GOVT MEDICAL COLLEGES GET 62 MORE PG SEATS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The government of India has approved 62 new postgraduate (PG) seats across six government medical colleges and hospitals in Odisha for the academic year 2025-26. The announcement is seen as a significant step towards enhancing medical education and specialised healthcare services in the state.

Expressing his gratitude, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi extended heartfelt thanks to Union

Health Minister JP Nadda and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the approval. In a letter, the CM said that the addition of PG seats will bolster the quality of medical teaching and learning, while also improving specialised healthcare delivery for residents, particularly in western Odisha.

The CM reaffirmed the government’s commitment to comply with the norms of National Medical Commission and pledged all necessary support to develop these medical institutions into centres of excellence.

India, US ink 10-yr defence agreement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: India and the US Friday signed a 10-year defence framework pact that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described as a ‘signal’ of growing bilateral strategic ties even as Washington vowed to work closely with New Delhi to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Singh and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth signed the framework agreement for the ‘US-India major defence partnership’ pact following their wide-range talks in Kuala Lumpur that focused on boosting strategic ties across all its pillars. The signing of the agreement came amid efforts by the two sides to repair ties that have hit their lowest point in nearly two decades over Washington’s slapping of 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods.

Describing his talks with Hegseth as ‘fruitful’, Singh said the framework agreement will usher in a “new era in our already strong defence partnership.” “This defence framework will provide policy direction to the entire spectrum of the India-US defence relationship. It is a signal of our growing strategic convergence and will herald a new decade of partnership,” Singh said on social media.

On his part, Hegseth said the agreement “advances our defence partnership, a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence.” “We’re enhancing our coordination, info sharing, and tech cooperation. Our defence ties have never been stronger,” he said.

A climate ‘time machine’ to predict Amazon’s future

REUTERS

Manaus, Oct 31: Deep in Brazil’s Amazon, scientists have built a ‘time machine’ pumping carbon dioxide into the rainforest canopy to simulate atmospheric conditions predicted for the future to gauge how the biome adapts - an open question to be discussed at the COP30 United Nations climate summit hosted by the country next month.

At the AmazonFACE project near Manaus, the largest city in the Amazon, six rings of steel towers loom above the jungle canopy, each surrounding groups of 50 to 70 mature trees.

After baseline testing, scientists will fumigate trees in three of the rings with carbon dioxide at levels simulating climate forecasts for coming decades, while the rest serve

as control samples.

“We’re trying to create the atmosphere of the future,” said Carlos Quesada, a coordinator for the National Institute for Amazon Research (INPA), which is leading the experiment alongside Universidade Estadual de Campinas.

Preservation of tropical rainforests like the Amazon is vital to curbing the worst effects of climate change, according to scientists. At the climate conference set for November 10-21 in the city of Belem, where the Amazon Basin meets the Atlantic Ocean, policymakers are set to grapple with uncertainty about how the rainforest can adapt to a warming planet and changing atmosphere.

FACE, short for Free-Air CO2 Enrichment, will let Quesada and his team of scientists study the effects of elevated carbon



dioxide levels on the rainforest giants and surrounding plant life. The project is supported by Brazil’s federal government and the United Kingdom.

While FACE experiments have been performed around the world - including in the United States, where the Department of Energy tested

temperate biomes - AmazonFACE represents a new frontier, forestry engineer Gustavo Carvalho said. “This is the first experiment in a natural forest

of this size in the tropics,” Carvalho said under the shade of the Amazon canopy.

With baseline testing underway, sensors record the forest’s response to changing conditions every 10 minutes, showing how the tree foliage absorbs carbon dioxide while releasing oxygen and water vapour in response to rain, storms and sunshine, Carvalho said. Later experimentation will create artificial microclimates with higher carbon dioxide levels.

“If a model predicts a certain amount (of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere) in 2050 or 2060, then we’ll increase to that amount in these plots to try to understand how the forest responds,” Carvalho said. “We’ll have a small plot here in the forest that we can enter and know what will happen in the future.”

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You already feel deeply connected to the universe. But today, you may want to particularly thank God for all His small mercies. You cherish your loved ones even more today, says Ganesha, and you may spend lavishly on people dear to you.

TAURUS
You may feel suspicious about the people around you, feels Ganesha. You are also likely to emerge victorious in visa matters. You will take time to let your loved ones know how much you care for them. Have a positive attitude and it will win many hearts for you, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
You are likely to take a break from daily routine. A pleasure trip to recharge your batteries is on the charts, predicts Ganesha. Winning favours from members of the opposite sex comes naturally to you. If you love someone, you will make your move today. Evening will be about doing medication, and getting attuned to yourself or maybe your sweetheart.

CANCER
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. But the results may not be too forthcoming. However, that should not be a reason for you to get dejected or anxious. You will get your due sooner or later. Also, spending some time with your loved ones will be quite gratifying emotionally.

LEO
You will need to keep from being agitated today. Let your spouse or business partner take critical decisions if you aren't in the right frame of mind. Decisions you take today may have to be rethought of later. Important meetings will proceed smoothly, but you will not be able to commit to any final conclusions or contracts.

VIRGO
Give attention to your deepest feelings. A small excursion may be on the cards. Ganesha says today you will easily get along with other people. You will shower your sincere love and affection on your near and dear ones. Use your magical skills to improve your relationships.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you will be full of joy, enthusiasm and vigor today. Your knowledge will improve by being in the company of intelligent people. Anything that you take up today will have your luck or destiny supporting you. Ganesha wishes you success in all your undertakings

SCORPIO
You may face the music from bosses today, forecasts Ganesha. Your colleagues too may not warm up to you and offer half-hearted support. Novices knocking on the doors of career may look forward to belated success in interviews and final selection.

SAGITTARIUS
Benevolence will be your middle name today. Being frank and open-minded will have its own advantages. You might just give your life partner a patient ear. This will make them feel treated well, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You have been waiting to hear some good news for long, and today is the day when the wait will be finally over. With your eyes firmly set on your goal, you will develop likings for your work. This will help you make plans and take decisions for the future, feels Ganesha. You wished to change your current job, but with some good news coming in you may not wish for the same any more.

AQUARIUS
You may feel constrained by future plans. Ganesha says that plans are okay, but you must live in the present to avail the cosmic energy that ultimately manifests your dreams. At work, your generous spirit adds to the goodwill you have already accrued.

PISCES
Today is likely to be a day of mixed fortunes, says Ganesha. While a hectic morning and a positively frantic afternoon will see you at your wits' end, a sumptuous dinner with your sweetheart, followed by a sensuous evening, will delight you out of your mind.



AMY SCHUMER ON HER WEIGHT LOSS JOURNEY

Amy Schumer is celebrating how she feels amid her weight loss journey and revealed that she is feeling strong and herself. The actress shared a carousel by thanking her team for styling her in a black and white dress, Schumer wrote: "I'm feeling strong and like myself."

RADCLIFFE SET TO MAKE BROADWAY RETURN

Daniel Radcliffe is all set to make his Broadway return with the solo play *Every Brilliant Thing*. Radcliffe will be seen leading the solo play at the Hudson Theatre, starting from February 2026. It has been scheduled for a limited 13-week engagement alongside a March 12 opening.



A ZAIN FOUNDATION TRUST INITIATIVE

One on One Dhamaal to light up City stage

Acclaimed actor-director Rajit Kapur said he is delighted to collaborate again with the Zain Foundation which is sensitising people about autism

Bhubaneswar: The Zain Foundation Trust is set to present Rage Productions' acclaimed anthology play *One on One Dhamaal* to theatre lovers of this city, promising an evening of laughter, reflection, and engaging theatre. The production — a vibrant collage of contemporary India — features eight short plays that explore the hu-

mor, chaos, and contradictions of urban life through Hindi and English performances. From a frustrated ticket collector and a struggling karaoke DJ to a defective mannequin and a bodyguard of a Chief Minister, the short plays present stories that amuse, provoke, and resonate deeply with audiences. After successful shows across India, *One on One Dhamaal* will now be staged at Rabindra Mandap November 1, under the banner of the Zain Foundation Trust.

Founded by Rajit Kapur, Shernaz Patel, and Rahul da



Cunha, Rage Productions has been a leading name in Indian theatre. Speaking to Orissa POST, veteran actor Kapur said, "Last time, we brought a different set of plays to Bhubane-

swar, and this time we're presenting something different. We're delighted to collaborate again with the Zain Foundation, which is doing remarkable work in spreading awareness about autism." Kapur, who will perform in the satirical play *Kachre Ki Hifazat*, added, "It's wonderful to see more and more young people coming to watch and participate in theatre." Reflecting on his long association with the stage, he said, "Theatre will always be a challenge — but it's the love and passion for

the art that keeps us motivated." Actor Lisha Bajaj, who will star in *Hum Hain Raah Pyar Ke*, shared that her self-written play is inspired by her own life and relationship with her husband. "It's a story about discovering love in the city, with all its imperfections and baggage," she said. Actor Shruti Vyas, featuring in *Mind Blowing Mannequin*, said the play examines how society views women compared to how they see themselves. "Women aren't perfect — and that's okay. We're exploring that duality," she shared. Comedian and actor Anu Menon, performing in *I Am Every Woman* and *Hello Check*, said, "Theatre is my first love — performing for a live audience always feels like home." PMN

Film festival to celebrate SRK's cinematic journey

Mumbai: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has announced a special film festival celebrating his cinematic journey, with screenings set to take place across India and select international theatres.

The initiative allows audiences to relive some of SRK's most iconic performances on the big screen once again. Friday, the *Dilwale* actor took to his Instagram handle to share a heartfelt message celebrating his enduring love for cinema as he announced the Shah Rukh Khan Film Festival.

Sharing a video, SRK wrote, "*Main kaun hoon, kaun nahi...* doesn't really matter, as long as the lights, camera, and a little bit of love are still rolling. See you at the #ShahRukhKhanFilmFestival starting today. In select theatres across India, in association with PVR INOX. In select Cinepolis screens across India. A YRF International release across the Middle East, North America, the UK, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. T&C Apply."

The special festival will feature screenings of some of SRK's most iconic films, such as *Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa*, *Dil Se*, *Devdas*, *Main Hoon Na*, *Om Shanti Om*, *Chennai Express*, and *Jawan*. As Shah Rukh gears up to celebrate his 60th birthday November 2, a grand two-week film festival has been organised to honour his cinematic legacy. IANS

Rashmika's take on fame

Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna feels that complacency is not an option for her, as she continues to look for ways to surprise her audience with every new project.

Talking about her spectacular journey so far, Rashmika, who is fondly called as the National crush by her fans, said she has never had a moment where she felt she had "made it" in the industry.

Rashmika told this news agency: "I think every time I'm about to feel a moment like that, some crisis breaks down. So I'm like, 'Okay then.'"

"For me, I feel like the moment I say 'I've made it now' is when I'll lose the plot. I always, even today, feel like, 'Okay, now the audience has come, supported me, shown me their love now it's my responsibility to surprise them with whatever's coming next.'"

The actress, who has delivered several blockbusters across languages, said she deeply values the trust her fans place in her.

"I really, truly respect their hard-earned money, and I know how it feels to earn that to work for it. So I don't take these things for granted. I feel that if they're coming to watch you as an artist, there's only so much I can do."

IANS

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, known for her powerful performances in *The Family Man* and *Yashoda*, is now carving her identity as a storyteller behind the camera. Her second produc-

tion, *Maa Inti Bangaram*, recently went on floors, marking another milestone in her journey as a producer. For Samantha, this project represents more than just filmmaking — it's a reflection of the kind of cinema she wants to nurture.

"We're building a space for stories that move you, stories that stay long after the credits roll," she says. *Maa Inti Bangaram*, directed by her *Oh! Baby* collaborator Nandini Reddy and starring Gulshan Devaiah and Diganth, embodies her belief in creating heartfelt, meaningful narratives.

Samantha emphasises that her shift from acting to producing is rooted in purpose — to support films that carry emotional depth and celebrate humanity. "I want to back films that have soul — stories about love, resilience, and belonging, told with sincerity and cinematic flair," she explains. For her, producing is an act of curation, a way to amplify authentic voices and craft work that is both artistically enriching and commercially viable. Through her banner, Samantha aims to champion stories that resonate and endure.

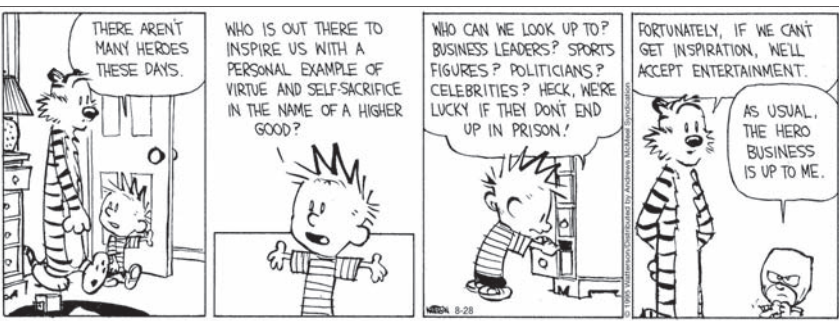
AGENCIES

Samantha champions meaningful cinema

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

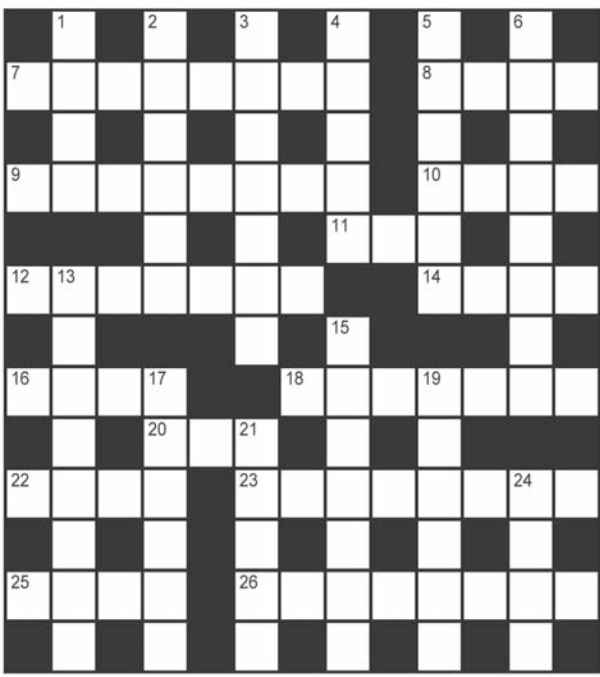


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Across | 16 Dentist's order | 3 Go-between |
| 7 Type of reading course | 18 Obstructs | 4 Toss |
| 8 Like the Gobi | 20 Flue residue | 5 Joan of Arc, for one |
| 9 Fluorescent dye, e.g. | 22 Belgian river | 6 Denigrate |
| 10 Kite part | 23 Salve | 13 Fake |
| 11 Chap | 25 Aria, e.g. | 15 Understudy |
| 12 Brush-footed butterfly | 26 Cloudy | 17 Thin |
| 14 Police action | Down | 19 Talk indistinctly |
| | 1 Achilles, e.g. | 21 Hunting dog |
| | 2 Periwig | 24 Verb preceder |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	V	E	R	S	A	N	T	E	N	N	A	
P	E	R	T	U	R	B	E	D	I	L		
E	E	O	N	H	A	L						
A	S	T	I	P	U	M	A	N	T	E		
R	T	R	B	I	J							
E	X	O	D	U	S	B	O	L	E	R	O	
D	R	D	G	U	A	T						
B	O	D	I	E	S	N	A	T	C	H	E	R
A	T	H	O			O	N					
G	O	U	D	A	M	A	G	E	N	T	A	
A	N	L	E	A	E	L						
R	I	D	D	L	E	S	S	T	Y	E	S	

SUDOKU

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

Railway Minister to visit Odisha today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw will visit state today, for a series of high-level programmes in the Capital city, aimed at boosting infrastructure and industrial development in the state.

