

Rashmika's desire

Actor Rashmika Mandanna shares a heartfelt wish to collaborate with Baahubali star Prabhas

LEISURE | P2



Killer typhoon

Typhoon Kalmaegi leaves at least 26 people dead in the Philippines, mostly in flooding set off by the

INTERNATIONAL | P10



NCLAT lifts Whatsapp ban

NCLAT sets aside a section of a CCI order that had banned the instant messaging app from sharing data with Meta

BUSINESS | P11



Asia Cup Trophy Fiasco

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi is unlikely to attend ICC EB meet in Dubai, where BCCI is expected to raise the issue

SPORTS | P12

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SHORT **TAKES**

Northeast parties for single political entity

New Delhi: Leaders from four different parties of the northeast, including Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People's Party president Conrad Sangma, Tuesday announced that they would form a single political entity to raise issues of the region. Pradyot Manikya of TIPRA Motha, Daniel Langthasa from People's Party, Assam, and BJP spokesperson Mmhonlumo Kikon were among the signatories of a joint statement that announced the decision. Mizoram's Zoram People's Movement, that governs the state, Nagaland's Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, and Asom Gana Parishad, the BJP's junior partner in Assam, are not part of the proposed political entity.

Gopichand Hinduja dies in London



close to his family said. Fondly known as 'GP' in business circles. Gopichand P Hinduja was unwell for past few weeks and died in a London hospital, they said. Gopichand, who belonged to the second generation of the Hinduja family, took over as chairman following the death of his elder brother Srichand in May 2023. He is survived by his wife, Sunita, sons Sanjay and Dheeraj, and daughter, Rita.

I-T raids at Utkal Builders

Bhubaneswa: The Income Tax (I-T) department Tuesday morning conducted massive raid at multiple premises of Utkal Builders including at the head office in Saheed Nagar over alleged tax evasion allegations, According to sources, as many as 18 teams comprising of 120 officials of the department carried out the raids and conducted simultaneous searchers at various locations including three places in Kolkata and 11 in Bhubaneswar, associated with the group. Sources have revealed that the officials have seized important documents linked to this case of an alleged tax evasion of around ₹100 crore. During the raid, the investigating team interrogated various officials of the company.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our opinion poll is the most accurate. We conducted it in Nirvachan Sadan

Rail mishap leaves 8 dead

TRAGEDY STRIKES NEAR BILASPUR RAILWAY STATION TUESDAY AS A PASSENGER TRAIN **HITS A GOODS TRAIN FROM BEHIND**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Nov 4: At least eight persons were killed and 14 others injured after a passenger train collided with a goods train from behind near Bilaspur station in Chhattisgarh Tuesday, railway offi-

The incident took place around 4 pm when the MEMU (mainline electric multiple unit) passenger train was heading to Bilaspur from Gevra (in neighbouring Korba district), they said. When it was between Gatora

and Bilaspur railway stations, the passenger train rammed into a goods train from behind, the officials said.

"So far, eight deaths have been confirmed in the accident. Four others are still trapped inside the wreckage and efforts are on to evacuate them," Bilaspur Collector Sanjay Agrawal

The goods train was also moving in the same direction as that of the passenger train,

The injured passengers have been shifted to Apollo Hospital and Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS) hospital in Bilaspur. The condition of one of them is said to be critical, he added.

The railway authorities have mobilised all resources at the spot, and required measures are being taken for the treatment of the injured persons, the officials said.

The visuals show a coach of the passenger train mounted onto a wagon of the goods train.

Meanwhile, the railway au-

A detailed inquiry into the incident will be conducted at the level of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) to ascertain the cause and recommend necessary corrective measures, it said.

have been launched on a war footing by the railway administration. Senior officials have rushed to the site to monitor the situation, and the injured have been shifted to nearby

The railway authorities are providing all possible assisaffected passengers.

issued for the convenience of passengers and their families,

thorities announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to kin of the deceased and ₹5 lakh to the seriously injured persons, while those who sustained minor injuries will receive ₹1 lakh assistance, an official statement

Relief and rescue operations

hospitals for treatment, it said.

tance and coordination to the Helpline numbers have been

mation about the incident and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister directing officials to provide Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief all possible assistance to those over the accident and said that affected, an official statement

said.

He instructed that immediate medical aid be ensured for the injured and that every possible support be extended to the affected families, it said

In a post on 'X', Sai said, teams from the railway machinery and the district administration have immediately reached the spot and are engaged in relief and rescue operations.

Relief and rescue operations at the mishap site

All necessary medical facilities and resources are being made available for the treatment of the injured. The state government has been closely monitoring the situation with complete promptness and sensitivity, he said.

The CM expressed his deep condolences to the families of the passengers who lost their lives in this accident and wished for the speedy recovery

CM announces multiple infra projects for Paradip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Asserting that Paradip would soon emerge as the 'gate way' to eastern India, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said the port town will have a greenfield airport, a cruise terminal and also become a hub of green hydrogen

Majhi said this while inaugurating the Kalinga Bali Jatra at Paradip, marking ancient Odisha's maritime tradition which is a symbol of courage of Odia sailors and traders. "This festival reminds us about our ancestors who conquered the high waves of the sea and established trade and cultural relations with various countries by taking ships to different places," he said.

"Paradip will become a green hydrogen hub and house a cruise terminal. The terminal will be built on the Mangala River to make Paradip a tourism hub and the state government has allocated ₹500 crore for this," Majhi announced adding that the port town will soon have an

Mamata, Stalin resist SIR

it added.

families.

New Delhi/Kolkata, Nov 4 : Election Commission's Spe cial Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list commenced in nine states and three Union territories Tuesday, amid objections from several parties with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee leading the anti-SIR offensive in West Bengal with a rally in Kolkata and alleging "silent, invisible rigging" through the exercise.

Besides Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC), the electoral roll cleanup exercise is also being opposed by the ruling DMK and its allies in Tamil Nadu which approached the Supreme Court on Monday on the issue. The Election Commission (EC) said its booth-level officers (BLOs) have fanned out to hand over semi-filled enumeration forms to electors and will also help them fill the required document. According to the schedule announced by the poll authority, SIR will begin with the enumeration stage

and continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft

2 SUICIDES IN BENGAL

the state government stands in

full solidarity with the affected

The CM spoke over the phone

with the Bilaspur District Col-

lector, seeking detailed infor-

Kolkata: West Bengal Tuesday edly linked to public anxiety over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, heightening two alleged suicides took place in Howrah and Murshidabad districts, taking the total number of such deaths reportedly connected to the SIR to five since October 28.

electoral rolls on December 9, and the final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

The 12 states and UTs where the second round of SIR will be conducted are the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar

Pradesh and West Bengal. Among these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal will go to polls in 2026. In Assam, another state where polls are due in 2026, the revision of electoral rolls will be announced separately as a Supreme Court-supervised exercise to verify citizenship is underway in the state.

Contract worker dies in iron plant mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Nov 4: A contract worker reportedly died Tuesday morning after an accident at the Sree Metaliks iron plant located under the Nisha Industrial Police limits in Angul district.

Police sources confirmed the worker's death in the mishap while company officials claimed he was undergoing treatment and in stable condition. However, no complaint has been filed in the police station, police said.

The mishap occurred around 6 am near the rolling mill section of the plant when an iron rod pierced the contract worker. Fellow workers rescued him and rushed him to the district headquarters hospital. He was later shifted to Cuttack for advanced treatment, but police said he succumbed to his injuries near Hindol while being transported. Mukesh Kumar Singh, an official of the company, denied the death and said the injured worker was receiving treatment in Cuttack and was doing well.

India's top 1% grew its wealth by 62% Global inequality is surging as

wealth concentrates among a tiny elite, while billions face stagnant wages, rising debt, and climate vulnerability. India mirrors this trend with its billionaire count tripling since 2014- from 109 to 334 - and the bottom 50 % holding only 6 % of national wealth, according to Hurun Rich List of 2025. Meanwhile, a G20 study reveals that the richest 1 % people of India have managed to raise their wealth by 62 % since 2000, painting a grim picture of income and wealth inequalities

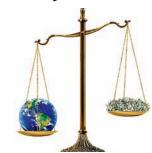
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: India's richest 1 per cent expanded its wealth by 62 per cent between 2000 to 2023, according to a report commissioned by the South African Presidency of the G20. The study, led by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, warns that global inequality has reached 'emergency' levels, threatening democracy, economic stability, and climate progress

The G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality, which includes economists Jayati Ghosh, Winnie Byanyima, and Imraan Valodia, found that the top 1 per cent globally captured 41 per cent of all new wealth created between 2000 and 2024. while the bottom half of human-

ity received just 1 per cent. The report said the intercountry inequality, broadly measured, appears to have reduced because of the rise in per capita incomes in some very populous countries like China and India, which brought down the share of high-income countries in global GDP somewhat.