During his visit, the minister will participate in the ground-breaking ceremony of the SiCSem (Semiconductor Fabrication Unit) at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar. The project marks a significant stride in India's semiconductor manufacturing journey, aligning with government's flagship 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' missions. Vaishnaw will also be present at Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing event between Ministry of Railways and Government of Odisha at Lok Seva Bhawan, to further enhance railway infrastructure and improve connectivity across the state.

Later in the day, the minister will inspect the ongoing redevelopment and modernisation works at Bhubaneswar Railway Station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which focuses on upgrading facilities and enhancing passenger comfort.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By the virtue of the affidavit No.- 3143, Dtd.- 30.10.2025, before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I, Arun Kumar Pagal, S/o.- Narayan Pagal, At- Narayanpur, P.O.- Narayanpur, P.S.- Dhamanagar, Dist.- Bhadrak, PIN- 756117 declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as Aruna Kumar Pagal instead of Arun Kumar Pagal. I shall be known as ARUN KUMAR PAGAL for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before The Executive Magistrate, Badamba, Dated:15.10.2025, I, Sushree Sangeeta Satapathy, D/o- Amarendra Satapathy, Address - At:Gopinathapur, P.O- Singhanathpitha, P.S.- Badamba, Dist-Cuttack, Odisha-754031 declare that I have changed my name from Sangita Satapathy to Sushree Sangeeta Satapathy. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sushree Sangeeta Satapathy for all purposes. Sushree Sangeeta Satapathy

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before The Executive Magistrate, Badamba, Dated: 11.07.2025, I, Kanakalata Nayak, W/o- Karunakara Nayak, Address At:Haridapasi, P.O.-Achalkote, P.S.- Tigiria, Dist-Cuttack, Odisha-754030 declare that I have changed my name from Janaki Nayak to Kanakalata Nayak. Henceforth, I shall be known as Kanakalata Nayak for all purposes. Kanakalata Nayak

State to pioneer sustainable urban development practices

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: In a significant step towards sustainable and climate-resilient urban growth, a one-day workshop ‘Mainstreaming Low-Carbon Building Materials to Transform the Built Environment in Odisha’ was jointly organised by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar and Development Alternatives, IIT Madras campus.

Housing and Urban Development department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee graced the occasion as chief guest and emphasised the need for collective conviction and conscious planning to achieve a greener and more sustainable future.

“Whatever we do in construction must consciously contribute to a healthier environment. We can only progress if we believe we can — and ensure our development is greener and eco-friendly,” said Padhee.

She highlighted state government's strong commitment to fostering sustainable urbanisation through regulatory reforms, capacity building, and entrepreneurship incentives. Padhee further noted that promoting innovative materials such as Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste products and Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC3) could be transformative for the construction sector in the state.

The workshop brought together a diverse group of industry, academia, and government stakeholders to deliberate on strategies for mainstreaming low-carbon materials in the state's infrastructure ecosystem.

Prof Manu Santhanam from IIT Madras attended as guest of honour, underlined the urgency for construction industry to adopt low-carbon materials as mainstream solutions and optimise raw material use for both structural and non-structural applications.

Subhadra Yojana contributes to economic independence: Dy CM

Subhadra Portal to open for fresh registration from today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Over one crore women across Odisha have received financial assistance exceeding Rs 15,000 crore through state government's flagship Subhadra Yojana scheme, and has been instrumental in strengthening women's economic independence, said Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, while joining the Subhadra Ekta Padayatra from Master Canteen to Rajmahal Square here Friday.

Department of Women and Child Development (W&CD) organised the walkathon on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

“An empowered woman

forms the foundation of a prosperous state. Women are the key drivers in achieving the vision of a developed India and prosperous Odisha,” Deputy CM said, noting that the Ekata Padayatra symbolises unity, empowerment, and shared aspirations among women from diverse backgrounds.

“Subhadra Portal will open for new registrations for the financial year 2025–26, starting November 1. Applications can be submitted from November 1 to 30, except in Nuapada district, where the portal will remain closed due to the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct,” Parida added.

Eligible women aged 21 years or above as of April 1, 2025, who

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja inaugurated a national conference on Handlooms and Handicrafts, organised by Ministry of Textiles at Hotel Taj Vivanta here Friday, celebrating India's rich weaving traditions and exploring pathways for future growth.

Highlighting India's illustrious textile legacy, Ahuja called for sustained efforts to foster innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable growth among artisan communities.

The two-day event aims to empower artisans, promote India's craft economy, and strengthen the handloom and handicraft sectors through knowledge sharing, innovation, market linkages, and collaboration among states.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Ministry of Textiles DC (Handlooms) Veena Kumari Meena and DC (Handicrafts)



Amrit Raj emphasised India's vision to strengthen its traditional craft sectors, enhance artisan livelihoods, and position Indian handlooms and handicrafts as global symbols of sustainability and inclusive development.

Delivering the welcome address, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar

reaffirmed state's commitment to empowering weavers and artisans through initiatives that blend tradition with technology.

Following the inauguration, a series of thematic sessions showcased best practices from various states, focusing on key areas such as market linkages, cluster development, infrastructure, welfare, skill enhancement, and raw mate-

rial supply.

The inaugural session, ‘Market Connect: Expanding Reach, Building Brands,’ featured presentations from Assam, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, highlighting state-led initiatives that enhance market access and global visibility for local artisans.

On second day, subsequent sessions will delve into cluster-based development (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka) infrastructure and craft villages (Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Nagaland), and welfare and skill development programmes (Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh). An open house discussion will conclude the conference, providing a platform for direct interaction among policymakers, artisans, and stakeholders, and fostering a participatory dialogue on the future of India's handloom and handicraft sectors.

Balasore zone wins state-level science drama competition



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Balasore Zone team emerged as winner for ‘Paracetamol’, while Kendrapara Zone team bagged runners-up title for ‘Jhia Tu Jagatajita’, during state-level Science Drama Competition 2025, organised by Regional Science Centre (RSC), Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with state Directorate of Teacher Education and SCERT.

The annual event aims to encourage school students across the state to creatively express their ideas on science and its impact on society through engaging theatrical performances.

Five drama teams, represent-

ing Sundargarh, Kendrapara, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, and Balasore showcased their plays on the theme ‘Science and Technology for the Benefit of Mankind’. Each team's performance reflected innovative ideas and a strong message on how science and technology contribute to human welfare.

At the valedictory ceremony, distinguished guests from the fields of science and theatre felicitated the participating teams for their outstanding creativity and performance.

Both the selected teams will represent Odisha at the Zonal Level Science Drama Competition at the Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM) in Kolkata.

ACC's ‘Check-Olate’ to remind regular breast self-examination

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Apollo Cancer Centres (ACC), Bhubaneswar launched a creative initiative, titled ‘Check-Olate’—a bar of dark chocolate designed to remind women to take a pause for self-care and perform regular breast self-examinations.

Check-Olate aims to turn awareness into action by using dark chocolate—known for antioxidant benefits—as a comforting messenger for proactive health. Each bar carries a QR code linking to an animated video that guides women through a step-by-step breast self-examination.

According to GLOBOCAN, breast cancer accounts for 13.5 per cent of all cancer cases among Indian women, yet only 1.6 per cent of women aged between 30 to 69 years have ever undergone screening.

Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar Chief Operating Officer & Director of Medical Services Alok Srivastava said, “When women are healthy, nations prosper. Through Apollo



Cancer Centres, we're advancing early detection and building a culture where proactive care is the norm. The ‘Check-Olate’ initiative reminds women that self-care is not a privilege; it is power.”

Joining on the occasion, actress Pinky Pradhan added, “What makes Check-Olate truly special is how it takes something so universally loved and turns it into a gentle reminder for women to care for themselves. It's a creative way to turn awareness into action.”

Apollo Bhubaneswar Surgical Oncologist Prashant Chandra Das noted, “When it comes to breast cancer, early detection isn't just important—it's lifesaving. Check-Olate trans-

forms a moment of indulgence into a reminder for proactive health.”

Samarendra Dash from Radiation Oncologist department said, “A small act of awareness can rewrite outcomes. With Check-Olate, we're turning simple indulgence into a life-saving habit every woman deserves to practice.”

Speaking about the initiative, Radiation Oncologist Sandeep Muzumder said, “Awareness is the first dose of prevention. Through Check-Olate, we remind every woman that early awareness leads to timely action—and that can save lives.”

Medical Oncologist Ganesh Chandra Subudhi said,

“Cancer care isn't just about treatment—it's about starting the conversation early. Check-Olate helps women listen to their health and act before it's too late.”

“True empowerment begins with self-care. Initiatives like Check-Olate make health awareness sweeter, personal, and powerfully actionable for every woman,” noted Rekha Samuel.

Recognising the urgent need for greater awareness and proactive prevention, ACC aims to normalise self-care through Check-Olate and empower women to make breast self-examination a monthly ritual, helping them take charge of their health early.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.78 ▼ 0.04	SENSEX	83938.71 ▼ 465.75	GOLD	₹121,938 ▲ ₹430
EURO	102.94 ▼ 0.32	NIFTY	25722.10 ▼ 155.75	SILVER	₹149,203 ▲ ₹363

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.8°	32.2°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	23.6°	22.6°	
Humidity	83%	89%	
Rainfall	4.6mm	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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-9377517314, 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-993771063, 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.

Pitabas murder: Pintu shifted to Phulbani jail

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Oct 31: Shiva Shankar Das alias Pintu, one of the accused in the murder of lawyer and BJP leader Pitabas Panda, was Friday shifted from the circle jail in Berhampur to a prison in Phulbani, Kandhamal district, following a court directive, an official said.

Das, a former mayor of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC), was transferred after the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) accepted a plea by Berhampur jail authorities citing threats to his life as several of his rivals were lodged in the same facility, the official added.

Das' wife Asha Kumari, however, appealed to the court to lodge him in a nearby jail in Ganjam district citing his ill health.

Jail authorities, however, said no jail in nearby area in the district is safe for the ex-mayor and appealed to shift him to Phulbani.

Amid tight security, he was shifted to Phulbani, said DN Barik, senior superintendent, circle jail, Berhampur.

According to police, around 43 cases, including the murder case of Panda, are pending against the former mayor.

Meanwhile, two prime accused Uma Bisoyi and Kurupati Bhuyan, the alleged shooter, are yet to be captured by police. Crucial links to the actual execution of the murder are yet to be established as Kurupati, believed to have pulled the trigger, remains absconding.

2 army men get life term for sexual assault of 4-year-old



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 31: In a major development, a Special POCSO Court in Ganjam district sentenced two army personnel to life imprisonment for sexually assaulting a four-year-old girl inside a school bus on the premises of the Army Air Defence (AD) College in Gopalpur.

The convicts, identified as Bhutedia Jayes Kumar (30) of Satlasana in Gujarat's Mehsana district and Haseldar Munda (37) of Baidhar village under Barkote police limits in Deogarh district, were found guilty of the heinous crime that took place in January this year.

Special POCSO Judge Pranati Pattnaik pronounced the verdict within 10 months of the incident, convicting both accused under relevant provisions of the POCSO Act. Kumar was serving as a havildar and Munda as a naik at the Army AD College when the incident occurred.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on each convict, directing that the total amount of ₹20,000 be handed over to the victim. In default of payment, both convicts will undergo an additional

six months of rigorous imprisonment. Furthermore, the judge instructed the District Legal Services Authority (DL-SA) to provide ₹10.5 lakh as financial assistance to the survivor.

According to the case details, the two men lured the four-year-old student of an English-medium school located inside the Army AD College premises January 2 and sexually assaulted her inside the school bus.

The victim's grandmother, who was waiting at the bus stop, heard the child's cries and rushed inside the vehicle, where she found her granddaughter in a distressing state. The family immediately took the child to MKCG Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

After her condition stabilised, the girl's parents lodged a complaint at Gopalpur police station January 3, leading to the registration of a case (02/25) under the POCSO Act.

During investigation, police established the involvement of the bus driver, Jayes Kumar, and the helper, Haseldar Munda. Both were arrested January 4 and remanded to judicial custody.

The investigating officer, Suchitra Parida, IIC of Baidyanathpur police station, submitted the chargesheet after recording the statements of witnesses and survivor. The court examined seven witnesses and considered the medical report submitted by Dr Sudipa Dash, head of the Forensic Medicine and Toxicology Department at MKCG Medical College.

After analysing the evidence, Judge Pattnaik convicted both accused and delivered the sentence Friday.

Special Public Prosecutor Narayan Panda represented the state in the case.

Class IV girl dies of malaria

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Oct 31: A Class IV student of Baising Government Primary School in Rayagada district has died of malaria, raising questions over hostel management and the handling of students' health condition.

The deceased was identified as Nandini Tadingi, 9, who was staying in a hostel run by the Welfare Department. According to reports, Nandini developed a fever Wednesday. When diagnosed with a malaria kit at the school, she was found positive and was taken to the Urban Primary Health Centre in Rayagada for treatment.

After initial medication, she was reportedly sent back to the hostel. Later that evening, Nandini's father, Rajarao Himirika, took her home to Dangajodi

village. She died at home within 24 hours. On the direction of District Welfare Officer Asima Rao, Block Welfare Extension Officer Prakash Kumar Nayak has begun an investigation to ascertain whether there was any negligence by hostel authorities.

Preliminary reports suggest that although Nandini had tested positive for malaria, the hostel authorities allowed her to go home instead of admitting her to a hospital. Meanwhile, her family reportedly opted for traditional treatment rather than hospitalisation, which might have worsened her condition.

The incident has once again highlighted growing concern over malaria-related deaths in school hostels across Rayagada district, with many blaming poor health monitoring and lax hostel management.

7-month ban on fishing at Gahirmatha begins today

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 31: A 7-month-long fishing ban at the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary will come into effect from Saturday and continue until May 31, 2026.

The restriction, extending up to 20 km off Bay of Bengal coast, will be enforced by the Marine Fishery department under the provisions of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982 the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and the Orissa Marine Fishing Rules, 1983.

The objective is to ensure the safety of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles during their annual nesting season.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

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

Gold Auction Notice

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by 27.11.2025, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at **Concerned Branch Premises on 28.11.2025 at 11.00 AM**. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the date and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to interested bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Gross Wt. in Gram	Net Wt. in Gram	Total Dues as on 31.10.2025 (excluding unapplied interest Charges, Cost & Expenses)
BANK OF INDIA, CHANDAKA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BRANCH, PLOT No. 68(P), ANNAPURNA HOUSE, PO: RASULGARH, BHUBANESWAR-751010, MOB.: 7327905742					
1.	555377610001515	Sudharani Nayak, W/o- Jaydev Nayak, Address: Patra Sahi, Railway Colony, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751017.	9.350	8.520	₹ 44,594.30
BANK OF INDIA, PURI BRANCH, OLD SADAR THANA ROAD, PURI, PIN-752001, MOB.: 9437199488					
1.	555277610003837	Minati Sahoo, Gangamata Bagicha, Abakasha Lane, Puri, Odisha, PIN-752002.	28.530	26.000	₹ 1,73,908.00
2.	555277610003786	Akhaya Kumar Sahoo, Gangamata Bagicha, Abakasha Lane, Puri, Odisha, PIN-752002.	12.120	11.000	₹ 62,800.00

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 31.10.2025

Zonal Manager, Bank of India

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Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751015

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest

The Bank has granted following various credit facilities to the under mentioned Borrower & the amount outstanding dues mentioned below has not been paid in time. Therefore Demand Notice under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the Bank of India, Chandaka Industrial Complex Branch but the same could not be served on the below mentioned party. Therefore, the contents of the same including the amount outstanding, Loan amount and details to the secured assets are herein furnished below.

CHANDAKA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BRANCH/	Nature / Limit	Date of NPA / Date of Demand Notice	Amount as per Notice under SARFAESI Act	Description of mortgaged Property
Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s)				
Borrower: & Mortgagor: Mr. Santosh Kumar Sahoo, S/o- Duryodhan Sahoo / Guarantor: Mrs. Surati Sahoo, W/o- Mr. Santosh Kumar Sahoo. Both are At: Sanakusumi, Chandesar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752023.	Housing Loan (555375110000144)/ ₹ 10,00,000/-	22.06.2025 / 30.06.2025	₹ 9,82,755/- as on 30.06.2025 + interest & expenses thereon	All the part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 338/97, Plot No.: 689/999, Total Area: Ac.0.133dec (i.e. 5793.48sqft), KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Sanakusumi, Tahasil: Tangi, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752023, Odisha standing in the name of Santosh Kumar Sahoo, S/o- Duryodhan Sahoo, Bounded by- North: Rabindra Sahoo, South: Ishwar Chandra Sahoo, East: Kani Bewa, West: Road.

As the above mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the Chandaka Industrial Complex Branch have defaulted in repayment of the principal loan/ facility in installments/ interests/ both, the account has been classified as NPA, in accordance with the directions or guidelines issued by the RBI. In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account, you have not discharged your liabilities. Hence, we are now constrained to make this publication of Demand Notice, required u/s 13(2) of the said Act and Rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. You are hereby called upon to pay the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, incidental Expenses, Charges etc. within a period of **60 days** from the date of Notice, failing which we will take necessary action under the provisions of sec 13(4) of the said Act, against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking necessary action under the provisions of sec 13(4) of the said Act, against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of your secured assets and sale them. If the dues are not fully recovered in the course of these actions against secured assets, then the Bank reserves the right to take action by filing recovery action against you before Debts Recovery Tribunal/Court for recovery of the same. It may be noted that under the provisions of section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, right of redemption is available to you, by paying the dues of the Bank together with all cost, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank at any time, before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. Please take note that as per sub section (13) of the aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from transferring or creating any encumbrances on the aforesaid secured assets whether by way of sale, lease, license, gift, mortgage or otherwise. This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the Bank available under any other law.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 31.10.2025

Authorized Officer, Bank of India

8 sentenced to life for murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Oct 31: Eight years after the murder of BJP supporter Salman Rout during the 2017 panchayat elections in Dhenkanal district, a local court Friday sentenced eight persons to life imprisonment while acquitting five others due to lack of evidence.

The judgement was delivered by District and Sessions Judge Pranab Kumar Routray, who found the accused guilty of murdering Rout over political rivalry linked to the Tarava panchayat elections.

According to the case records, Salman Rout was campaigning near a betel shop in Godisahi village with his associates around 7:30pm February 4, 2017.

At the same time, rival sarpanch candidate Kulamani Behera and his

supporters arrived in the area for their own campaign.

A heated altercation broke out between the two groups after which Behera and his supporters attacked Rout and his associate Bikram Keshari Mallik with sticks.

During the assault, Behera's associate, Byomakesh Biswal allegedly fired a bullet at Rout from close range. Rout died at the Dhenkanal District Headquarters Hospital

The court found Byomakesh Biswal guilty under Sections 302, 25, and 27 of the Arms Act. Seven others — Trayambak Biswal, Mrutyunjay Biswal, Hrudananda Biswal, Samarendra Biswal, Mannohan Biswal, Debendra Swain, and Kulamani Behera — were convicted under Section 302 of the IPC and sentenced to life imprisonment.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-HIRING-VEHICLE-513, Dt. 24.10.2025

Name of Work: HIRING OF TWO NOS. MULTI UTILITY OF ROAD VEHICLE LIKE TATA 207-DI OR EQUIVALENT ALONG WITH DRIVER ROUND THE CLOCK FOR MOVEMENT OF SIGNALING STAFF AND MATERIALS UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER(SIGNAL)/BALUGAON (BALU), SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (SIGNAL)/BRAHMAPUR (BAM) FOR MAINTENANCE OF SIGNALING ASSETS. ATTENDING BREAKDOWN AND EN-ROUTE DETENTION FOR PERIOD OF 30 MONTHS.

Tender Value: ₹ 35,40,000.00, EMD: ₹ 70,800.00, Tender document cost: ₹ 3,540.00. Bidding Start Date: 03.11.2025.

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 hrs. of 17.11.2025.

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

Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

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

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-745/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

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Indian Bank

इलाहाबाद

ALLAHABAD

ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR

1ST FLOOR, SHYAM ARCADE, KHETRAJPUR, SAMBALPUR - 768003, e-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

(See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property /ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)

Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.baanknet.com>.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantor/Mortgagor	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession Notice/ Outstanding Dues	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	BARBIL BRANCH, MOB. NO.: 8249514030 / Borrower: M/s. Bijay Laxmi Enterprises, Prop.: Mr. Nakul Chandra Oram, At: Jhadgaon, Bhadrasahi, Barbil, Dist: Keonjhar-758035 / Guarantor / Mortgagor: Mr. Ashok Kumar Senapati, S/o.: Anama Charan Senapati, Vill/PO.: Serenda, P.S.: Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar-758035	All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Mr.Ashok Kumar Senapati , S/o.: Anama Charan Senapati, under Plot No.: 157/1177, Khata No.: 128/303, with Area: Ac.0.05 Dec., at Mouza: Bhusugaon Unit No.: 15, Thana/Tahasil: Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 157, South: Plot No.: 204, East: Abhimanyu Mishra, West: Plot No.: 157	29.04.2025 / 11.08.2025 / ₹20,64,812/- as on 29.10.2025 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹25,00,000/- / ₹2,50,000/- / ₹10,000/-
2.	SAMBALPUR BRANCH, MOB NO.: 9777650733 / Borrower: M/s. Jagadamba Automobile, Prop.: Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda, At: Laderpali, Rengali Camp, Dist.: Bargarh - 768027 / Mortgagor: Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda, S/o.: Mr. Purna Chandra Panda, Lane 6/C-2, Kalyan Nagar, Budharaja, Sambalpur - 768004 / Guarantor: Mr. Tushar Ranjan Panda, S/o.: Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda, At: Lane 6/C-2, Kalyan Nagar, Budharaja, Sambalpur, PIN-768004	All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda , S/o: Mr. Purna Chandra Panda, at Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 15, Ainthapali, having Plot No.: 1674/8916 with Area: Ac0.087 Dec. and Plot No.: 1673/8915 with Area: Ac0.013 Dec., Total Area: Ac.0.10 Dec. under Khata No.: 559/3883, KISSAM: Gharabari, PS/Dist.: Sambalpur, Bounded by North: 20ft. Wide Road, South: Plot No.: 1802, East: Plot No.: 1674 (P), West: Plot No.:1673 (P)	11.04.2025 / 28.07.2025 / ₹91,44,482/- as on 29.10.2025 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹1,56,00,000/- / ₹15,60,000/- / ₹10,000/-
3.	NUAPADA BRANCH, Mob No.: 9131584169 / Borrower & Mortgagor: Sri Ganesh Sharma, S/o: Sri Mulchand Sharma, At: Bazar Pada, Ward No.: 4, P.O: Khariar Road, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN - 766104	All that piece & parcel of Land & Building recorded in the name of Sri Ganesh Sharma , S/o: Sri Mulchand Sharma, Khata No.: 167/35, Plot No.: 233, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.047 Dec., at Mouza: Khariar Road Unit No.: 5, P.S.: Jonk, Dist.: Nuapada. Bounded by North: Plot of Sudha Sharma, South: Plot of Nanak Ram, East: Road, West: Plot of Nanda Kishor Soni	21.02.2024 / 11.06.2024 / ₹ 20,02,775/- as on 20.02.2024 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹25,50,000/- / ₹2,55,000/- / ₹ 10,000/-

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 19.11.2025 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS IN THEIR WALLET BY 19.11.2025 I.E. EBF0RE E-AUCTION DATE & TIME IN THE PORTAL.

Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 06.11.2025 to 18.11.2025 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: <https://www.baanknet.com> Prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch as mentioned in above list., 2) This is a statutory 15 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, 3) This is a 15 days notice to the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date., 4) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 5) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 6) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 31.10.2025

Sd-/Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

बाइरैक

बिगरैक इन्वोवेट इन्क्यूबेटर

birac

Ignite Innovate Incubate

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

A not-for-profit Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India

BIG

Kick Starting Entrepreneurship

BIG 25th

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Who are eligible?

Indian Startups having a registered Company/ LLP incorporated on/after 1st November, 2020

For any queries, please write to:

Ms. Taranjeet Kaur
Incharge - Entrepreneurship Development
biracbig.dbt@nic.in

Ms. Diksha Rathore
Officer - Entrepreneurship Development
user-032@birac.nic.in

Seek Mentoring from BIRAC's BIG Partners

C-CAMP

www.ccamp.res.in

FIT

www.fit-itld.org

IKP

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Bleeding Talent

Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi’s decision to hang up his boots eight years ahead of time has clearly rattled the Telangana Secretariat, and with good reason. Rizvi is a senior babu with impeccable credentials, heading two sensitive departments—Revenue and GAD (Political), and his calling it quits is bound to raise eyebrows. The official explanation cites “personal goals,” but anyone who’s watched Indian babudom for a while knows that’s usually code for “I’ve had enough.”

In Rizvi’s case, “enough” seems to have come after four transfers in just two years, an administrative relay race that would test the patience of even the most stoic babu. Officials often joke that stability is a myth, but when an IAS officer becomes a permanent fixture only on the transfer list, something’s seriously amiss.

According to observers, political interference may have accelerated the burnout. A powerful minister is being fingered for allegedly engineering the reshuffles, though, as always, “sources” prefer to remain conveniently vague. Ironically, the same political class that made Rizvi’s position untenable is now scrambling to stop his exit. Reportedly, the Excise Minister is urging the state Chief Secretary not to accept his VRS plea.

It’s a classic case of wanting to have your babu and blame him, too. The entire episode lays bare the uneasy dance between babus and politics in Telangana, where merit and continuity often yield to ministerial whims.

If Rizvi’s departure goes through, it will be another reminder that India’s babudom is quietly bleeding talent. The question isn’t why he’s leaving—it’s how many others are thinking the same thing but haven’t yet found the nerve to say so.

The Lokpal’s BMW moment

When India created the Lokpal, it was meant to be the nemesis of corruption, a moral sword unsheathed. A decade later, it seems that the sword’s been traded in for BMWs. The nation’s top anti-graft body has splurged on luxury cars even as it’s managed to prosecute a total of seven cases in six years.

Once upon a time, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) struck fear into governments. Remember the 2G and Commonwealth Games exposés? Those were the days when audit reports rattled power corridors. Now, it’s all serene. The CAG still audits, but the sharp edges have been filed down to a polite murmur.

The silence extends beyond these institutions. Whistleblowers are discouraged, transparency laws are under strain, and vigilance bodies operate as though oversight were an optional extra. The Lokpal Act, once touted as a triumph of citizen activism, now looks like a case study in bureaucratic domestication. The watchdogs haven’t just lost their bark; they have been house-trained.