It also said that between 2000 and 2023, the richest 1 per cent increased their share of the



wealth in over half of all countries, which contain 74 per cent of the global. "In India, the top 1% have grown their share of wealth by 62% over this period (2000-2023); this figure is 54% in China," the report said.

"Extreme inequality is a choice. It is not inevitable and can be reversed with political will. This can be greatly facilitated by global coordination and in this regard, the G20 has a critical role," the report added.

It also proposes the creation of an International Panel on Inequality (IPI), modelled on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to monitor global trends and

guide policymaking. The body, to be launched un der the South African G20 Presidency, would provide govern ments with "authoritative and accessible" data on inequality and its drivers. Countries with high inequality are seven times more likely to experience dem ocratic decline than more equal countries, the report said.

"Since 2020, global poverty reduction has slowed almost to a halt and reversed in some re gions. 2.3 billion people face moderate or severe food insecurity, up by 335 million since 2019.26 and half the world's population is still not covered by essential health services, with 1.3 billion people impoverished by out-of-pocket health spending," the report said.

Scientists spot brightest flare from black hole a supermassive black hole at "At first, we didn't really

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 4: Scientists have spotted the brightest flare yet from a supermassive black hole that shines with the light

of 10 trillion suns. These bursts of light and energy can come from things like tangled-up magnetic fields or hiccups in the heated gas disks surrounding black holes. The flares help illuminate researchers' understanding of the black

The latest cosmic display was spotted in 2018 by a camera at the Palomar Observatory in California. It took about three months to shine at peak bright-



ness and has been decaying in the years since.

It likely happened because a

large star wandered too close to the black hole and got shredded to pieces.

believe the numbers about the energy," said study author Matthew Graham with the California Institute of Technology, which operates Palomar.

The new findings were published Tuesday in the journal Nature Astronomy.

The flare came from a supermassive black hole that's 10 billion light vears away, making the flash the most distant one observed so far. It hails from a time when the universe was rather young. A light year is nearly 6 trillion miles (9.7 trillion kilometers).

Almost every large galaxy, including our Milky Way, has its center. But scientists still aren't sure how they form. Studying such behemoths

can help researchers better understand the stellar neighborhood surrounding supermassive black holes.

The discovery also allows scientists "to probe the interaction of supermassive black holes with their environments early in the universe," said Joseph Michail with Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, which didn't have a role in the new study.

Those early interactions created the cosmos we now call home.

eisure



EVA LONGORIA RECALLS HER STRUGGLE DAYS

Eva Longoria embraces her failures, saying they've shaped her success. The former Desperate Housewives star fondly recalls her early struggles to make ends meet, adding she has no regrets. The hardships, she says, made her more grateful for her achievements and the fulfilling life she enjoys today.

JONATHAN BAILEY NAMED SEXIEST MAN ALIVE 2025

Jonathan Bailey, the star of Bridgerton and Wicked, has been named *People* magazine's Sexiest Man Alive 2025. The selection of the title, which celebrates its 40th anniversary, was unveiled Monday night on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. Bailey played Lord Anthony Bridgerton on the Netflix series Regency-era romance drama *Bridgerton*.



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You will exhibit your worth in ample measure today. out great plans and ideas at work, and this will be very beneficial. But despite this, Ganesha says, if you don't get the deserved recognition, don't lose heart.

TAURUS

Today Ganesha sees you overdoing your aggression, domination bit and urges you to keep your assertiveness in check. This day is not a favourable one for new ventures and undertakings. Don't therefore attempt anything new. Talk pleasantly. Harshness, roughness in your tone is only going to antagonize and alienate valuable friends. Above all, don't lose your temper.

A crucial social event at home is on the anvil, and it will demand most of your attention. Intense business negotiations, which were going on for a long time, will come to a logical conclusion. The results are likely to be stacked in your favour. This, coupled with after-office parties, will ease out the stress. You are likely to remain buoyant and energetic

CANCER

Today, you are likely to achieve something that you have badly wanted for a long time. It is very likely that you will get very emotional n the moment of victory today, predicts Ganesha. Your arrogance and overconfidence can throw you off track. You had better keep your emotional balance once you are through the victory lap.

You will be very emotional and sentimental today. Your ego prevents you from expressing your true feelings at times. You need to keep this in mind when attempting to communicate with your beloved. It is a good day for romance, and for those seeking love, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Ganesha predicts that you will be rewarded today for all the good work done earlier. You will prefer to manage things in your own way, rather than taking orders from others, However, Ganesha advises you not to throw your weight around, but to stay calm and composed.

Nothing comes for free keep this in mind as you may have to pay your dues for the success you desire today, especially if it is a new prepared to invest a considerable amount of time and effort in your endeavours.

SCORPIO

Your energy levels are high as you as you gear up for new events. However, there are chances that these events may not meet your expectations. But, don't lose hope and get disappointed. Keep your spirits high. Implement the first lesson learnt in school: try & try till you succeed!

SAGITTARIUS

Expect yourself to be hit with religious fervour. You may find yourself in the spotlight for an event or inauguration. Ganesha indicates travelling, so pack your bags for a long-distance business trip.

CAPRICORN

Success never comes easy, but in your case, it will make an exception, says Ganesha. You will meet with success in social as well as professional life, and this will also make heavy your treasure box. At work, prepare to get loaded with new assignments and simultaneously deal with existing work pressure.

AQUARIUS

Get ready for a gala evening as you will party at the small est excuse! You may toast a friend's success, or may be ecstatic about finding your lost pet. Otherwise it's the usual, says Ganesha. You plan a bit and march ahead successfully in your business or profession.

PISCES

The apple of your eye is what you will have your sights set on today. It is likely that you will find yourself attending a Parent-Teacher meet, says Ganesha. However, fortunately, it is likely only to receive news about how proud your children are making you. Buy them something to make them happy, or take them out on a picnic.



Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna recently shared a heartfelt wish during a lively Q&A session on X (formerly Twitter). When a fan asked if she would ever collaborate with Prabhas, widely referred to as India's biggest superstar by his admirers, Rashmika replied with both excitement and admiration. "I love it... I hope Prabhas sir sees this message and I hope we really do work together on something special soon!" she wrote, turning a fan's dream into her own sincere wish.

Fondly hailed as the "National Crush," Rashmika has carved a strong pan-India presence, acting alongside stalwarts like Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan. Ranbir Ka-

poor, Allu

Vijay and

Babu. Ad-

ditionally.

Mahesh

Arjun,

the projects made ripples at the box office She has recently been receiving love for her latest film, Thamma. The film, directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, also stars Ayushmann Khurrana, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and Paresh Rawal in key roles.

Rashmika's upcoming lineup includes the highly anticipated Telugu romantic drama The Girlfriend, releasing November 7, and the action thriller Mysaa. Meanwhile, Prabhas is awaiting the release of his much-awaited action entertainer, The Raja Saab. With both stars riding high on success, fans are buzzing with anticipation, hoping this muchwished-for on-screen pairing becomes reality soon.

turns disaster Mumbai: Actor Madhuri Dixit's recent live show,

> 2, the event was promoted as an energetic concert featuring Madhuri's iconic dance moves. However, many fans alleged it turned out to be more of a talk show, with Madhuri arriving nearly three Social media users expressed their frustration, calling it the "worst" show they had ever attended. Some said there were no proper performances, just brief hook steps and chat, while others highlighted disrespect toward the audience's time. Sev-

Dil se.. Madhuri, in Toronto has come under

fire from disappointed attendees who called it "misleading" and poorly organised. Held at

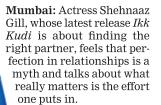
the Great Canadian Casino Resort November

eral complained of a lack of clarity in advertising, claiming they expected a concert but got an unstructured event filled with prolonged stalling segments featuring influencers and guests. 'I left feeling completely scammed," one attendee shared,

adding that Madhuri's brief appearance felt like a "glorified Q&A session." Others demanded refunds for the "waste of money." A few defended the actor, blaming poor management for

the fiasco. Madhuri, who recently starred in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, is now gearing up for Mrs. Deshpande, a psychological er series directed

Nagesh Kukunoor. AGENCIES



Asked what she feels is the mantra to a perfect marriage, relationship and a perfect partner, Shehnaaz shared her two cents and said that investing in a relationship is essential, even though the future remains uncertain.