Institutions that once snapped at misuse of power now seem content to nap in their air-conditioned, chauffeur-driven luxury cars. The Modi sarkar loves to proclaim it’s corruption-free, but one wonders if that’s because no one’s actually looking anymore.

Anti-corruption in India today feels less like a crusade and more like a corporate offsite, complete with plush cars and moral PowerPoint slides. If the Lokpal and CAG are our institutional watchdogs, they must consider swapping their BMWs for more humble modes of transport. It might help them get closer to where corruption actually occurs.

BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Turf, tweets & transfers

Another day, another “routine” transfer is that catch-all phrase babus use when they hope nobody’s paying attention. Only this time, the sudden shunting of two senior Customs officials has sparked more chatter than calm in the babu corridors. Behind the bland notification lies a juicy saga of turf wars, bruised egos, and a desperate scramble to control the fallout. The incident in question caused significant embarrassment in the government.

It all began when a controversy involving exporters and importers went viral on X and other platforms, forcing the Ministry of Finance into action. The Ministry’s Chief Vigilance Officer, who is a joint secretary-level officer, was sent out on a fact-finding mission and apparently suggested suspension of the officers concerned. But the Board, ever protective of its turf, wasn’t having any of it. It argued that its own Directorate General of Vigilance should handle such matters. According to observers, this is just code for “thanks but keep out of our way.”

So, instead of suspensions and a formal inquiry, the two officers were neatly reassigned to Delhi as Officers on Special Duty. In babu-speak, it can be read as doing what was required, while ensuring nothing truly inconvenient emerges.

The Board may have averted immediate embarrassment, but insiders say the Ministry isn’t pleased. The episode exposes the uneasy balance between autonomy and accountability.

In the end, the transfers achieved what they were meant to: contain the noise without cleaning the system. Because in sarkari circles, it’s never really about solving the problem, just about making sure it stops trending.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](#). Let’s multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- “

We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
- “

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

CONFUCIUS
- “

The enslaving of the other is also the enslaving of the self.

NIKOLAI BERDYAEV

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1864:** Nevada became the 36th state of the United States.
- **1922:** Benito Mussolini became prime minister of Italy; he was the first of Europe’s fascist dictators in the 20th century.
- **1926:** Harry Houdini, the magician and escape artist, died of peritonitis stemming from a stomach injury.
- **1941:** After nearly 15 years of work, the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota was completed; the colossal sculpture features the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.
- **1962:** The American psychological thriller What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?, a late-career triumph for both Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, was released in American theatres.

FOCUS

INDIA-ASEAN SUMMIT

GREAT POSSIBILITIES

In the continuing power rivalry in the Indo-Pacific region, India-ASEAN partnership presents an alternative model of bilateralism based on strategic autonomy and shared prosperity and security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called 2026 as the year of ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation. Addressing virtually the 22nd ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 26 October, he added that ‘ASEAN is the main pillar of India’s Act East Policy’ and a powerful foundation of global stability and growth.

The theme of this year’s conference was inclusivity and sustainability. India took the opportunity to emphasise collective efforts for international development. In his speech, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar said that there should be zero tolerance of terrorism anywhere; it poses “a continuous and corrosive threat”.

Quite a few decisions were taken as they happen in such summits. The frontrunning pact was the maritime cooperation. It is significant for India to deepen this cooperation as ASEAN countries have major maritime routes that is vital for trade and commerce; particularly the Malacca Strait through which India’s 80 per cent energy imports transit. This cooperation consists of four areas of activities; maritime security, blue economy, HADR – Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, and connectivity infrastructure.

Second, since the focus was on accelerated economic integration, India-ASEAN signed AITIGA –ASEAN-Indian Trade in Goods Agreement. India felt the urgency to push this as India’s trade deficit with ASEAN was growing.

Third, the Prime Minister offered a host of fresh initiatives to strengthen the ties. He extended support for the implementation of ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which included among other areas, cooperation in tourism as both celebrate 2025 as the Year of Tourism; training of

400 professionals in renewable energy, particularly supporting the ASEAN Power Grid Initiative, a South-East Asian University Studies at Nalanda University in order to develop regional expertise, holding the East Asia Summit Maritime Heritage Festival in Gujarat and a conference on maritime security cooperation.

Fourth, India’s core strength on digitalisation was reflected on expanding collaboration on Digital Public Infrastructure – cross-border payment systems and Fintech solutions. India’s UPI model, the Unified Payment system has generated interest across the developing world including ASEAN countries. The ASEAN-India Fund for Digital Future will be harnessed in this venture which includes cooperation on AI, block chain technology, for supply chain management and digital health platforms.

In strategic terms, India-ASEAN partnership assumes significance as South-East Asian countries are caught in the crossfire between Washington and Beijing on trade tension and hegemonic competition. India offers them some cushion as a stabilizer.

Many countries and regional blocs expect India to be the third market and an economic and political power. Whether India is progressing fast to meet that expectation is a matter of debate. But, as the

biggest country and with a functional democracy growing to that status will be slower, unlike China which has been a centralized market economy and USA a big military power.

That said, India and ASEAN have considerable convergence of interests. There are strong cultural ties with majority of South-East Asian countries which is a powerful base for people-to-people connection. India has unwaveringly supported ASEAN as an important partner in the region with a combined GDP over 3 trillion USD. ASEAN offers India’s business crucial opportunities for investment, market access and supply chain option as an alternative to China-centric trade and economy. In the continuing power rivalry in the Indo-Pacific region, India-ASEAN partnership presents an alternative model of bilateralism based on strategic autonomy and shared prosperity and security.

Organisationally, ASEAN added Timor-Leste making it the 11th member, plus the regional partners consisting of Australia, China, India, South Korea, Russia and the United States. There was unanimous approval of and welcome to Timor-Leste, a small country that broke away from Indonesia after a long struggle for independence. As for India, the relationship is steadily growing. It became a dialogue

partner in 1995, which was upgraded to summit level. The proximity and expectations between India and ASEAN seem to be increasingly matching.

Therefore, observers contend that Modi, giving the summit a conspicuous miss could be a lost opportunity for India. The reasons attributed to his absence are, India-US trade tensions, Malaysia, the host of the summit extending diplomatic support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. There could be two interpretations of his absence. One, Modi wanted to express his displeasure to his friend Trump for not reciprocating all that support he had extended to him during his second term election and otherwise.

Second, without a chance of meeting Trump personally, it would have been embarrassing or widened the personal distance. But even a handshake or exchange of greetings in person, would have perhaps thawed the tension. Modi does prioritise personal proximity and warmth on building international relations.

Perhaps, Trump will warm up again if he managed to bring an end to the war in Ukraine. He had made a specific promise on that and was expecting the Noble Peace prize. It is a missed opportunity on Trump’s legacy term as the President. That is why he is not happy with Modi for not supporting him.

All in all, except Prime Minister Modi’s absence, the summit has been of great possibilities and opportunities for India as well as ASEAN. However, as is said ‘the proof of the pudding is in the eating’. Therefore, how India is implementing its Act-East Policy will determine the way ahead.

The writer is a Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions
INFA

SPECTRUM PERSONAL FINANCE

The digital gold rush

Swastik Suman Satapathy

RECENT YEARS HAVE SEEN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH IN DIGITAL-GOLD USERS AND TRANSACTIONS

Gold’s glow witnessed a dream run through most of 2025, with prices soaring to record highs ahead of Diwali as investors rushed to capture the rally. However, soon after the festive peak, the yellow metal saw a sharp correction, reminding investors that even the safest-seeming assets can fluctuate. Against this backdrop, interest in modern, convenient forms of investing in gold, such as Gold ETFs and Digital Gold have skyrocketed. These digital avenues, often called “Gold 2.0,” have opened doors for tech-savvy Indians to invest in gold with just a few taps on their smartphones.

Gold ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) are funds listed and traded on stock exchanges that hold physical gold and issue units that move with the metal’s price. Investors can buy or sell units like any stock through broker. Recently India witnessed a significant rise in Gold ETFs, with investment witnessing 578.28% year-to-year growth reaching Rs 8,363.13 crore in September 2025, up from Rs 1,232.99 crore in the previous year. On the

other hand, Digital Gold is offered by fintech apps and platforms, where they let an investor buy small fractions of physical gold online, usually credited to an account and stored in vaults by provider on behalf of that investor. Investors here can buy for as little as a few rupees, and some platforms also let the holdings converted into jewellery or delivered physically for an extra charge. Recent years have seen explosive growth in digital-gold users and transactions. As per a latest report, UPI transactions in digital gold rose from approximately 50.9 million in January 2025 with a value of Rs 761.6 crore to 99.8 million in August 2025 when total value increased to Rs 1,283.7 crore. Traditional gold in tangible form (jewellery, coins, bars) are emotionally important to many Indian households, but carries making charges (for jewellery), storage worries, and lower liquidity. Gold ETFs and Digital Gold eliminate these worries, are more practical, cheaper and safer (from storage/theft perspective) than carrying a home safe full of jewellery.

Digital Gold typically includes GST on purchase in addition to fees for delivery, while ETFs have an annual expenses ratio (typically under 1% in India) plus brokerage and management fees, which make them a bit costlier in comparison to Digital Gold. However, if an investor in Digital Gold opts for conversion of holding into physical form or for physical delivery, the process involves additional cost and time.

Tax treatment differs slightly between the two. Gold ETFs, after April 2023 tax change, are treated like any other debt mutual fund which means any gain, irrespective of holding period, are added to income and taxed at investor’s slab rate, with no long-term capital gain or indexation benefits. Digital Gold, on the other hand is considered digital ownership of physical gold, so profits made within three years are taxed as short-term gain, while holding beyond three years qualify for long-term capital gain tax with indexation.

As we see above, from cost and tax perspective, Digital Gold enjoys a relatively more

favourable position. Its high convenience and accessibility allowing even small or one-time investors to buy tiny quantities through mobile apps have further boosted its popularity. However, the biggest advantage of Gold ETFs lies in their regulatory oversight, as they operate under the direct supervision of SEBI, ensuring greater investor protection, transparency and standardisation. In contrast, Digital Gold lacks a formal regulator, and investor safety largely depends on the credibility and operational integrity of the provider platform.

Apart from being a traditional status symbol, gold is a time-tested hedge for Indians against liquidity crunch and financial risks. But it is also subject to market fluctuation, at least in short-run. So the choice of form of gold needs to be carefully taken depending upon investor’s financial goals, investment horizon, need for liquidity and risk tolerance.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Commerce, JKBK Govt. College, Cuttack.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

India’s AI awareness

Sir, A recent survey conducted by Pew Research Center, covering 25 countries, reveals that Indians have the lowest awareness about Artificial Intelligence (AI). The survey has found that only 14% of Indians have heard of or read a lot about AI and another 32% have read little about it. Low awareness of AI in India can be attributed to several factors, like socio-economic disparities, cultural outlook towards new technology, and systemic challenges in education and industry. Also issues like limited R&D investment and inadequate data infrastructure contribute to the lack of knowledge among Indians on AI. The lack of a strong ecosystem for developing foundational AI models means the country relies heavily on foreign technology. India has the talent, but systemic issues prevent the country from becoming a global leader in AI. Without strong government policies, increased funding, and a shift in cultural attitudes, India will continue to lag behind in the AI revolution. To bridge the gap, therefore, experts recommend making AI education accessible in schools, establishing AI community centres and importantly developing AI tools in regional languages.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Accusation isn’t conviction

Sir, A person cannot be called a murderer until proved guilty by a competent court of law. Even if ex MLA Bikram Panda is an accused in the brutal day light killing of Pitabasa Panda in Berhampur, it is unethical for lawyers to refuse defending him. Such a practice, if accepted, may set a dangerous trend — tomorrow doctors may deny treatment, teachers may boycott students, or bankers may refuse customers. Personal enmity should never override professional ethics. Lawyers, as protectors of law and human rights, must uphold justice impartially and maintain the dignity of their noble profession through mature judgment and fairness. In the eyes of the law, an accusation is not a conviction; and it is the duty of the legal fraternity to ensure that this principle is not just upheld, but fiercely protected.

Sidhartha Kar Mohapatra, , BARIPADA

Telangana CM announces ₹5 lakh ex-gratia to kin of deceased in recent floods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 31: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Friday announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to families of those who died in the recent floods and Rs 15,000 each to the families for submergence of their houses.

Reddy, who conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in Warangal district and Husnabad Assembly Constituency, held a review meeting with officials and instructed them to prepare a report on loss of life, crop loss, livestock, and infrastructure damage, an official release said.

During the aerial survey, the CM took stock of the situation at the ground level and in the official review of the flood damages in Warangal, he gave specific instructions to the officials of all departments to prepare a comprehensive report on the damages caused by the flash floods and heavy rains in the district and submit the report immediately to the government, it said. The CM appealed to the peoples' representatives to support the administration during the enumeration of the damages and also submit a report to the district collectors.

Emphasising that the plans should be prepared to find a permanent solution to the flood management, Reddy opined that lack of coordination between the departments was visible and hence all the wings should work in tandem to address the civic problems during the floods.

The officials were instructed to launch a drive for the demolition of Nalas (drains) encroachments.



SABARIMALA PILGRIMAGE

Virtual queue booking to begin from Nov 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathanamthitta (Kerala), Oct 31: Virtual queue booking for devotees visiting Sabarimala during the upcoming Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season will begin at 5 pm November 1, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) announced Friday.

Devotees can book darshan slots on the website sabarimalaonline.org and a maximum of 70,000 devotees can book slots daily through the online system, TDB officials said.

In addition, booking centres will function at Vandiperiyar, Erumeli, Nilakkal, and Pamba and up to 20,000 devotees will be allowed darshan daily through on-the-spot registration.

Also, this year, the accident insurance scheme for pilgrims has been expanded to cover the entire state. Previously, the scheme applied only to four districts. According to TDB, from this pilgrimage season onwards, Ayyappa devotees who suffer an accident anywhere in Kerala during their pilgrimage will receive insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh.

The scheme also provides Rs 30,000 for transporting the mortal remains of deceased pilgrims within Kerala and Rs 1 lakh for transportation outside the state.

The insurance coverage will also be extended to regular and daily wage employees of the TDB, as well as personnel from other government departments deployed in Sabarimala.

PITCH TO POLITICS

2 cricketers become ministers



Congress leader and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin was sworn in as a minister in CM A Revanth Reddy's cabinet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 31: Mohammad Azharuddin, who was included in the Telangana cabinet Friday, became the second former top cricketer to be made minister in a Congress government, the first being Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Congress is not the only party where cricketers flourished in politics. Parties like BJP and Trinamool Congress made cricketers MPs and even ministers. Congress leader and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin was sworn in as

a minister in CM A Revanth Reddy's cabinet.

Azharuddin began his political journey with Congress and became Lok Sabha member from Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh in 2009. However, he lost the 2014 Lok Sabha election in the Tonk-Sawai Madhopur constituency in Rajasthan.

Azharuddin was, in November 2023, appointed working president of the party in Telangana days ahead of assembly elections in the southern state.

The former cricketer unsuccessfully contested Jubilee Hills Assembly polls in November 2023. He was nominated as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) under the Governor's quota by the Telangana government in August last week. However, the Governor Jishnu Dev Varma is yet to clear the appointment.

Former Indian opener Sidhu, who opened his political

innings with the BJP, later switched loyalties to the Congress and became a minister in the cabinet headed by former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh in 2017. The former Punjab Congress chief, however, has not been actively participating in the party's events and activities for the past several months. He was defeated in 2022 Punjab Assembly polls.

Sidhu was also elected to Lok Sabha in 2004 and served as Rajya Sabha member in 2016 from BJP.

Besides other popular cricketers Kirti Azad, Chetan Chauhan and Gautam Gambhir, among others, chose a different political platform.

Azad, who was elected to Lok Sabha multiple times started his career with BJP and is currently representing Bardhaman-Durgapur Lok Sabha seat for Trinamool Congress.

Gambhir joined the BJP and was elected to Lok Sabha 2019 parliament elections. He did not contest 2024 polls. He is currently Indian men's cricket team head coach.

Another Indian cricketer Manoj Tiwary who joined Trinamool Congress (TMC) is currently Minister of state for Youth Services and Sports in CM Mamata Banerjee's cabinet. Chetan Chauhan was also a two-time BJP MP and served as a minister in the UP cabinet. He died during the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 launched



Describing the census as a milestone in India's digital and data-driven fisheries governance, Kurian said, 'This edition marks a major technological shift as the first fully digitised data collection in the history of Indian fisheries'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 31: Union Minister George Kurian Friday launched the household enumeration phase of the fully digitised National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here.

Kurian urged all officers and enumerators participating in the census to ensure the registration of all fishers and fish workers on the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP), noting that it is mandatory for availing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY).

"Only fishermen and fish farmers registered on the portal will be eligible to receive financial assistance from the central government," the union minister of state for fisheries said, adding that registration could be carried out through Common Service Centres (CSCs).

Describing the census as a milestone in India's digital and data-driven fisheries governance, Kurian said, "This edition marks a major technological shift as the first fully digitised data collection in the history of Indian fisheries."

Kurian called upon all state fisheries departments, local bodies, and community organisations to extend full cooperation to make the 'Smart Census, Smarter Fisheries' initiative a

success.

Following the launch, live field data collection from Maharashtra and Kerala was displayed at the venue, showcasing real-time digital data capture and central monitoring of the process using two mobile applications — VyAS Bharat and VyAS Sutra — developed by CMFRI, a press release said.

The apps enable geo-referenced data collection, instant verification, and seamless transmission to central servers, ensuring accuracy, transparency, and efficiency, CMFRI said.

According to CMFRI, the 45-day nationwide enumeration will be conducted from November 3 to December 18, covering over 1.2 million fisher households across 4,000 marine fishing villages in 9 coastal states and 4 union territories, with thousands of trained field staff participating.

The exercise is coordinated by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with CMFRI as the nodal agency and the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) as the operational partner, a press release said.

Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Fisheries, Dr Ajay Srivastava, presided over the function.

Union Fisheries Secretary Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Joint Secretary Neetu Kumari Prasad, ICAR Assistant Director General Dr Shubdeep Ghosh, CMFRI Director Dr Grinson George, CIFT Director Dr George Ninan, FSI Director General Dr Sreenath K R, Marine Census Principal Investigator Dr J Jaysankar, Dr Somy Kuriakose, and Dr C Ramachandran also spoke.

The event was followed by a national workshop featuring presentations from coastal states and interactions with representatives of fishing communities.

ASHAs to end protest outside Secretariat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 31: A group of ASHA workers who were holding a day-night protest outside the Kerala Secretariat here for 265 days, demanding to hike their honorarium to Rs 21,000 and Rs 5 lakh as post-retirement benefits, Friday announced the end of their current mode of agitation.

The Kerala ASHA Health Workers Association (KAHWA), which has been leading the protest, said that their agitation will now move to the grassroots level in the districts.

KAHWA state general secretary MA Bindu said that they will also campaign against the LDF in the upcoming local body polls.

"We will tell people not to vote for this government," she said.

She further said that the protest could have been ended or settled within 10-15 days, but was prolonged for so long — 265 days — because of the state government.

"So, that politics has to be told to the people and we will do that," Bindu said.

She said that the protesting ASHA workers had only demanded the basic human right to be paid appropriately for their hard work.

"But the government only increased our honorarium by a miniscule Rs 1,000 per month which comes to Rs 33.33 per day. It is an insult to our ag-



itation," she said.

Bindu also pointed out that when the protest commenced around eight-and-a-half months ago, coconut oil was priced at Rs 190 per litre and currently it cost around Rs 450 and therefore, the increase in the honorarium was negligible.

Earlier in the day, the KAHWA state general secretary said that through their various forms of agitation, including a hunger strike by some of their members for a few months and shaving of their heads by some others, they have made several

gains, and now it was time to move on to a different mode of protest.

She said that due to their agitation, the central government increased their fixed incentive to Rs 1,500 and decided to provide Rs 50,000 to ASHA workers who completed 10 years of service and the state government increased their honorarium by Rs 1,000.

Bindu said that the state government, which had been "stubbornly" refusing to hike the honorarium, was recently forced to increase it and also announce that all the arrears

would be cleared.

The state government also constituted a committee to study the requirements of the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers.

"Since we were able to achieve all this during our 265-day-long protest, we will end our current mode of agitation in front of the Secretariat tomorrow (November 1). We will continue our agitation till our demands are met in full. We will continue our protests in the districts from the grassroots level," she told reporters here.

Centre allocates 48 routes for seaplane service in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 31: Kerala Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas Friday said that the Centre has allocated 48 routes for seaplanes in the state.

Riyas shared the news in a Facebook post in which he also said that a plan to provide basic infrastructure as part of starting the seaplane project was also being prepared.

The minister said that the routes have been allocated to the IndiaOne Air, Maritime Energy Heli Air Services Pvt Ltd (MEHAIR), Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) and SpiceJet airlines.

He said that the state government had earlier mentioned that continuous interventions will be carried out to commence the seaplane project in Kerala.

"As part of that, a seaplane test flight was conducted from Kochi to Mattupetty in Idukki district," Riyas said in his post.

The LDF government has allocated funds in the budget for the seaplane project, he said.

"We will move forward by uniting everyone to make the seaplane project through dams a reality in Kerala," he added.

The seaplane service, which comes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), aims to enhance connectivity across Kerala's four airports and backwaters, offering subsidised fares.

The service will use small planes with capacities of 9, 15, 17, 20 and 30 seats, with passengers boarding from water-dromes that float on water, the government had said earlier.

The project is expected to significantly reduce travel time between the four international airports in the state and the hinterland.

Waterdromes may also be established around major waterbodies in all districts.



2 Kerala nurses save fellow passenger's life mid-air

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 31: Two nurses from Kerala, travelling to Abu Dhabi from Kochi on their first international flight, saved the life of a fellow passenger after he suffered a cardiac arrest twenty minutes into the journey, local media reported.

Abhijith Jeas, 26, from Wayanad, and Ajeesh Nelson, 29, from Chengannur, on the way to join their new job in the UAE on Air Arabia flight 3L128, noticed a man, also from Kerala, gasping for air, Gulf News reported Wednesday.

The duo quickly rushed to his aid and performed two rounds of CPR, stabilising the passenger until he regained a pulse and began breathing



Abhijith Jeas, 26, from Wayanad, and Ajeesh Nelson, 29, from Chengannur, on the way to join their new job in the UAE on Air Arabia flight 3L128, noticed a man, also from Kerala, gasping for air, Gulf News reported Wednesday

The duo quickly rushed to his aid and performed two rounds of CPR, stabilising the passenger until he regained a pulse and began breathing again, the report added

again, the report added.

"I checked his pulse, but there was none. I knew he was in cardiac arrest," Abhijith said. "I immediately started

CPR and alerted the crew," the report quoted Abhijith as saying.

A doctor on board, Dr Arif Abdul Khadir, also helped the

duo in stabilising the patient. He started IV fluids and monitored his vitals for the remaining flight, Khaleej Times reported.

"When I saw him move, I felt a deep sense of relief,"

Gulf News quoted Abhijith as saying. "It reminded me that we carry our responsibility wherever we go," he added.

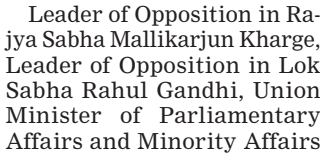
The duo quietly continued to their new workplace after landing without mentioning the incident to anyone. However, the story later emerged through a fellow traveller, the report said.

The passenger saved by the duo was reported stable after receiving treatment from the airport medical team. His family expressed heartfelt gratitude to the two heroes, the report said.

"They were strangers, yet they gave our loved one another chance at life. Their kindness and courage will always stay in our prayers," the report quoted them as saying.



The Andhra Pradesh government Friday submitted a report to the Centre estimating losses of Rs 5,244 crore caused by cyclone 'Montha', according to preliminary assessments



Asked about the chief minister's self-set deadline of September 10 to reveal the "evidence", he said, "If someone thinks that I don't have the documents to show, let me tell them... I will do what needs to be done."

The content of the report will soon be made public under the legal process, the CM had said. Gogoi had also criticised Sarma for making a “mockery” of his position with his actions, asserting that his words “have lost all credibility”.

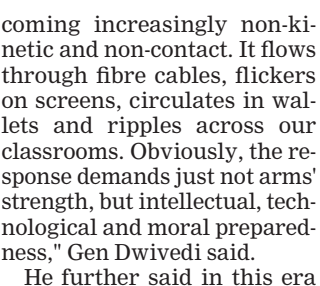
Chandigarh: Two men from Karnal in Haryana who left the country after being promised jobs in Spain were taken via a "donkey route" and are now being "tortured" in Iran over ransom demands, their families claimed. The "donkers" have been sending videos to family members, in which one of them is pleading for help and saying they are being tortured, they said. The families of Ritik (24) and Pawan (40) have lodged a complaint with Karnal Police and have also appealed to the government to help rescue the two men who left home October 22.

A large number of school children and students from different educational institutions from the country participated in the event.

Chanakya's teachings remind us that the "rising powers inevitably provoke countervailing coalitions", he said in his address at an event held at Manekshaw Centre here to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

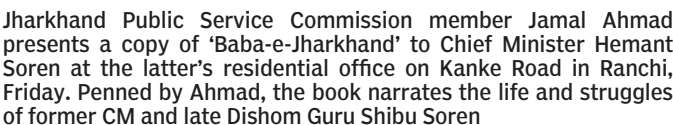
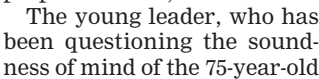
"National security involves preparing for strategic balancing, deterrence, and resilience against these counter reactions."

"Therefore warfare is be-



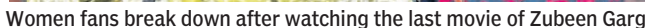
The Army chief said in the recent Operation Sindoor, many amongst you would have been actively involved.

The opposition, predictably, was critical of the bombast and the "photo shoot, lasting for barely a few seconds", that marked the release of



Shows started before 5 am in all cities of the state, with the movie also having a simultaneous nationwide release. Emotions ran high with viewers seen crying as they exited the halls after the movie.

"I will watch it a bit later since if I go to any hall, it will cause inconvenience for the public. We will perhaps request the 'Jonaki' hall in Guwahati to organise a special screening for us," Sarma told reporters on sidelines of a programme in Lakhimpur.



With tickets for all shows for the next one week sold out, Garg's musical is expected to break all past box office

Most halls have scheduled up to seven shows a day, run-

of the day

quote

In a world where moral values are constantly tested, the youth must take inspiration from Patel's unwavering sense of duty, ethical conduct, and fearless decision-making

LT GEN (RETD) K T PARNAIK | ARUNACHAL GOVERNOR

The Delhi government, MCD, DDA, DSIDD, Irrigation and Flood Control department have been working day and night, and the results are visible. Today the AQI is 218, which is the lowest in years for this month

MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

India is a land of immense diversity, yet our soul and culture are one. This spirit of unity in diversity is our greatest strength

VISHNU DEO SAI | CH'GARH CM

POST OF THE DAY

I genuinely don't understand. If this is your view, why marry into another culture? It must be that you think some things bring people together despite differences in ethnicity, culture, and religion.

@dieworkwear

SHORT TAKES

Bomb threat to Chennai ED office

Chennai: An e-mail claiming planting of "bomb" at the Enforcement Directorate office in Shastri Bhavan here was received by the office of the Director General of Police, and it turned out to be a hoax, city police said Friday. Following the receipt of the bomb threat e-mail, a team from the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), along with a sniffer dog, was immediately rushed to the ED's southern regional office in Nungambakkam here. The premises was thoroughly searched and the threat was found to be a hoax, a senior police official said.

Father, son shot dead

Ara: A man and his son were shot dead in Bihar's Bhojpur district, police said Friday. The deceased have been identified as Pramod and his son Priyanshu. Both are residents of Piania village of Bhojpur district. According to police, the incident took place in Bela Ghat area, under the jurisdiction of Mufassil police station, in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. The motive behind the incident is not known, said Superintendent of Police, Bhojpur, Shri Raj. He, however, said the love angle can't be ruled out as the motive behind the incident.

Hoax bomb threat in Rajasthan HC

Jaipur: Panic gripped Rajasthan High Court premises in Jaipur Friday following a bomb threat which was later proved a hoax. Registrar of the high court received an email threatening a bomb blast in the court premises, police said. After which the police were informed, anti-terror squad personnel and sniffer dog units reached the court.