Shehnaaz. whose chemistry with late star Sidharth Shukla in Bigg Boss 13 was loved by all, told this news agency: "Nothing is perfect; it's not perfect. But I think the more per-

the better." Nurturing the relationship is essential. feels Shehnaaz, who has stepped into producing

fect you can be in things,

films with her latest release. "Invest in your relationship... It's very import-

ant. I think the most important thing is to search for things. Do as much as you can. A relationship you don't know how it will be in the future; maybe he

Shehnaaz on perfect

Shehnaaz

SUDOKU

8

5

6

9

CROSSWORD

4

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

9

1

3

4

8

2

6

4

9

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

3

3 7

8

2

SOLUTIONS

4

relationship may show his true self

once the marriage is done... That is also possible. But you should he as safe as you can... it's your fate. If you are unlucky, you will meet a bad person; if you are lucky, you will meet a good person, expressed.

PEANUTS

Mumbai: Huma Qureshi,

who is set to reprise her icon-

ic character of Rani Bharti in

the season four of *Maharani*,

believes that being strong and

being a woman are synonym-

ous. The actress further said

that her journey as an actor

has strengthened her connec-

tion with humanity rather than

dramatically in terms of story-

telling and representation of

women, Huma told this news

agency that she always wants to

play real and three dimensional

sional, strong women, and I

think my career is a testimony

"I want to continue doing that

in all the subsequent films and

roles that I'm doing — whether

it's Rani Bharti in *Maharani*,

Meena in *Delhi Crime*, or Sin-

"I always want to play real, living, breathing, three-dimen-

strong women on screen.

to that," she said.

With the industry changing

altering her political outlook.



Huma defines women

Having

gle Salma. I think, for me, being

strong and being a woman are

played

synonymous," she added.

diverse roles in

women's leader-

ship, how has this

evolution shaped

her own under-

standing and has

have not changed.

a much deeper level.

Safary. IANS

she developed any

curiosity about leader-

ship, politics, or govern-

ance in real life, the actress

told, "No, my political views

She added: "I think I'm very

much a humanist, and I think

humanity is above all. In fact,

doing the show has made me

connect with my humanity on

Huma will be seen in the

fourth season of Maharani.

The new season has brought

in two new names Rajesh-

wari Sachdev and Darsheel

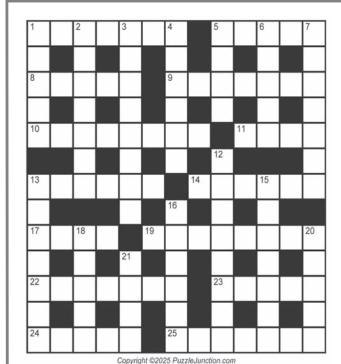
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**



19 Age of Reptiles

Across 1 Egyptian paper

- reed
- 5 Come to pass
- 8 Blatant
- 9 Suppress 10 Antelope types
- 11 European
- erupter
- 13 Overnight case
- 14 Shade provider

17 Unfeeling

22 Risk taker

23 Small egg

24 Synthetic

fabric

25 Persecute

- 3 Cruel
- **Down** 1 Antler point
- 2 Salty snack
- 4 Black eye
- 5 Narcissus spurned her
- 6 Wooden shoe
- 7 Firth 12 Lover
- 13 Salad oil's pal 15 Muddy
- 16 Castle part
- 18 Pharaoh,
- maybe
- 20 High point
- 21 Scheme

SUDOKU

ENGARDE LOV NURSING

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

owntown



HOLI MONTH: The area in front of Srimandir Lion's Gate in Puri, Tuesday, decorated with rangoli for Kartika Purnima Wednesday

Take steps for release of Adarsh held hostage in Sudan: CM to MEA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Odisha government Tuesday urged the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to take immediate steps for the safe release of a man from the state who has been taken hostage by a group involved in Sudan's ongoing civil war.

The state government wrote to the MEA after the family members of Adarsh Behera appealed to the government to ensure his early release

A CMO statement said that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has directed senior officials to take immediate action. As per his instructions, the Director General of Intelligence wrote to the MEA requesting intervention to secure Adarsh's release.

The state's Resident Commissioner in New Delhi has also contacted the MEA, seeking coordination with the Indian Embassy in Sudan for timely updates and safe repa-

Majhi has urged the family members to have patience and assured them that all necessary measures are being taken to resolve the situation.

Adarsh, 36, who hails from Kotakana village under Tirtol police limits of Jagatsinghpur district, has been working at Sukarati Plastic Factory in Sudan since 2022. He was abducted last week and is in the captivity of the rebels.

she received a phone call from her husband, who informed her about his abduction. They have taken away his mobile phone and personal belongings. Adarsh had told her that he would be released soon. But, he has not returned so far, she said.

Susmita, a mother of two sons aged eight and three, has appealed to both the state and the Central governments to intervene.

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CBC 15319/12/0004/2526 Sanjay Sharma, Vice President (P&C)

RI caught taking ₹60K bribe in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday apprehended a revenue inspector (RI) under Pipli tehsil in Puri district, while accepting Rs 60,000 as bribe from a complainant to process mutation applications.

According to Vigilance sources, Bantalasing RI Jiban Krishna Parida was caught accepting the bribe for processing mutation cases of six parental plots. According to sources, Pari-

da had initially demanded Rs 15,000 for each mutation case, amounting to Rs 90,000 in total. He had refused to process the applications without payment of the bribe. After repeated requests from the complainant, Parida reduced the bribe amount to Rs 10,000 each (total Rs 60,000). Unable to pay the illegal gratification, the complainant approached the Vigilance department. Later, the anti-corruption sleuths laid a trap and nabbed Parida.

Desperate for gun licence, lady plots attack on herself



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: In a desperate attempt to obtain a gun licence from the twin city Commissionerate Police after failing twice, a woman of Bharatpur area here employed three people to hurl bombs and spray bullets at her house to convince the police about the purported threat to her life, police said

The three people involved in the bombing and shooting have been arrested, while a hunt is on for the woman, Ghunguru Misra, they said.

Addressing a presser here, Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said, "The arrested persons have been identified as Debasis Mohapatra, 24, Santosh Mahakhud, 25, and Ghunguru's driver Chandan Navak, 27. We have seized a 7.65-mm semi-automatic pistol, one round of 7.65-mm live ammunition, a motorcycle and an auto-rickGhunguru had lodged a

complaint September 11, 2025 alleging that two crude bombs were hurled outside her house around 11pm the previous day,

The Police Commissioner also said that she had again filed a complaint October 4, alleging that shots were fired at the boundary wall of her residence.

During investigation, police found that the complainant was involved in the bombing and firing to obtain an arms licence by projecting life threats, the Police Commissioner said.

"She had applied for arms licence but could not get it. So she engaged her driver and two others to commit the crime. The three accused persons have been arrested and a search is underway for the woman," said Singh.

ପବିତ୍ର କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଅବସର୍ରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଅଗଣିତ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଅନେକ ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଶୁଭକାମନା Contact for Order www.sristiservice.com 7606002174

Results will exhibit people's desire for change: Majhi

Ghatsila, Nov 4: Asserting that the BJP will win the byelection in Jharkhand's Ghatsila seat, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday claimed the results will reflect the people's desire for a change. Addressing a rally at Dampara

for BJP candidate Babulal Soren, Majhi claimed that people are disillusioned with the government in Jharkhand within one year of the Assembly elections and are seeking change.

"This shows the poor performance of the present government. BJP's victory in the Ghatsila bypoll will exhibit people's desire for change," he said.



Majhi, who spoke mostly in Santali, criticised the Hemant

Soren government in the state for failing to implement the Panchayat Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, which grants self-governance to tribal communities in the scheduled areas of

the country. "The government **GHATSILA** here claims to be espousing the cause **BYPOLL** of tribals, whereas it has failed to implement PESA even after being in power for more than six years. This has deprived tribes

of their rights and villagers of

the benefits enshrined in the

Constitution," he said. Asserting that BJP is committed to upliftment of tribals, Maihi hailed PM Narendra Modi for ensuring Odisha and Chhattisgarh get tribal CMs, and the nation gets a tribal president.

"BJP has become synonymous with development," he said, noting that plans are afoot in Odisha to auction 22 mines

and foundation stones have been laid for several factories. "We would like to

see similar development in Jharkhand under the BJP's rule," he added.

Majhi said Odisha and Jharkhand share similar cul-

ture and heritage, especially

Biometric system at Odisha PAG office not illegal: SC

Apex court says exercise undertaken by Orissa HC appears to be totally unnecessary

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Supreme Court has said that the introduction of Biometric Attendance System (BAS) in a government office is for the benefit of all the stakeholders, and just because employees were not consulted before installing it does not make the facility illegal, official sources said Tuesday.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna B Varale allowed the 2015 petition filed by the Centre challenging the Orissa High Court decision of August 21, 2014, which said that the circulars introducing the BAS were issued without prior consultation with the employees and were not in conformity with the complete

manual on establishment and administration for Central government offices.