Delhi bans entry of non-BS-IV commercial vehicles today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Starting Saturday, commercial goods vehicles that do not meet BS-IV standards will be prohibited from entering Delhi. To enforce this regulation, multiple teams from the Transport Department and Traffic Police will be deployed, officials said.

The transport department, in collaboration with the traffic police, has formed 23 teams for enforcement purposes.

"We have chalked out a plan to monitor these vehicles. There are 23 points from where 90 per cent of the vehicles enter Delhi. There are 23 teams that have been formed. These include traffic police personnel and the transport department's enforcement officers. They will be deployed at designated locations and will turn back vehicles not meeting norms," said a senior official.

The 23 locations include Kundli border, Rajokri border, Tikri border, Aya Nagar



Farmers are completely wrecked. Can there be any apt time to waive loan? Still the government is resorting to delaying tactics in announcing a loan waiver

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) CHIEF

DELHI: AQI DROPS BY 155 POINTS

The AQI in Delhi improved Friday, dropping to 218 from 373 the previous day, marking a decrease of 155 points, with experts citing rainfall and increased wind speed across the National Capital Region as key factors behind the change



Maharashtra Police personnel take part in a 'Run for Unity' to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, observed as National Unity Day, in Solapur, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

Probe agency can't summon lawyers: SC

A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran, while deciding a suo motu case titled as 'IN RE: Summoning Advocates who give legal opinion or represent parties during investigation of cases and related issues', issued a detailed framework aimed at preventing arbitrary coercion of lawyers by police and other probe agencies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: In a landmark verdict aimed at protecting lawyer-client privilege, the Supreme Court Friday issued a slew of directions to curb arbitrary summoning of lawyers by probe agencies for rendering advice, and said investigating officers (IOs) cannot summon them in criminal probes unless approved by the superintendent of police.

A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran, while deciding a suo motu case titled as 'IN RE: Summoning Advocates who give legal opinion or represent parties during investigation of cases and related issues', issued a detailed framework aimed at preventing arbitrary coercion of lawyers by police and other probe agencies.

"The investigating agency/prosecuting agency/the police cannot directly summon a lawyer appearing in a case to elicit the details of the case, unless there is something, the IO has knowledge of, which falls under the exceptions, in which case it has to be specifically mentioned in the summons, which the lawyer summoned can challenge under ... the BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita)," Justice Chandran, who authored the 78-page judgement, said.

"We also make it clear that any such summons issued as against a lawyer by an IO has to be with the approval and



satisfaction of the hierarchical Superior, not below the rank of a Superintendent of Police which satisfaction has to be recorded in writing and should mention the facts leading to the exception under Section 132 of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), for which the summons is issued," the verdict said.

Referring to Section 132 of the BSA, the verdict said it is a privilege conferred on the client obliging the advocate not to disclose any professional communications made in confidence.

It said compelling lawyers to divulge privileged professional communications without statutory basis would fundamentally impair the right to legal representation and fair trial.

"Despite our conviction to the contrary, on the framing of guidelines and constituting a committee of professionals, we cannot but express our anguish in the investigating

agencies summoning advocates appearing in a case, in furtherance of the investigation of the said case," the bench said and quashed the summons issued against a lawyer in a criminal case.

The bench, which refused to issue comprehensive guidelines, passed directions to deal with the summons against lawyers.

Issuing directions as a way forward, it said, "Section 132 of the BSA is a privilege conferred on the client, obliging an advocate not to disclose any professional communications, made in confidence, which privilege, in the absence of the client can be invoked by the Advocate on behalf of the client."

It said summons issued to lawyers shall be subject to judicial review at the instance of the advocate or the client under the BNSS.

"The advocate on whom there is an obligation of non-disclosure as per Section 132 of the BSA shall be one who is engaged in a litigation or in a non-litigious or a pre-litigation matter," it said.

"Production of documents in the possession of an advocate or the client will not be covered under the privilege conferred by Section 132, either in a civil case or a criminal case," it said.

In a criminal case, the production of a document directed by a court or an officer shall be complied with by production before the court under the BNSS, it said.

Dular Chand death: 2 held, 3 FIRs registered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 31: A day after gangster-turned-politician Dular Chand Yadav was 'killed' while campaigning in Patna's Mokama area, police Friday registered three FIRs to probe the incident.

Anant Singh, JD(U) candidate from Mokama and a local strongman, has been named as an accused along with four others in one of the FIRs, filed on the basis of a complaint by the grandson of the deceased.

Another FIR was lodged against six people based on a complaint by the opposing party, while the third FIR was registered by police based on its own investigation.

Yadav died while he was campaigning for Jan Suraj Party's candidate Piyush Priyadarshi in Mokama area Thursday.

However, three doctors who conducted the post-mortem examination Friday concluded that the bullet wound in Yadav's foot was not fatal.

Talking to reporters, Dr Ajay Kumar, who performed the post-mortem examination, said, "Yadav did not die from a gunshot. He was shot near the ankle joint. The bullet was not the cause of death as it was not deadly at all. We will soon submit a detailed report to police."

Patna (Rural) SP Vikram Sihag told reporters, "Prima facie, it is clear that he did not die of gunshot wounds. We are waiting for the post-mortem report so that the exact cause can be ascertained. Police have so far registered three FIRs and arrested two persons". He denied reports that people were attacked by a section of locals when his body was being taken for the autopsy. However, a purported video of stone pelting went viral on social media on Friday. PTI, however, could not independently verify its authenticity.

Chief secretaries must appear physically in stray dogs case: SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme Court Friday refused to exempt the chief secretaries of states and Union Territories from appearing before it physically November 3 in the stray dogs case, saying there was "no respect" for the court's order.

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

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta expressed displeasure over the non-compliance of its August 22 order and observed that by October 27, compliance affidavits were not filed by the states and UTs, except West Bengal, Telangana and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The court had asked states and UTs about Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta mentioned the matter and urged the bench that the chief secretaries be allowed to

appear before the court November 3 virtually. "This is that dog menace matter. Because of our default, your lordships were constrained to call the chief secretaries. The only request is, instead of coming physically, can they appear virtually," Mehta said.

Justice Nath said the chief secretaries would have to come physically in the court. "It is very unfortunate that here the court is wasting time trying to deal with the problems which should have been addressed by the municipal corporations, by the state governments over the years," Justice Nath said.

He said Parliament has framed the rules (ABC) but no action was taken. "And when we require them to come and file compliance affidavit, they are just sleeping over it. No respect for the order of the court. Then alright, Let them come. We will deal with them," Justice Nath said.

The bench made clear that the chief secretaries would have to appear in the court and explain as to why no compliance affidavits were filed by the states and UTs. Mehta said the compliance affidavits were filed in the matter.

Hostage-taker used motion sensors to block police entry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 31: Rohit Arya, the man who took 17 children and two adults hostage inside R A Studio in Powai before being shot dead in a rescue operation mounted by Mumbai police, had installed motion detection sensors at the windows and doors and also turned CCTVs in one direction to protect himself, an official said Friday.

Arya (50) was shot dead Thursday after he took hostage boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 12 who had arrived there on his call to audition for a web series. Police rescued the children after a three-hour hostage drama. Arya succumbed to a bullet injury sustained during the operation.

"He had installed motion detection sensors at all the doors



and windows to prevent the police from entering. He had also turned all the CCTVs in one direction so that nothing could be detected from them. The sensors were noticed when a police team entered the site through the bathroom to end the hostage taking episode,"

the official said.

Arya came to RA Studio at around 12 noon and took the children hostage around an hour later by locking the hall, he said.

Police arrived at the scene after being alerted about some children shouting and gestur-

ARYA (50) WAS SHOT DEAD THURSDAY AFTER HE TOOK HOSTAGE BOYS AND GIRLS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 12 WHO HAD ARRIVED THERE ON HIS CALL TO AUDITION FOR A WEB SERIES

POLICE RESCUED THE CHILDREN AFTER A THREE-HOUR HOSTAGE DRAMA. ARYA SUCCEMDED TO A BULLET INJURY SUSTAINED DURING THE OPERATION

ing for help through the glass windows of the hall, the official added.

Conversations between senior police officials and Arya continued for two hours, but the accused did not relent, following which the fire brigade team that was summoned to the spot broke open the bathroom window, he said.

Three police personnel en-

tered the hall through the broken window, leading to Arya pointing an airgun at them and then opening fire, the official said.

The retaliatory firing by an inspector in self-defence hit Arya on the chest, who later succumbed to the injury, he said. The police team recovered airguns, petrol, flammable rubber solution and lighters from the scene of crime, the official added.

A case was registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for attempt to murder, kidnapping, negligent act concerning fire or combustible matter and other offences. "The probe has been handed over to the Crime Branch, while the recovered items have been sent for forensic examination," the official informed.

Below-normal max temperatures for most of India in Nov

NEW DELHI: Large parts of the country, including northwest, central and western India, are likely to experience below-normal maximum temperatures in November, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday. However, above-normal minimum temperatures are expected across most regions, except for some areas in the northwest. At an online press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that while below-normal maximum temperatures are forecast for most parts of the country in November, the western Himalayan region, the Himalayan foothills, much of northeast India, and parts of the southern peninsula are likely to witness above-normal maximum temperatures. "Above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except some areas in northwest India, where normal to below-normal minimum temperatures are expected," he said. Mohapatra said that weak La Nina conditions are prevailing over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

of the day

quote

US military strikes against vessels allegedly carrying illegal drugs from South America are “unacceptable” and must stop

VOLKER TURK | UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF

Threats today transcend borders and dimensions. We see the challenges in the South China Sea. But we must also recognise that our digital realm is equally at risk. The threats that test our networks and systems may be invisible, but just as dangerous as those threatening our maritime zones

MOHAMED KHALED NORDIN | DEFENCE MINISTER, MALAYSIA

I am directing you to collectively identify 48 attorneys and 4 paralegals from within your Military Department who may be suitable for detail to the Justice Department to act as special assistant US attorneys

PETE HEGSETH | DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

SHORT TAKES

17 new pol parties apply for registration

Kathmandu: Seventeen new political parties have applied for registration at the Election Commission (EC) to contest Nepal's March 5 general elections, according to an official. Of these, seven parties applied to the Election Commission after the election date was announced September 12, whereas 10 parties applied before the announcement, EC spokesperson Narayan Prasad Bhattarai said. Two of the new parties have claimed that they represent the Gen Z protesters who toppled the KP Sharma Oli-led government last month. President Ramchandra Paudel last month appointed former chief justice Sushila Karki as the caretaker Prime Minister after Oli of CPN-UML was forced to resign.

Indian film fest kicks off in Haifa, Israel

Haifa (Israel): The second Indian Film Festival in Israel this year kicked off to a rousing welcome in Haifa with over two hundred people attending the inaugural screening of the two week event despite mass demonstrations in Jerusalem jamming traffic movement across the country. Amid a push by the Government of India to make the country a global film production hub, the Embassy of India in Israel, in partnership with Haifa Municipality, hosted the inaugural reception of the film festival Thursday to celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of Indian cinema through the screening of six critically-acclaimed movies. The Indian mission had organised a film festival earlier this year in February which had generated a lot of interest among India enthusiasts in the country, prompting the second edition.

PIO sentenced to 25 years’ imprisonment

Ottawa: A Canadian court has sentenced an Indian-origin man to 25 years of imprisonment in a 2022 homicide case, local media reported. A jury at the Supreme Court of British Columbia convicted Balraj Basra of first-degree murder and arson Tuesday, City News reported. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) says Basra is the third man to be convicted in the shooting death of Vishal Walia at a golf club on the lands of the University of British Columbia October 17, 2022, CBC reported Wednesday. The two other convicts, Iqbal Kang and Deandre Baptiste, were sentenced earlier.



A nuclear-armed bully is resuming testing of atomic weapons. The same bully has been demonizing Iran's peaceful nuclear program

ABBAS ARAGHCHI | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

TIPU SULTAN PISTOLS, RANJIT SINGH PAINTING SHATTER RECORDS

A pair of pistols made for Tipu Sultan and an intricate painting of Maharaja Ranjit Singh were among the starring lots that helped set a new auction record for Sotheby's in London this week. The ‘Arts of the Islamic World and India’ sale Wednesday fetched a combined total of over 10 million pounds



Xi holds court at APEC summit

With Trump hosting the White House’s annual Halloween party back in Washington, Xi sought to cast China as the predictable champion of free and open trade at the forum, a role the US has dominated for decades

REUTERS

Gyeongju, South Korea, Oct 31: South Korea played host but all eyes were on China’s Xi Jinping at an annual gathering of Pacific Rim leaders Friday, where he met his Canadian, Japanese and Thai counterparts after securing a fragile trade truce with US President Donald Trump.

That agreement, struck just before Trump left South Korea, skipping the main two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, cooled spiralling tensions between the world’s two largest economies that jolted global commerce.

With Trump hosting the White House’s annual Halloween party back in Washington, Xi sought to cast China as the predictable champion of free and open trade at the forum, a role the US has dominated for decades.

CALLS FOR DEEPER COOPERATION “Changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world,” Xi told leaders of the 21-member economic bloc Friday in the historic town of Gyeongju.

“The rougher the seas, the more we must pull together,” Xi added in a speech calling for the protection of global trading rules and deeper economic cooperation.



CHINESE PRESIDENT WARNS OF CHANGES UNSEEN IN A CENTURY

XI HOLDS FIRST TALKS WITH JAPAN'S NEW PM TAKAICHI

CANADA'S CARNEY MEETS XI, SEEKS TO RESTART ENGAGEMENT

BESSENT STANDS IN FOR TRUMP AT APEC SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS

However, many Asian nations are wary of China's rhetoric, given its muscular defence posture in the region, dominance in manufacturing and its own willingness to use export controls and other tools in trade disputes.

Deputising for Trump, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told the gathered leaders - many of whom have been hammered by Trump's barrage of tariffs - that Washington was “rebalancing its trade relationships to build a stronger foundation for global growth”.

The IMF initially cut the global growth outlook after Trump's ‘Liberation Day’ tariff announcement in April, but has edged it back up as shocks and financial conditions have proved more benign than expected.

XI MEETS JAPAN'S NEW HAWKISH LEADER

Among the most hotly antic-

ipated bilateral meetings, the Chinese leader held his first talks with Japan’s new premier Sanae Takaichi.

In brief opening remarks, both leaders said they would seek to advance ties.

“I conveyed my concerns, but also raised areas where we can cooperate. I would like this meeting to serve as a starting point for Japan and China,” Takaichi said after the meeting.

Xi called for managing differences by focusing on the bigger picture and “treating each other as partners, not treating each

Next round of talks with Afghanistan to be held Nov 6: Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 31: Pakistan Friday confirmed that the next round of talks with Afghanistan would be held November 6 and expressed hope for a “positive outcome” from the dialogue.

Addressing his weekly press conference, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi also said that Pakistan does not wish to escalate tensions with the neighbouring country.

“Pakistan will continue to remain engaged in the mediation process and hopes for a positive outcome for the November 6 talks,” he said.

The next round was scheduled after Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to continue a ceasefire that was agreed after a brief conflict earlier this month.

The first round of talks was held in Doha October 18 and 19, followed by the second in Istanbul October 25, which went for several days but ended without a breakthrough on the key issue of cross-border terrorism.

But efforts continued behind the curtains to salvage the process, with Türkiye playing a role in ending the stalemate and paving the way for the November 6 talks.

It was earlier said that the Istanbul round ended Tuesday, but Andrabi said the talks between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban, in the presence of mediators, concluded in Istanbul Thursday evening.



Residents make their way past piles of debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa in Black River, Jamaica

PTI PHOTO

Russia uses missile in Ukraine that led Trump to quit N-treaty: Kyiv

REUTERS

London, Oct 31: Russia has in recent months attacked Ukraine with a cruise missile whose secret development prompted Donald Trump to abandon a nuclear arms control pact with Moscow in his first term as US president, Ukraine's foreign minister said.

Andrii Sybiha's comments are the first confirmation that Russia has used the ground-launched 9M729 missile in combat - in Ukraine or elsewhere.

Russia has fired the missile at Ukraine 23 times since August, a second senior Ukrainian official told Reuters. Ukraine

also recorded two launches of the 9M729 by Russia in 2022, the source said.

Russia's defence ministry did not immediately reply to a written request for comment.

ONE MISSILE FLEW 1,200 KM, SOURCE SAYS

The 9M729 led the United States to quit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 2019. Washington said the missile was in breach of the treaty and could fly far beyond its limit of 500 km (310 miles) although Russia denied this.

The missile, which can carry a nuclear or conventional warhead, has a range of 2,500 km, according to the Missile Threat



website produced at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

A military source said a 9M729 fired by Russia on October 5 flew over 1,200 km to its

impact in Ukraine.

“Russia’s use of the INF-banned 9M729 against Ukraine in the past months demonstrates (President Vladimir Putin’s disrespect to the United

Rebels accused of massacring hundreds in Sudanese city



REUTERS

Darfur, Oct 31: Fighters riding camels rounded up a couple of hundred men near the Sudanese city of al-Fashir at the weekend and brought them to a reservoir, shouting racial slurs before starting to shoot, according to a man who said he was among them.

One of the captors recognized him from his school days and let him flee, the man, Alkheir Ismail, said in a video interview conducted by a local journalist known to Reuters in the nearby town of Tawila in the country's western Darfur region.

“He told them, ‘Don’t kill him,’” Ismail said. “Even after they killed everyone else – my friends and everyone else.”

He said he had been bringing food to relatives still in the city when it was captured by the Rapid Support Forces Sunday - and, like the other detainees, was unarmed. Ismail was one of four such witnesses and six aid workers interviewed by Reuters who also said people fleeing al-Fashir had been gathered in nearby villages and men separated from women and removed. In an earlier account, one of the witnesses said gunshots then rang out.

Activists and analysts have long warned of revenge killings based on ethnicity by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) if they seized al-Fashir - the last stronghold of the Sudanese military in Darfur.

The UN human rights office shared other accounts Friday, estimating hundreds of civilians and unarmed fighters may have been executed. Such killings are considered war crimes.

The RSF, whose victory in al-Fashir marks a milestone in Sudan’s two-and-a-half-year civil war, has denied such abuses - saying the accounts have been manufactured by its enemies and making counter-accusations against them.

RSF SAYS MEN REMOVED FOR INTERROGATION

Reuters has verified at least

three videos posted on social media showing men in RSF uniforms shooting unarmed captives and a dozen more showing clusters of bodies after apparent shootings.

A high-level RSF commander called the accounts “media exaggeration” by the army and its allied fighters “to cover up for their defeat and loss of al-Fashir.”

The RSF’s leadership had ordered investigations into any violations by RSF individuals and several had been arrested, he said, adding that the RSF had helped people leave the city and called on aid organisations to assist those who remained.

He said soldiers and fighters pretending to be civilians had been taken away for interrogation. “There were no killings as has been claimed,” the commander told Reuters in response to a request for comment.

King Charles strips brother Andrew of titles, mansion

REUTERS

London, Oct 31: Britain’s King Charles has stripped his younger brother Andrew of his title of prince and forced him out of his Windsor home, Buckingham Palace said Thursday, seeking to distance the royals from him over his links to the Jeffrey Epstein scandal.

Andrew, 65, the younger brother of Charles and second son of the late Queen Elizabeth, has come under mounting pressure in recent years over his behaviour and his ties to the late sex offender Epstein. Earlier this month he was forced to stop using his title of Duke

of York.

Charles has now escalated his actions against Andrew by stripping him of all his titles, leaving him to be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor.

The Buckingham Palace statement said a formal

notice had now been served on Andrew to surrender the lease of his Royal Lodge mansion on the Windsor Estate, west of London, and he will move to alternative private accommodation on the Sandringham estate in eastern England.

The decision by the king, who is still undergoing regular treatment for cancer, marks one of the most dramatic moves



against a member of the royal family in modern British history.

PALACE SAYS THOUGHTS ARE WITH VICTIMS OF ABUSE

“These censures are deemed necessary, notwithstanding the fact that he continues to

deny the allegations against him,” the palace said. “Their Majesties wish to make clear that their thoughts and utmost sympathies have been, and will remain with, the victims and survivors of any and all forms of abuse.”

ANDREW STRIPPED OF ALL HIS ROYAL TITLES

KING'S BROTHER FORCED OUT OF HIS MANSION

ANDREW FACED GROWING SCRUTINY OVER TIES TO EPSTEIN

CHARLES MADE DECISION TO PROTECT MONARCHY

of the day

quote

I think the biggest thing that has happened to the real estate industry is the introduction of RERA, which at least creates a platform for transparent legislation and framework where institutionalised players can develop and grow

SRRAM KHATTAR | VC & MD (RENTAL BUSINESS), DLF

We had record retail sales during the festival period, largely driven by small car sales. Bigger cars are also selling, but not quite that much

RC BHARGAVA | CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI

The next wave of hiring in India will be defined not by degrees, but by demonstrable readiness -- skills validated by projects, internships, and data-driven capability assessments

DEVASHISH SHARMA | FOUNDING MEMBER AND CEO, TAGGD

Q2 RESULTS

Patanjali Foods net up

New Delhi: Patanjali Foods Ltd, which is mainly into edible oils, Friday reported a 67 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 516.69 crore for the second quarter of this financial year. Its net profit stood at Rs 308.58 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 9,850.06 crore during the July-September period of 2025-26 fiscal from Rs 8,132.76 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Vedanta PAT dips 38%

New Delhi: Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Ltd Friday reported a 37.9 per cent decline in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 3,479 crore during the September quarter due to "an exceptional item outgo". The company posted consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 5,603 crore in the year-ago period. However, the company had posted increase in total income to Rs 40,464 crore over Rs 38,934 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year, Vedanta said.

BoB net profit slips 8%

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) Friday reported an 8 per cent fall in net profit to Rs 4,809 crore for the second quarter ended September as interest income moderates. The bank had earned a net profit of Rs 5,238 crore in the year-ago period. Total income also declined to Rs 35,026 crore in the second quarter from Rs 35,445 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, BoB said. However, interest income improved to Rs 31,511 crore from Rs 30,278 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Maruti Suzuki net rises

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Ltd Friday reported an 8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,349 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, driven by robust exports growth. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,102.5 crore in the same period of the last fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India said. Its consolidated total revenue from operations stood at Rs 42,344.2 crore against Rs 37,449.2 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Apple's India record

New Delhi: iPhone-maker Apple hit an all-time revenue record in India during September quarter. Overall, the Cupertino-headquartered Apple posted quarterly revenue of \$102.5 billion, said the new iPhone 17 lineup is resonating across the world, and gave a strong forecast for December quarter.



India's trade policy for manufacturing should be to diversify exports to other countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa, some developed countries, fasten FTAs and to continue dialogue with the US

S MAHENDRA DEV | CHAIRMAN, ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER

LENSKART'S IPO SAILS THROUGH

The initial public offer of eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions Ltd sailed through on the first day of bidding Friday, driven by institutional buyers' and retail investors' demand. The Rs 7,278-crore IPO received bids for 11,22,94,482 shares against 9,97,61,257 shares on offer, translating into 1.13 times subscription



After deadly crash, Air India seeks \$1.14bn lifeline

The development follows a devastating Air India crash in June that killed over 240 passengers, plunging the carrier into its worst crisis and complicating its push to restore its reputation and modernise its fleet

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 31: Air India is seeking at least Rs 100 billion (\$1.14 billion) in financial support from owners Singapore Airlines and Tata Sons, Bloomberg News reported, citing people familiar with the matter. The development follows a deadly Air India crash in June that killed more than 240 passengers, plunging the carrier

into its worst crisis and complicating its push to restore its reputation and modernize its fleet. The Tata Group-owned carrier is requesting funds to overhaul Air India's systems and services as well as developing in-house engineering and maintenance departments, the report said. Any financial support would be proportional to ownership, Bloomberg said, adding that



the owners would decide if the funding will be an interest-free loan or via equity.Tata Group,

which bought Air India in 2022, has a 74.9% stake in the airline, with Singapore Airlines hold-

ing the rest. Singapore Airlines has been working closely with their partner Tata Sons to support Air India's transformation programme, including providing expertise and support to the airline, a spokesperson for Singapore Airlines said in an email response to Reuters. Earlier this week, Air India's CEO vowed to improve the carrier's internal practices.

PROFIT-TAKING

D-St continues to drag for second day

On weekly front, BSE dropped 273.17 points or 0.32%, and Nifty dipped 73.05 points or 0.28%

BSE SENSEX

OCTOBER 31, 2025



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 31: Declining for the second consecutive day, benchmark Sensex retreated by nearly 466 points Friday following selling in private banks, metal and power shares and a weak trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 465.75 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 83,938.71 as 25 of its constituents fell and five advanced. During the day, it dropped 498.8 points or 0.59 per cent to 83,905.66.

The 50-share NSE Nifty fell by 155.75 points or 0.60 per cent to 25,722.10.

Foreign fund outflows, mixed corporate earnings and the lack of clarity on the US Federal Reserve's future rate action continued to hurt investor sentiment, analysts said.

From the Sensex firms, Eternal, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid, Trent and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

However, Bharat Electronics, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services, ITC and State Bank of India were the gainers.

"Indian equities ended decisively lower after a volatile session, as investors booked profits amid mixed corporate earnings and cautious global sentiment in the backdrop of a strong greenback. Most sectors closed in the red, pressured by

The session remained subdued amid continued global caution following the U.S. Federal Reserve's hawkish tone. Additionally, the lack of sustained FII inflows further dampened sentiment

AJIT MISHRA | SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING

renewed FII selling which have turned cautious after (US Fed chairman) Powell's hawkish statement and US-China trade development did not meet expectations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.55 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.40 per cent.

Utilities tanked 1.28 per cent, followed by metal (1.15 per cent), power (1.03 per cent), services (0.91 per cent), commodities (0.90 per cent), consumer durables (0.70 per cent) and financial services (0.69 per cent). Energy, industrials, capital goods and oil & gas were the gainers.

A total of 2,370 stocks declined while 1,784 advanced and 155 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 6,769.34 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, the Sensex tanked 592.67 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 84,404.46. The Nifty tumbled 176.05 points or 0.68 per cent to 25,877.85.

Sensex settles at 83,938.71, falls 0.55%

Nifty ends below 25,750, drops 0.60%

Google offers free Gemini access to Jio users

The move follows similar freebies from rivals including OpenAI to boost adoption in the world's most populous nation

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 31: Google will offer 18-month free access to its Gemini AI service for all 505 million telecom users of India's Reliance Jio, a tie-up that follows similar freebies from rivals including OpenAI to boost adoption in the world's most populous nation.

The move also comes weeks after Google committed to invest \$15 billion in AI infrastructure capacity in India, its biggest investment yet in the critical South Asian market.

AI apps have exploded in popularity in recent months in India, prompting author-



ities this month to propose sweeping rules for AI and social media firms to clearly label AI-generated content to tackle the spread of deepfakes and misinformation.

MIRRORING THE STREAMERS' PLAYBOOK

With nearly 1 billion internet users, India has been a go-to market for global tech firms

to boost their subscriber base and harvest data for improving their services.

The Gemini offer will give Jio users free access to the advanced model of the AI app, two terabytes of cloud storage, and its image and video generation models, in an 18-month offering that is otherwise priced at Rs 35,100 (\$399). The companies Thursday also an-

₹ defence pushes RBI forward book higher

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 31: India's central bank increased its short dollar forward positions by \$6 billion in September, marking the first rise in six months, data released Friday showed, as it intensified efforts to curb pressure on the rupee.

The Reserve Bank of India's net short position in FX forwards and futures stood at \$59.4 billion as of September-end signaling continued sales of dollars in the forward market. The data is released with a one-month lag.



The FX forward book reflects positions in both non-deliverable forwards (NDF) and the onshore forward markets, which had peaked in February. Analysts had anticipated the September rise.

The rupee weakened for a fifth consecutive month in Sep-

The increase of the forward book reflects RBI intervention to defend the INR and reduce the drain on banking system liquidity

GAURA SEN GUPTA | CHIEF ECONOMIST, IDFC FIRST BANK

tember, hitting a record low of 88.80 against the dollar.

The decline was attributed to dollar outflows linked to gold imports by jewelry firms, foreign portfolio withdrawals, and concerns over steep US tariffs on Indian goods.