The SC noted that in the Office of Principal Accountant General (A&E), Odisha, a BAS was introduced with effect from July 1, 2013 by various circulars dated July 1, 2013, October 22, 2013 and November 6, 2013

"Therefore, in the facts and circumstances of the case, when the introduction of the Biometric Attendance System is for the benefit of all the stakeholders, merely for the reason that the employees were not consulted before implementing the same does not render the introduction of the system to be illegal," it said in its October 29 order.

The bench set aside the HC order and permitted the Office of the Principal Accountant General (A&E) to implement the BAS as envisaged by its various circulars. It noted that these circulars were initially challenged by the employees by filing an original application before the



Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) but that challenge was turned down on the grounds that the petition was not maintainable as it does not relate to the service condition.

The employees aggrieved with the order of the tribunal then approached the HC, which ruled in their favour.

When the plea of the Centre was taken up for hearing by the SC after a gap of 10 years October 29, the counsel appearing for the Centre submitted that the manual on establishment and administration for Central government offices nowhere contains any rules which may have been formulated and followed by the Office of the Principal Accountant General (A&E) and therefore, the introduction of the BAS cannot be said to be in violation of any rules of the department.

The counsel further said that the employees now are not opposed to the introduction of the BAS as it is for the overall benefit of the employees as well as the department.

The counsel appearing for the employees agreed that now the employees are not opposed to the introduction of the BAS in the office. The bench said, "Once the employees have no reservation on the introduction of the Biometric Attendance System, we are of the opinion that no controversy in this regard survives and the department can very well go ahead with the implementation of the above system."

It said the exercise undertaken by the HC appears to be totally unnecessary.



Historic Bali Yatra kicks off today for both two- and four-wheelers, Christian Ground near for both two- and four-wheeling industry, entrepreneurship

Cuttack, Nov 4: The millennium city of Cuttack is abuzz with festive fervour as the historic Bali Yatra is set to commence from November 5 to 12 along the picturesque banks of the Mahanadi. Celebrating Odisha's rich maritime heritage, the grand cultural fair is expected to attract lakhs of visitors from across the state and beyond.

To ensure safety and smooth movement during the festival. the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police has implemented an elaborate traffic and security plan. Police Commissioner Suresh Dev Datta Singh has exercised powers under the Odisha Urban Police Act, 2003, and the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissionerate Regulations, 2008, to impose traffic restrictions from 2pm until dispersal each evening.

The movement of heavy and commercial vehicles will be curtailed during peak hours to keep routes clear for emergency and essential service vehicles.

Traffic personnel will be deployed at all major junctions, supported by real-time monitor-



CM Majhi extends greetings

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of Odisha, non-resident Odias across the world, and all those associated with the state's maritime heritage on the auspicious occasion of Bali Yatra. The CM described Bali Yatra as a shining symbol of Odisha's ancient maritime glory - a proud reminder of the state's historic trade and cultural links with distant lands. "From the glorious soil of Kalinga, our brave Sadhabas once set sail across the seas to countries like Sri Lanka, Japan, and the Indonesian islands of Bali, Java, Sumatra, and Borneo, fostering deep social, cultural, and economic ties," Majhi said. "As we celebrate this age-old festival that honours their courage and enterprise, let us take pride in our rich legacy and work together to revive the prosperous spirit of ancient Kalinga in today's Odisha," he added.

ing systems to ensure smooth vehicular movement throughout the Bali Yatra festivities.

To ease congestion near the fairgrounds, light vehicles and two-wheelers must adhere to designated routes and park only at authorised locations. The designated parking areas include Krushak Bazaar Ground in Bidanasi, Bhuasuni Ground, Gorakabar Ground Anand Bhawan, Silver City Boating Club Parkings 1 to 4, Matamatha Ground, BOSE College Parking, Hadia Patha, and Upper Bali Yatra Ground Zones I and II for two-wheelers only. These arrangements are aimed at maintaining order and minimising traffic congestion during the festive period.

Shuttle buses will operate between the parking zones and the Bali Yatra venue to facilitate easy movement of visitors. Those found violating traffic under Section 96 of the Police Act. Authorities have also urged citizens to opt for public transport to help reduce congestion in and around the fairgrounds.

This year's Bali Yatra promises to be grander, greener, and more interactive than ever before. In a first, Indonesia joins as the partner nation, presenting an array of cultural performances, traditional handicrafts, dance forms, and authentic cuisine — rekindling memories of Odisha's ancient maritime links with Bali, Java,

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati called for the formulation of a comprehensive strategic roadmap to boost entrepreneurship and accelerate industrial growth across Odisha. Chairing a review meeting on the functioning of the Industries and MSME departments at the New Abhishek Hall in Raj Bhavan Tuesday, the Governor stressed the importance of aligning departmental initiatives with the state's long-term industrial development goals.

He proposed establishing 147 MSME parks — one in each Assembly constituency — within the next five years, calling it a transformative initiative to boost entrepreneurship and generate employment at the grassroots level. "Several states have already initiated the development of MSME parks in every constituency, Kambhampati noted, urging officials to adopt a similar progressive model in Odisha.

Highlighting Odisha's po-

tential in the defence and aerospace sectors, the Governor noted that the Government of India has prioritised domestic procurement across multiple

product categories. He advised the Industries department to develop detailed project profiles for such items encompassing aspects like land availability, investment needs, equipment, and technical specifications—to attract investors and strengthen local manufacturing capacity.

"These project profiles can be shared with students of technical institutes and skill development centres to inspire innovation among youth and encourage them to set up new MSMEs," the Governor said.

He added that preparing such detailed profiles in the defence and aerospace sectors could pave the way for a new generation of entrepreneurs in Odisha

Appreciating the government's efforts to promote entrepreneur ship, the Governor discussed the Start and Improve Your Business -Entrepreneurship Development Programme (SIYB-EDP).

He suggested creating a tracking mechanism to assess how many trainees have successfully started their ventures emphasising the importance of evaluating the real impact of such government initiatives.

OKCL launches Olympiad Movement

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: In a move to transform education for Odia-medium students, the Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) Tuesday launched the OKCL Olympiad Movement (OOM). with emphasis on the concept of 'learn by understanding, win by thinking' rather than relying on rote memorisation.

The hybrid launch event brought together hundreds of educators and students from across Odisha. While OKCL's District Level Coordinators (DLCs) and physical event at OKCL's Bhubaneswar headquarters, more than 800 authorised learning centres (ALCs) and numerous school students joined the ceremony virtually, marking one of the largest digital education gatherings in the state.

The OKCL Olympiad Movement is a major stride toward reshaping the learning environment in government and Odia-medium schools, Manoranian Puthal. Managing Director, OKCL who inaugurated the event, said.

"OKCL aims to help students think beyond memorisation. The Olympiad Movement encourages them to understand concepts, apply knowledge, and develop creativity," he said.

He further added that the initiative would bridge learning gaps through OKCL's e-school content and reach out to more than 25,000 students in the current academic year.

He also said that OOM aligns with OKCL's broader mission to foster 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and digital literacy, thereby preparing students for a knowledge-driven future.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Lipsa Nivedita, W/o.-Jayanta Kumar Muduli, R/o- MIG-18, Phase-1, Lane No.- 6, Khandagiri Housing Board Colony, P.S. - Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030, Dist.- Khordha, declared by this affidavit No.- V.XII/119/2025, Dated: 01.11.2025, that now onwards I shall be known as LIPSA NIVEDITA BUDA for all purposes.

Care Hospitals holds walkathon to mark World Stroke Day 2025



Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: CARE Bhubaneswar Hospitals. marked World Stroke Day 2025 Tuesday with a walkathon from the hospital to Buddha Park to raise awareness on the theme "Every Minute Counts – Recognise Stroke, Act FAST.

Hospital's multidisciplinary neuro team participated in the event, underscoring the importance of awareness and coordinated care in stroke prevention and management. Experts advised individuals above 40, or those with lifestyle-related risk factors, to undergo regular health check-ups and follow the BE FAST rule - Balance loss, Eye changes, Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, and Time to seek emergency help.

Speaking on the occasion, clinical director and department head of neurosciences Bikash Kumar Mishra said, "One in six people worldwide suffer a stroke. Life is short-

take precautions and don't let a stroke take it away from you. If someone shows sudden facial drooping, arm weakness, or speech difficulty, seek immediate medical attention.

Zonal Chief Operating Officer Kislay Anand emphasised the importance of rapid response, saving, "Stroke management demands a multi-specialty approach involving neurologists, interventional radiologists, and neuro-critical care teams. At CARE Hospitals, we ensure advanced, comprehensive stroke care—be cause every minute counts."

The event witnessed participation from specialists including Atmaranjan Dash and Susant Das (Neurosurgery), Mitalee Kar and Sucharita Anand (Neurology), Vivekananda Sahu and Bimal Kumar Sahoo (Neuro Anaesthesia), Sambit Dash (Neuro Intensivist), Nihar Ranjan Mohanty (Radiology), Lagnajit Dash (Neuro Psychiatry), and K Sreenivasula Reddy (Emergency), along with the Neuro ICU

Special trains for Kartika Purnima rush

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Keeping in view of the heavy rush of devotees traveling to Puri for the auspicious Kartika Purnima, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) announced to operate passenger special trains between Berhampur and Puri for three days starting Tuesday.

According to ECoR sources, these special trains have been introduced to accommodate the surge of pilgrims visiting Puri to take holy dips and participate

associated with the festival.

As per the schedule, Train No. 08417 Berhampur-Puri Passenger Special departed from Berhampur at 8:35 pm November 4 (Tuesday) and is scheduled to arrive at Puri at 1:30 am November 5 (Wednesday).

Train No. 08418 Puri- Berhampur Passenger Special will depart Puri at 3:00 am November 5 (Wednesday) and will arrive at Berhampur at 7:15 am the same day.

Train No. 08448 Puri- Ber-



hampur Passenger Special will depart Puri at 5:00 am November 6 (Thursday) and arrive at Berhampur at 9:30 am the same day.

These trains will halt at Jagannathpur, Chhatrapur, Ganjam, Humma, Rambha, Khallikot,

Chilika, Balugaon, Gangadhar pur, Kuhuri, Kaluparaghat, Bhusandpur, Nirakarpur, Tapang Kaipadar Road, Haripurgram Motori, Kanas Road, Delang, Bi rapurushottampur, Sakhigopal and Malatipatpur, bypassing the Khurda Road junction.

Railway authorities have ad vised passengers to plan their journeys accordingly, keeping the rush in mind, and to extend full cooperation to railway staff for ensuring a safe, comfortable and hassle-free travel experi

ence during the festive period

Australia WCC head Nalini Pati felicitated

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Prof Nalini Pati, Australia head of the World Communicators Council (WCC) — a global initiative of the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) — was felicitated at a ceremony held at Bhubaneswar Club recently.

The event was presided over by eminent PR professional Rabi Narayan Mahapatra, senior national vice-president of PRCI and former CPRO of Eastern and East Coast Railways.

Eminent journalist Ashok Panda, Odisha state head of PRCI and former head of The Times of India, Bhubaneswar,



Bisoi, vice-chairman of PRCI and former Information Commissioner of Odisha, attended the meeting as guest of honour.

Eminent poet and columnist Nirakar Das, chairman of PRCI Bhubaneswar chapter and former senior PRO, East Coast Rail-

Speaking on the occasion, not

way proposed the vote of thanks. ed haematologist and oncologist

Prof Pati said, "Public Relations is an idea essential to every field of human life and every organisation." Mrs Pati was also felicitated during the event.

It may be mentioned that the WCC's Australia Chapter began functioning under the leadership of Prof Pati after its inauguration during the 19th Global Conclave held in Goa last September. During the felicitation meeting, PRCI and WCC Head Mentor & Chairperson MB Jayaram and National President Githa Shankar joined online to congratulate him.

2 arrested with brown sugar

BHUBANESWAR: Two persons were arrested during a police raid for allegedly trading 10 gm of brown sugar nea Capital Nursery Road, police said Tues day. The accused have been identified as Khagendra Jena (45) and Narayana Pradhan (34). Acting on reliable tip off, a special team under the Capital Police station conducted a surprise raid near Capital Nursery Road area and arrested the duo. During the search police recovered 10 grams of brown . sugar, two mobile phones and one motorcycle from their possession. Upor interrogation, both accused reportedly confessed to procuring the contrabance to Bhubaneswar for illegal sale. They were waiting for potential buyers wher the police caught them red-handed.

CURRENCY BOURSES INDEX VARIATION INDEX VARIATION **INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR 88.79 0.09 SENSEX 83459.15 + 519.34 GOLD ₹119,890 ♥ ₹1,519 EURO **102.28 \rightarrow** 0.27 NIFTY **25597.65 1**65.70 SILVER ₹145,055 **†** ₹2,703

Undertrial Azad ends 20-day hunger strike

Duna alias Azad ended his protest following the state's assurance to set up an independent court for speedy trial of his pending cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: After 20 days of protest, undertrial prisoner Duna Keshav Rao, alias Azad, ended his indefinite hunger strike at Jharpada Jail Tuesday. He withdrew the strike after the Odisha government informed the State Human Rights Commission (OHRC) of its decision to establish an independent court to expedite hearings in his pending cases. Rao's health is reported to be stable, and he remains un-

der medical observation. Rao, who has been in custody for 14 years, began his hunger strike October 15 demanding the speedy trial of all cases pending against him, in line with a Supreme Court directive. Earlier, the OHRC had



directed the State Home Secretary to submit a compliance report on the actions taken by October 31. When the report was not submitted, the Commission issued a reminder, extending the deadline to November 4.

The Supreme Court, on August 31, 2025, directed the governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh to establish independent courts to ensure Rao's right to a speedy trial under Article 32 of the Constitution. A Bench comprising Justice Suryakant and Justice Jaymalya Bagchi ordered that all cases against Rao be concluded within one year of the formation of the special court. During his hunger strike. Rao communicated his protest to the President, Chief Justice of India, the Chief Justices of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh High Courts, the National and State Human Rights Commissions, and state legal authorities. His family and legal advisors also staged symbolic

protests outside Jharpada Jail. Due to deterioration in his health condition, Rao was shifted to Capital Hospital on October 22, where senior advocates Vishwapriya Kanungo and Niranjan Mahanti met him and urged him to temporarily

suspend his hunger strike However, Rao remained firm on continuing his protest until an official confirmation was received from the Odisha government regarding the establishment of an independent court for his cases.

Following the government's formal decision to create the special court and after obtain ing financial approval from the State Finance department, Rao finally ended his 20-day strike Tuesday. He was assisted during the process by his vounger brother Duna Kumar and legal advisor Kameshwar Rao, who had been closely monitoring his condition.

The Odisha government has now been instructed to submit a detailed action report to the OHRC within 15 days, outlining the steps taken to comply with the Supreme Court's directive. Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh government has reportedly begun initiating measures to set up a similar independent court in Srikakulam district to expedite trials in related cases.



	WEATH	ER	
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	31.7°	30.2°	Partly
Min Temp	20.8°	20.2°	cloudy sky.
Humidity	79%	81%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

BOOKING

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

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

Montha rain dampens potato farmers' hopes

With cyclone-triggered rain soaking harvest-ready tuber crops, farmers fear quality loss

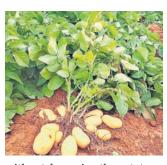
NARENDRA RAUT, OP

Koraput, Nov 4: Potato growers across Koraput district are grappling with an unexpected crisis after Cyclone Montha left large portions of farmland under water. The lingering effects of the storm have delayed harvesting and raised fears of rotting tubers, reduced quality, and financial losses

According to the Agriculture department, potatoes were cultivated on nearly 3,500 hectares under the kharif plan across major potato-producing blocks including Dasmanthpur, Nandapur, Bandhugaon, Narayanpatana, Lamtaput, Semiliguda, Pottangi, and Laxmipur. The crop had reached the harvesting stage, but continuous rainfall from the cyclone inundated large tracts of farmland, halting operations completely

For many small and marginal farmers who rely on potato cultivation as a key cash crop, the natural setback has been devastating. "We were ready to begin harvesting last week, but continuous rainfall filled our fields with water," said Prakash Maihi, a farmer from Bandhugaon block. "The potatoes are still under the soil, but we can't dig them out as the land is too wet. If this continues, the potatoes will begin to decay.'

Farmers say the issue is not only the delay but also the moisture level in the soil, which can affect the quality of the tubers. Normally, harvesting is done when the soil is firm and dry enough to allow easy extraction



without damaging the potatoes. Excess water reduces aeration, leading to fungal infections and a decline in both weight and storage quality

"Farmers usually harvest tuber crops when the temperature is conducive and the moisture content is low," said Narendra Pradhan, convenor of the Koraput Krushak Kalyan Manch. "However, the recent cyclone brought rainfall to potato-growing areas, affecting the process. We fear loss of quality and productivity due to

this natural calamity. About 3,000 farmers procured subsidised potato seeds from the Odisha State Seeds Corporation (OSSC) under government assistance programmes this season. Many now worry that prolonged waterlogging will reduce returns and affect their ability to repay loans. Farmers also said they spent heavily on fertilizers, irrigation, and labor, expecting a good yield this year.