Despite the RBI's interven-

Bank credit to industry slows year-on-year

Credit to 'micro and small' and 'medium' industries continued to grow in double-digits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 31: Growth in bank credit to industry moderated to 7.3 per cent in September, compared with 8.9 per cent in the corresponding period last year, according to the RBI data released Friday.

On a year-on-year basis, non-food bank credit grew 10.2 per cent as on the fortnight ended September 19, 2025, compared to 13 per cent during the corresponding fortnight of the previous year (September 20, 2024), the RBI said.

The central bank has released the data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for September collected from 41 select commercial banks, accounting for about 95 per cent of the total

non-food credit by all banks.

"Credit to industry recorded a year-on-year growth of 7.3 per cent, compared with 8.9 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of last year," said the data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit -- September 2025'.

Among major industries, outstanding credit to 'all engineering', 'infrastructure', 'textiles', and 'vehicles, vehicle parts and transport equipment' recorded buoyant year-on-year growth.

Further, credit to agriculture and allied activities registered a year-on-year growth of 9 per cent (16.4 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year).

SNIPPETS

Forex reserves drop

Mumbai: India's forex reserves dropped by \$6.925 billion to \$695.355 billion during the week ended October 24, the RBI said Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had increased by \$4.496 billion to \$702.28 billion. For the week ended October 24, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$3.862 billion to \$566.548 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Value of gold reserves declined \$3.01 billion to \$105.536 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$58 million to \$18.664 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was up by \$6 million at \$4.608 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Gold climbs ₹ 2,200

New Delhi: Gold prices climbed by Rs 2,200 to Rs 1,25,600 per 10 grams in the national capital Friday on fresh buying by stockists and jewellers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,23,400 per 10 grams Thursday. In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 2,200 to Rs 1,25,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from the previous close of Rs 1,22,800 per 10 grams. "Gold advanced on the last trading day of the week, buoyed by depreciation in the rupee," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. However, silver prices declined by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,53,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) Friday. The white metal had settled at Rs 1,55,000 per kg Thursday, as per the association.



India's 'Jem' opens up on mental health battle

JEMIMAH RODRIGUES PLAYED THE INNINGS OF HER CAREER, REMAINING UNBEATEN ON 127 AS WOMEN IN BLUE MADE IT TO THEIR THIRD WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP FINAL BY HALTING THE AUSTRALIAN JUGGERNAUT THURSDAY NIGHT

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 31: India's Jemimah Rodrigues said she has struggled with anxiety at the Women's World Cup but her determination to contribute helped her overcome being dropped earlier in the tournament to score a match-winning century in their semi-final against Australia.

Fuelled by Rodrigues' unbeaten 127, India pulled off a record chase of 339 runs at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai Thursday to seal a five-wicket win over the defending champions and book their place in Sunday's final against South Africa.

The 25-year-old all-rounder missed the 2022 edition due to a dip in form before fighting her way back into the side.

Facing the pressure of playing in a World Cup on home soil, Rodrigues struggled for

consistence, posting two ducks and a pair of 30s before being dropped for India's group-stage match against England.

She said she often broke down in calls to her parents as she tried to cope with the

pressure.

"I am so blessed to have friends, I can call family, I didn't have to go through it alone. And it's okay to ask for help," Rodrigues said. "I will be very vulnerable here because I

know if someone is watching, this might be going through the same thing. Nobody likes to talk about their weakness," she added, holding back tears.

"When you are dropped, you have a lot of doubts because I always want to contribute to the team. That really hit me ... But sometimes all you need to do is, just hang in there and, things fall into place."

A composed 76 not out against New Zealand helped restore her confidence and set the stage for her semi-final heroics against seven-times champions Australia. Rodrigues said she had only one thought in mind when she went out to bat.

"All I would say was I didn't play for my 100. I didn't play to prove a point at number three," she said. "I just played to make sure India win. I wanted to see India win at the end and that was my only motivation."

I was going through a lot of anxiety and when you are going through anxiety, you just feel numb. You don't know what to do. You are trying to be yourself. And in this time, my mum and dad supported me a lot

JEMIMAH RODRIGUES

Both India and South Africa

will be vying for their first Women's World Cup title in Sunday's final, as no team outside Australia, England or New Zealand have ever won the tournament since the inaugural edition in 1973.



Unnati shocks fourth seed to move to SFs; Sen, Ayush bow out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saarbrücken (Germany), Oct 31: Indian shuttlers had mixed fortunes at the Hylo Open Friday with rising star Unnati Hooda progressing to the semi-finals but both Lakshya Sen and Ayush Shetty saw their campaigns end with defeat in men's singles quarterfinals.

Unnati, ranked 34 in the world, humbled fourth seed Hsiang Ti Lin of Chinese Taipei, placed 10 places above the Indian, 22-20 21-13 in 47 minutes.

The Indian thus avenged her Malaysia Masters defeat to the same rival in May this year. She will now be up against either top-seed Indonesian Putri Kusuma Wardani or Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Azzahra, who are clashing in the other quarterfinal.

In the men's singles, up against French fourth seed Alex Lanier, Sen bounced back after losing the opening game but eventually fell 17-21 21-14 15-21 after battling hard for one hour and 14 minutes.

It was Sen's second defeat against Lanier this season, having lost to the French player in Denmark Open quarterfinals earlier this month.



On the contrary, Shetty surged ahead in his quarterfinal against Finland's Kalle Koljonen but could not sustain the momentum to lose 21-19 12-21 20-22 in a gripping contest that lasted 68 minutes.

Interestingly, Shetty had beaten the same rival in the same tournament in 2024.

India still have a player in fray with Kiran George taking on formidable Indonesian second seed Jonatan Christie.

SHORT TAKES

Pant's dismal comeback

Bangalore: Two cavalier shimmies, two well-timed fours and a nothing shot summarised Rishabh Pant's 29-minute 17, which aptly reflected in India A's 234 all out against South Africa A on the second day of the four-day match here Friday.

After bowling out SA 'A' for 309, overnight 299/9, in the first session, India succumbed to their own waywardness and the relentlessness of off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen (5/61), to concede an innings lead of 75. Teenager Ayush Mhatre (65, 76 balls) was the lone India A batter who displayed some resolve on the day. In their second innings, the tourists were 30 for no loss, extending the lead to 105 runs.

Jordan Hermann (12) and Lesego Senokwane (9) were batting at the stumps, reinforcing the hold the Proteas had on the opposition on the day.

Jr Ronaldo makes debut

Antalya: Cristiano Ronaldo's eldest son made his debut with Portugal's under-16 national team Thursday. The 15-year-old Cristiano dos Santos, known as Cristianinho, was a 90th-minute substitute in Portugal's 2-0 win over Turkey in the Federations Cup tournament being played in Turkey. The teenager, who plays for the youth academy of Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia, the same club as his father, had previously been called up for Portugal's under-15 squad. The next matches for Portugal's under-16 squad in the tournament will be against Wales and England.

Sinner eyes No 1 ranking

Paris: Jannik Sinner beat Francisco Cerundolo 7-5, 6-1 in the third round of the Paris Masters Thursday to extend his indoor winning streak to 23 matches and maintain his chances of reclaiming the No. 1 ranking. The four-time Grand Slam champion needs to win the tournament to take the top spot from Carlos Alcaraz.

Sinner's quarterfinal opponent Friday will be Ben Shelton. The fifth-seeded American beat 12th-seeded Andrey Rublev 7-6 (6), 6-3 to secure his place in the eight-man, season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, Italy. Sinner is chasing a fifth title of the year and 23rd overall. He won an ATP 500 tournament in Vienna last Sunday despite having cramps.

Indian linked to theft

New Delhi: In an explosive revelation, World Athletics Thursday said that it uncovered a systematic theft of money from the organisation to the tune of Euro 1.5 million by two employees and a contracted consultant over a period of several years. One of the three left the organisation before the theft was discovered earlier this year, while another employee and a consultant had their contracts terminated following an internal investigation.

According to sources, one of the three under investigation is Vineesh Kochhar who joined World Athletics as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in 2017. Kochhar had joined World Athletics from Fidelity Information Services (FIS) based in New Delhi, where he was Asia Pacific CFO with responsibility across the region. He has worked in London, Moscow and Boston.

Hazlewood wreaks havoc

The pacer dismantles India as Australia romp home by four wickets, take 1-0 lead in T20 series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Oct 31: Josh Hazlewood clinically dismantled a famed Indian top-order with a probing spell to kill the contest as Australia cantered to a four-wicket victory in the second T20 International here Friday.

Only Abhishek Sharma, in the form of his life, stood tall amid ruins with a combative 37-ball-68. With Harshit Rana (35 off 33 balls) he added 56 to take the total past 100-run mark after pacer Hazlewood (3/13) left them reeling at 49 for 5.

Hazlewood bowled an incredible 15 dot balls in his four-over spell to break the backbone of Indian batting and killed the contest within 20 minutes of start.

In reply, skipper Mitchell Marsh blasted his way to 46 off 26 balls with hosts completing the chase in only 13.2 overs losing six wickets. Most batters fell primarily due to attempting audacious shots.

The only silver lining apart



BATTING COLLAPSE: Men in Blue suffered one of its most embarrassing defeats with as many as nine batters failing to reach double digits in a total of 125 in 18.4 overs

from Abhishek's innings was Varun Chakravarthi's spell (2/23 in 4 overs) and Jasprit Bumrah's (2/26 in 4 overs) pinpoint yorker to dismiss Matthew Short.

Most of the Indian batters found it tough to hit through the line due to extra bounce

and the lengths that Australian pacers, especially Hazlewood hit during his spell which he finished in one go.

While technique of a few batters lay exposed, the Indian team management wouldn't take the results to heart as the T20 World Cup will be played in

Indian conditions where most of the deliveries will not rise above knee roll.

There will be minimal seam movement and wickets offering a bit of grip will help Varun Chakravarthi, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel way more.

But with three matches left in

Resolute East Bengal hold Mohun Bagan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Margao (Goa), Oct 31: East Bengal FC produced a disciplined defensive performance to hold arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant to a goal-less draw and qualify for the semifinals of the Super Cup from Group A here Friday.

Both sides finished on six points, but Oscar Bruzon's men advanced to the last-four stage owing to their superior goal difference, aided by the 4-0 thrashing of Chennaiyin FC Tuesday.

In a match short on clear chances, East Bengal's backline, led by Anwar Ali, stayed compact and organised throughout,



frustrating the ISL champions who needed a win to qualify for the semifinals.

The best opening of the first half came in the 24th minute

when Bipin Singh's header from a Miguel Figueira cross struck the post and came back into play.

Mohun Bagan pressed hard after the break. In the 46th minute, Liston Colaco's looping header from an Apuia delivery narrowly missed the target, landing on the roof of the net.

The result meant that in four meetings between the two fierce Kolkata rivals this season, East Bengal have now won twice, Mohun Bagan once, and one ended in a draw. East Bengal had earlier triumphed in the CFL Premier Division and Durand Cup derbies but lost the IFA Shield final to Mohun Bagan on penalties earlier this month.

MUNICH OLYMPICS MEDAL-WINNING GOALKEEPER

Hockey legend Frederick passes away

Known affectionately as 'Tiger' for his fearless and instinctive goalkeeping, Manuel Frederick earned a formidable reputation for his mastery in defending penalty strokes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Former Indian men's hockey team goalkeeper and member of the 1972 Munich Olympics bronze medal-winning side Manuel Frederick died in Bangalore Friday morning.

Frederick was 78 and is survived by two daughters. He had been suffering from prostate cancer for a last 10 months.

Frederick, born October 20, 1947 in Barnasseri in Kannur, was the first athlete from Kerala to win an Olympic medal. The



only other sportsperson from the state to win Olympic medals is PR Sreejesh, who won bronze in Tokyo and Paris Olympics.

Frederick, who had moved to Bangalore long back, was also suffering from depression after his wife, Sheetala passed away a year back.

"Dad passed away this morn-

ing. He was suffering from cancer for the last 10 months and was also depressed after our mother expired a year back," his daughter Freshna told PTL.

"We tried our best but he developed jaundice in the end and his liver got affected, which aggravated his condition."

Frederick had received the

Major Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games in 2019.

Hockey India also condoled the death of Frederick.

"Manuel Frederick was one of India's finest goalkeepers — a true guardian of the post whose contributions during a glorious period of Indian hockey will always be remembered. His achievements paved the way for many who dreamt of representing India at the highest level," HI president Dilip Tirkey said in a statement.

"On behalf of Hockey India, I extend my deepest condolences to his family. Indian hockey has lost a great son, but his legacy will forever live on." He made his India debut in 1971 and served the national team with distinction for seven years. Frederick guarded the goal in two World Cups — Netherlands 1973, where India won silver, and Argentina 1978.

FIDE World Chess Cup trophy christened after Vishy Anand



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panjim, Oct 31: The new trophy of the FIDE World Chess Cup being held here was Friday christened as the Viswanathan Anand trophy, in honour of the five-time world champion Indian legend.

The trophy was unveiled during a colourful opening ceremony which was attended by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and FIDE chief Arkady Dvorkovich.

"Extremely proud and delighted to announce the Viswanathan Anand Cup, the FIDE World Cup (Open) Winner's Running Trophy, instituted in honour of the King of Chess and India's first Grandmaster, Shri Viswanathan Anand," All India Chess Federation (AICF) President Nitin Narang said.

"This running trophy stands as an emblem of the great strides of Indian chess and the remarkable achievements and legacy of @vishy64theking, destined to be cherished and extolled for centuries and passing through generations of chess prodigies. Majestic, magnificent and deeply symbolic in design, it features a

peacock (National Bird of India) in a frozen dancing form a vision so captivating that it rekindles the timeless charm of the game," he wrote on 'X'.

World Women Chess Cup title holder Divya Deshmukh made the draw of lots. All odd numbers in round 1 will play the black pieces.

The \$2 million prize money tournament will feature 206 players from 80 countries in eight knockout rounds of classical games. The FIDE World Cup 2025 will award three spots to the Candidates 2026 -- the gateway to the next World Championship match.

The World Cup will be an eight-round, single-elimination knockout event, where each match consists of two classical games played under standard time controls. If the score is tied after those, the players return on the third day for a series of rapid and blitz tie-breaks to decide who advances.

This is the first time since 2002 that the FIDE World Cup is being held in India. On that occasion, Anand had defeated Rustam Kasimdzhanov in the two-game final in Hyderabad.