"We had a healthy crop and were expecting strong returns," said Ramesh Dora, a farmer from Nandapur. "But now, the tubers are lying under standing water. If it doesn't dry up soon, we could lose much of our produce."

The Horticulture department has stepped in to assess the situation. The office of the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Koraput, has directed all block-level officers to visit affected fields, monitor conditions, and guide farmers on draining water through small channels before resuming harvest. Officials have also been asked to assist with post-harvest management once conditions improve.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Sudam Charan Biswal said the situation remains under control. "We received reports of waterlogging in sporadic fields, but no major crop damage has been recorded. Overall, the crop condition is good, and we expect normal productivity this kharif season," he said.

Agriculture experts, however, caution that even temporary waterlogging can impact yield if the soil remains wet for more than a week. They have urged farmers to take up immediate drainage measures to prevent tuber rot and disease once the rain stops. As weather conditions stabilise, farmers are anxiously waiting for the water to recede so they can resume harvesting. But uncertainty looms over the final output and quality of this year's potato crop. The true extent of the loss will be known only after the fields

dry up and harvesting resumes. For now, farmers' hopes rest on clear skies - and a break from nature's fury that would allow them to salvage what's left of their hard-earned produce.

Nuapada, Nov 4: The upcoming Nuapada by-election, necessitated by the death of four-time BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia , has intensified political activity in the region. With polling set for November 11, major political parties- the BJP, BJD and Congress along with independents, have launched door-todoor campaigns across villages under the constituency.

Initially, it was widely expected that Rajendra's son, Jay Dholakia, would contest the seat on a BJD ticket. However, he later joined the BJP and was announced as its candidate. The BJD has instead of relying on the local leaders fielded former minister Sne-

Newborn found dead in drain

Jagannath Prasad: The body of a newborn was found floating in a roadside drain near Patadhar village under the Khamarpalli panchayat of Jagannath Prasad block in Ganjam district Tuesday, sparking shock and outrage among locals. According to reports, residents spotted the infant's body in a drain behind a pump house along the roadside and alerted authorities. It is suspected that the baby, born only a few hours earlier, was thrown into the drain by unidentified individuals. A large crowd gathered at the scene as news of the incident spread. Local health workers and Anganwadi staff said they had not received any prior information about a childbirth in the area. When contacted, Child **Development Project Officer** (CDPO) V. Manimala said she had visited the spot and begun an inquiry into the matter. Police and administrative officials are investigating how the newborn died and who was responsible for disposing of the body.

hangini Chhuria of Atabira in the constituency. Interesting ly, both the BJP and BJD are now invoking Rajendra Dholakia's legacy. He was a popular leader in the constituency. His photos appear on posters and banners and in meetings of both the parties, leaving voters puzzled over which side truly represents his ideals.

Political confusion continues to swirl in Nuapada after the BJP began using the image of late Dholakia in its campaign materials. Since Jay Dholakia ioined the BJP and was announced as a candidate, party's posters and banners have featured Rajendra's photograph, a move that raised eyebrows, as most voters still associate him



Earlier, Nuapada district administration had instructed the BJD not to use Raiendra's image for campaign purposes. However, the party objected to the order and continued to use his photos in defiance. During a campaign rally in Komna's Tarbod, attended by BJD chief Naveen Patnaik, Khariar MLA Adhiraj Panigrahi said Rajen dra Dholakia was a lifelong BJD member, never joined the BJP, and had even served as a minister.

A day after Patnaik's vis it, Rajendra's wife, Kalpana Dholakia, released a video accusing the BJD of neglecting her late husband. She claimed party leaders ignored him during his illness and nev er inquired about his health condition. Calling the party's conduct insensitive, she said, "My husband served the BJD for 24 years, and now it's tar geting my son. Using his photo without our consent is mor ally wrong. Our family alone has the right to decide how his image is used."

Pitabas Panda murder: Shooter among 2 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 4: The Police Tuesday arrested two more persons, stated to be the key accused in the murder of the senior advocate and BJP leader Pitabas Panda last month.

The arrested two, Kurupati Bhuyan (35) and Uma Shankar Bisoi (33), were remanded to two days of police custody by a local court.

A total of 17 people were now apprehended in connection with the murder.

Bisoi was linked to the conspirators, while Bhuyan, a sharp shooter, had fired at Panda in close range October 6 night in his residence, said the police.

Both the accused persons were interrogated before they were produced in the sub divisional judicial magistrate's

Earlier, police said Chintu Pradhan rode the motorcycle and Bhuvan was sitting in pillion and went near the house of Panda October 6 night.

When Panda reached there, Bhuyan allegedly fired at him. They then fled and reached near Sitalapalli village where both changed their clothes and threw the clothes they were wearing during in crime and hid their guns. During the investigation, police recovered all these items, a police officer said.

Chintu was arrested October 22 along with some other accused persons, he said.

Among the arrested are former Berhampur MLA Bikram Kumar Panda and ex-mayor of the city Shiva Shankar Das, besides BJD corporator Malay Bisoi.

Infant dies after polio shot, medical negligence alleged

Basudevpur: A three-month-old girl died after allegedly receiving a polio injection in Nandapatana village under Balimunda panchaya of Basudevpur block in Bhadrak district, triggering allegations of medical negligence. According to a complaint lodged by the child's father, Raiaram Jana, his daughte Raiashree was administered a polio injection Monday at the loca Anganwadi centre in Nandapatana Later that evening, she developed a fever and was admitted to the Basudevpur Community Health Centre for treatment. Doctors treated the infant, and she stayed overnight at the hospita with her mother. However, during a routine round Tuesday morning, the attending doctor found the child unresponsive and declared her dead. Following the incident, Rajaram filed a complaint with the Nayakanidihi police, who registered an unnatural death case (30/25) and launched an investigation.

Odisha's Maritime Vision: Voyage of Heritage and Prosperity

ost festivals celebrate a story from the leaves of Purana and scriptures. Boita Bandana must be the only one which celebrates a tradition from the pages of history and a tradition which is still alive- the maritime tradition of Odisha. The maritime tradition of Odisha seems to have come a full circle from the days of yore when it traded with far off countries in the south east and far east to a time when it is once again the eastern gateway to India, not only for countries of south east Asia and far east but from countries as far as Australia New Zealand Middle East and South Africa.

What happened to Odisha in the intervening period, the period when the British and other European countries came to India and thereabout could be best forgotten. But now that we are back on the helm, holding the steering wheel of port development of this part of the country, we can dispassionately look at this period also. It is all about size of ships and depth at ports. The story of maritime development across the world is a story of depth and size. A bigger ship needs a bigger draught to enter a port. Those were years when breakwaters and dredging had not developed, not in this part of the world. Natural depth near river mouth, or any other calm entry point to sea, accompanied by little help from a high tide decided how big a ship could enter the port. The British or Europeans ships that came to India were not that big compared to modern ship sizes. They would be equivalent to barges today. Yet they were bigger than the boitas of those days. If boitas needed a meter or two, these ships needed three to five meters. None of the mooring points or river mouths of Odisha could have provided that. The river mouth of Hooghly did, where a ship could enter the river and sail as far into the land as where Kolkata is today. Rest is history. But history has a way of behaving like the sea. It can throw you back. The sizes of ships further increased. Many of them could no more enter the river. It needed a Paradip to come up in Odisha where bigger ships could lighterage their load before entering the river for Haldia and Kolkata. Paradip, a late entrant to the major portclub came to be recognized as a dependable all weather deep port on the eastern coast. The coastal movement of coal and import of coking coal in larger ships demanded more



efficiency and more depth. While Paradip met the challenge of efficiency by installing a world class fully automated cargo handling facility as part of its expansion, the newly built port at Dhamra came up with a nineteen-kilometer channel that gave a depth of eighteen meter without high tide. This author is proud to have been associated with both the developments. Soon after its commissioning, the port at Dhamra handled what was then the largest bulk carrier in the world, a 200000 dwt super cape size vessel that could visit India for the first time.

The 575 kilometer coastline of Odisha is the nearest access to sea with deep allweather ports from the entire East North, just as Gujarat is to the West North of India, and is crucial to the growth of the economy of this region. A large part of Odisha's coastline is within a dredge able distance of 20 kilometers from where the sea has a natural depth of eighteen meters. With three functional ports at Paradip, Dhamra and Gopalpur, and another two at Subarnarekha and Astaranga under concession, there is nothing to stop the Odisha coastline from becoming the most vibrant in the eastern side of the country. With an annual cargo turnover of 150 million tons, Paradip has already become the number one major port of the country in terms of volume of cargo. Dhamra had a turnover of 46 million tons which is nearly as much as Haldia's. The setting up of another 150 million ton port at Bahuda has been signed between Paradip Port and Vishakhapatnam port. Yet another seven locations have been identified for development of ports in future.

This year's India Maritime Week 2025, held in Mumbai, provided the perfect platform to showcase this new wave of maritime confidence. Odisha's State Pavilion — themed "Voyage of Heritage and Prosperity" - received national acclaim for creatively portraying the State's timeless maritime traditions alongside its forward-looking infrastructure vision. The pavilion highlighted Odisha's evolving port ecosystem, shipbuilding potential, and initiatives in logistics, cruise tourism, and coastal community development. The discussions at the Odisha State Session on Port-led Development underscored that Odisha's maritime ambitions are not aspirational—they are actionable, backed by vision, investment, and leadership.

Odisha's recent focus on shipbuilding, ship repair, and marine component manufacturing signals a strategic pivot toward high-value, employment-intensive sectors. The State is leveraging its strong steel and aluminium base to provide affordable inputs for shipyards, while promoting modern vessel designs, repair facilities, and port-support industries. The vision is clear: to evolve from a cargohandling coastline into a manufacturing and maritime innovation hub that drives regional and national growth.

Odisha's approach also rightly integrates sustainability and culture. The same seas that carried Kalinga's ships are ecological treasures that demand stewardship. As the State modernizes its ports, it is equally investing in mangrove restoration, shore power facilities, oil-spill readiness, and green-port certification. Baliyatra itself could evolve into an International Maritime Week—showcasing Odisha's ports, shipyards, tourism, and cultural diplomacy on a global platform, attracting investors and partners while preserving its heritage soul.

Santosh Kumar Mohapatra, IAS (retd.)

(Former Chairman Paradip Port, Former CEO of Adani Dhamra and Adani Vizhinjam Ports)





Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.





Tanzanian Trauma

here was no dearth of pomp and ceremony as President Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan took oath of office 3 November with the diplomatic corps attending the swearing-in proceedings. But unlike at previous swearing ceremonies, members of the public were conspicuous by their absence and that sums up the sad outcome of the democratic experiment in the African country which has been trying to replace autocracy with democracy. In fact, when Hassan had taken charge in 2001 in place of her autocratic predecessor John Magafuli, she filled the country with new hope of democratic governance. But, now Tanzania has slipped into an even worse form of autocratic rule with extra-judicial killings, brutal suppression of Opposition activists and muzzling of the media being the order of the day. Key challengers Tundu Lissu of the largest Opposition party, Chadema, and Luhaga Mpina of ACT-Wazalendo, were barred from contesting and thereby eliminating any real threat to Hassan. Other presidential candidates on the ballot lacked political backing and had a mere shadowy existence. The results say it all with Hassan securing 98 per cent of the votes making a mockery of democracy.

For elections to be credible, the electoral procedures and processes need to be certain while the result or outcome needs to be uncertain. In Tanzania, the opposite has been proven true. Everyone knew the electoral outcome that the incumbent Mama Samia Hassan will be announced winner after elections.

It is difficult to get a clear picture of what is happening in Tanzania due to a nationwide internet shutdown, but videos circulated by rights groups show piles of corpses on the streets and young protesters with bullet wounds. According to an unconfirmed estimate, over 1,000 people have been killed in poll-related violence. The Tanzanian authorities have, as is usual with such governments worldwide, denied excessive

Before his arrest in April, Lissu had been holding rallies raising the slogan – "No reforms, no elections." His American lawyer, Robert Amsterdam, says the Opposition leader — who survived being shot 16 times in a 2017 assassination attempt – faces the death penalty if convicted of treason. He is now languishing in solitary confinement in jail. The irony is when President Hassan first succeeded authoritarian Magufuli — who was nicknamed 'the Bulldozer" — many Tanzanians were hopeful the country was on a more democratic path. She also tried to live up to the people's expectation by introducing a number of reforms, including ending bans on political rallies, repealing repressive laws around the media, and releasing Lissu's Chadema predecessor from prison. But the 65-year-old Hassan – who is Tanzania's first female leader – has turned out to be worse than her predecessor. Her son Abdul Halim Hafidh Ameir is believed by many to have overseen the crackdown following the pattern of several Prime Ministers in Asia abusing democracy and letting their sons and daughters enjoy extra-constitutional authority.

The current situation in Tanzania prompted Pope Leo to give a call from the Vatican for an end to the post-poll violence in the country. He has urged everyone to shun all forms of violence and pursue the path of dialogue. Sadly, the African Union has not condemned the elections. On the contrary, it issued a statement congratulating President Hassan, while numerous African heads of state attended her inauguration. The fact that schools remain closed and public transport halted 3 November with full internet blackout continuing is evidence of the highhandedness of the regime.

Tanzania is one of the several African countries to hold disputed elections this year that have resulted in unrest. Last month, Cameroon elections saw 92-year-old President Paul Biya re-elected for an eighth term, while Ivory Coast's 83-year-year-old Alassane Ouattara won a fourth term having barred Opposition heavyweights from running

Some may say international pressure needs to be mounted on the Tanzanian President so that the hope of the survival of the fledgling democracy in that continent is not blighted but the fact remains that institutions are demolished by the common people everywhere. These institutions alone can save the common citizen from barbaric rulers who come up under the guise of democracy.

WISDOM CORNER

Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROS

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1605: Gunpowder Plot. Celebrated with fireworks as Guy Fawkes Day, this English holiday marks the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot, when Roman Catholics led by Robert Catesby tried to blow up Parliament, the king, and his family this day in 1605.
- 1838: Honduras declared its absolute independence, seceding from the United Provinces of Central America.
- 1872: Susan B. Anthony, a leader in the American women's suffrage movement, cast a ballot in the presidential election, and she was later arrested for voting illegally and convicted in a trial she called "the greatest outrage history ever witnessed."
- 1914: France and Britain declared war on Turkey, widening the
- 1940: Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented third term as president of the United States.
- 1943: Vatican City bombed. Vatican City was bombed by a fascist Italian aircraft breaching the neutrality of Vatican during the
- 1998: The journal Nature published a report that DNA testing had confirmed (still disputed by some) that a member of Thomas Jefferson's family had fathered a child with the slave Sally Hemings; the testing, however, was unable to definitively prove that Jefferson was the father.

FOCUS ODISHA

OCEAN OF OPPORTUNITY

disha, in 2025, stands at a historic confluence. Its cultural wellspring-Bali Jatra, Kartika Purnima, Boita Bandana—remains alive, not as romantic nostalgia but as the DNA of an emergent maritime vision. The state's portled industrial economy and blue tourism drive are not divergences from its past but direct continuations—realising anew what the "Sadhabas' understood: greatness comes from openness, adaptability, and integration of land, sea, and people.

On the luminous night of Kartik Purnima, thousands of paper boats carrying flickering lamps are set afloat on rivers across Odisha. The people do not merely celebrate a festival—they invoke a civilisational memory. Bali Jatra commemorates the voyages of Kalinga's uniquely enterprising seafarers who once sailed to Java, Sumatra, Bali, and beyond. These journeys carried not only spices and textiles but also ideas, art, and faith, binding Odisha to the wider world.

Today, that same spirit of maritime ambition is being reimagined for the 21st century. The Odisha government is positioning the state as the Eastern Maritime Gateway of India, anchoring the nation's entry into the global blue economy. As a cultural economist, I commend and welcome this vision—but I also ask: how will this translate into real, inclusive, and ecologically balanced outcomes?

Odisha's coastline stretches 575 km, with 14 identified port locations. The state has set an ambitious target: to expand port capacity from 80 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) to 500 MTPA by 2047. Two transformational projects lie at the heart of this vision: the ₹21.500 crore Bahuda Port in Ganjam district, with a planned capacity of 150 MTPA; and the ₹24,700 crore Shipbuilding Cluster at the Mahanadi mouth, designed to position Odisha as a global shipbuilding hub. Together, these projects promise to turn Odisha's coast into a dynam-



From the historic voyages of Kalinga's sailors to the shipbuilding hubs of tomorrow, Odisha's maritime journey is both ancient and futuristic

ic hub of trade and industry, creating vast opportunities for investment and employment. If implemented with integrity, they could generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs, especially in logistics, shipbuilding, and allied services.

Paradip Port, already one of India's foremost maritime gateways, is being modernised and developed as a Green Hydrogen Hub. We are aware that non-major ports at Dhamra, Gopalpur, Subarnarekha, and Astaranga are steadily expanding capacity.

The state's maritime ambitions are underpinned by a governance framework: i) Odisha Port Policy 2022 ensures policy stability and investor confidence; ii) The Odisha Maritime Board (OMB) acts as a single-window authority, streamlining approvals and oversight; iii) Innovative models like BOOST (Build, Own, Operate, Share, Transfer) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

— the first of its kind among Indian coastal states — aim to create a transparent and investment-ready environment.

But what is required to make this effective? Governance must move beyond policy documents to field-level coordination, timely clearances, and community engagement. The success of these frameworks will depend on how they empower local stakeholders, protect coastal ecology, and ensure that employment reaches the youth of Odisha—not just the investor's balance sheet.

Odisha's vision must extend beyond cargo and commerce. The Bay of Bengal is being reimagined, thankfully so, as a space for tourism, leisure, and recreation: i) Puri, the sacred abode of Lord Jagannath, is being developed as an international cruise terminal; ii) Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, is emerging as a premier eco-tourism hub; iii) Investments are being encouraged in marinas, luxury cruises, and water sports infrastructure.

This is where Odisha's blue economy could meet its orange economy—a concept I've articulated in the past, to promote coastal tourism, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) business, and music concerts. By blending heritage with modern cultural enterprise, Odisha is turning its coastline into a stage for both global investors and cultural connoisseurs.

Yet ambition must be tem-

pered with caution. Odisha's coastline is not just an economic corridor—it is a living ecosystem. Over-commercialisation risks eroding biodiversity, displacing fishing communities, and diminishing the cultural sanctity of the coast.

The challenge lies in bal-

ance: ensuring that growth remains sustainable, inclusive, and ecologically mindful. The blue economy, if pursued with wisdom, can be more than GDP growth—it can be a philosophy of harmony between ocean and

society, between trade winds and cultural currents.

From the historic voyages of Kalinga's sailors to the shipbuilding hubs of tomorrow, Odisha's maritime journey is both ancient and futuristic. The Mohan Majhi government's drive, as expressed, to make Odisha the Eastern Maritime Gateway is not just about ports and tonnage—it is about reclaiming a legacy and pro-

jecting it into the 21st century.

As the paper boats float on Kartik Purnima, they symbolise not nostalgia but renewal—a reminder that Odisha's destiny has always been tied to the sea. Today, with bold investments, cultural imagination, and ecological mindfulness, Odisha is poised to turn its coast into a global hub of trade, tourism, and transformation.

Yet the lesson of Kartik Purnima is also that prosperity must be cyclic, tuned to seasons and tides, never predatory or static. Odisha's path forward must defend the blue against the unchecked "brown"—balancing investment with conservation, commerce with culture, and speed with reflection. As the Odisha Chief Minister noted at India Maritime Week 2025: "What we are building is not just infrastructure; it is a foundation for a prosperous, resilient, and globally connected future."

We are with the government-as long as we all believe sincerely that Odisha's future is blue, illuminated by the golden light of Kartik Purnima. And yet, the responsibility does not rest with the state alone. The onus of preserving Odisha's coastline – its ecology, its heritage, its dignity — lies equally with its citizens and civil society. We must come together under this initiative to give tangible shape to the mission: Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi — development with dignity, progress with preservation. Only then will the boats we set afloat carry not just dreams, but

The writer is a thinker and a cultural economist.

IN JEST THIS

Charudutta Panigrahi

ODISHA'S

COASTLINE IS

NOT JUST AN

CORRIDOR-IT

ECONOMIC

IS A LIVING

ECOSYSTEM

Return gifts may help keep city clean



Melvin Durai

IN ADDITION
TO RETURNING
GARBAGE
TO PEOPLE
WHO DUMP,
BANGALORE
IS IMPOSING
A ₹2,000 FINE,
EVEN FOR FIRST
OFFENSES

y house sits beside a fairly busy road, which means that I occasionally have to pick up litter from my yard. It usually comes from passing motorists who think it's okay to throw fast-food wrappers and other trash out of their windows. I wish I could record them on video, go to their homes and return their trash to them. "I think this belongs to you," I'd say. "It came from your car. Is there any reward for returning it?"

At a minimum, I'd want these litter bugs to be fined or at least be forced to pick up trash around town. But they always get away with their misdeeds, mostly because it's hard to catch them in the act. It's just not worth the trouble for me to install cameras, review the video and try to spot the license plates of the perpetrators.

Even if I gathered some incriminating evidence, I don't think my local police depart-

ment would take it too seriously. They're too busy dealing with crimes such as robberies, assaults, and illegal u-turns.

Littering is certainly not a major crime, but it wouldn't surprise me to learn that some of the people who toss litter out of their cars also dump large amounts of garbage in the forest and other places they shouldn't.

That's why I'm happy to

hear about the initiatives undertaken by the Greater Bangalore Authority to keep the city cleaner. According to an NDTV report, the GBA has launched a "Garbage Dumping Festival," warning residents that if they dump garbage into the streets, the garbage will be dumped right back onto their doorsteps.

"To create awareness, this is a sort of a return gift," said Kari Gowda, CEO of the Bangalore Solid Waste Management Company Limited (BSWML).

Just picture a BSWML worker knocking on a door after dumping a pile of garbage on a doorstep.

Resident: "Excuse me, what is this doing here?" Worker: "It's a return gift."

Resident: "A return gift?"
Worker: "Yes, we are returning the gift that you gave to the city. We appreciate your generosity, but we just can't accept it. Even on our birth-

day, we can't take such gifts." Resident: "What will I do with it?"

Worker: "Give it to your inlaws."

Resident: "But I like them." Worker: "And you don't like the city?"

In addition to returning garbage to people who dump, the city is imposing a ₹2,000 fine, even for first offenses. The city previously levied a ₹500 fine for first offenses, ₹1,000 for second offenses and ₹2,000 for third offenses, but the fines will no longer be staggered.

Some people on social media have called it "bizarre" to return garbage to residents, but Gowda told NDTV: "This is not a bizarre activity. We have our workers going to each house educating people to segregate waste. We are creating awareness on social media and also requesting people not to throw garbage on the road."

You may be wondering how the GBA is going to catch offenders. Well, the GBA will rely on any video recordings, including videos taken by ordinary citizens. To that end, the GBA is offering ₹250 to anyone who records and shares videos of people dumping garbage. If you're visiting a friend in Bangalore and happen to record the friend throwing garbage in the street, you may ask yourself if it's worth exposing your friend for ₹250?

No, it's not. But you may want to assume the role of a BSWML worker and give your friend a return gift.

etters

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

Disaster preparedness

Sir, Preparedness for an impending tsunami is more important than remedial measures after the deadly wave strikes. Over the last century, there have been 58 tsunamis accounting for approximately 2,60,000 casualties. Dangerous increase in sea levels and population along the coastal region has converted several regions into "tsunami potentials." Earthquakes under water, volcanic eruptions and landslides can move across nations, and continents, almost at a speed ranging from 500 km to 800 km per hour, and to dangerous heights, often reaching 100 feet, resulting in unimaginable mass destructions. Since strong and long earthquakes are first signals of a possible tsunami, rushing vulnerable citizens to higher grounds, at least 100 feet above sea level, is the first and the most important protection one can offer. World Tsunami Awareness Day is on 5 November.

Champion coach
Sir, India's domestic cricke

Sir, India's domestic cricket heavyweight Amol Mazumdar, who is the coach of the Indian women's cricket team, is in the spotlight after the historic ODI World Cup win by the Women in Blue. Mazumdar's cricket journey is one of perseverance, unmatched consistency, and unfulfilled dreams at the international level. Despite scoring over 11,000 first-class runs, he never got the opportunity to represent India's men's team. Nevertheless, his coaching credentials with Rajasthan Royals in IPL for three seasons from 2018 marked a new chapter in his cricket journey. And when the BCCI appointed Mazumdar as the head coach of the Indian women's cricket team in October 2023, his impact was immediate and profound. Under his coaching and guidance, the women's cricket team grew in confidence and self-belief, and this has resulted in triumphing the ODI World Cup. From being a domestic cricket legend to a world champion coach, Amol Mazumdar's story stands as a testament to his determination, adaptability, and his unflinching love and passion for the game.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





Delhi 6th most polluted city in Oct

New Delhi, Nov 4: Delhi was ranked the sixth most polluted city in the country in October, behind neighbouring Ghaziabad and Noida, according to a study. Dharuhera in Haryana was ranked as the most

polluted city in October, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 123 µg/m³, according to the Monthly Air Quality Snapshot released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) Tuesday.

It provided a comprehensive analysis of India's air quality based on continuous ambient air quality monitoring station (CAAQMS) data.

The findings revealed a sharp deterioration in air quality across the country, with worsening conditions concentrated in the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP), particularly the National Capital Region (NCR), an official statement said.

Delhi ranked sixth with an average concentration of 107 $\mu g/m^3$, three times higher than its September average of 36 μg/m³.

Despite stubble burning contributing less than 6 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 levels in October, the sharp rise highlights the impact of year-round emission sources and the need for long-term mitigation plans beyond short seasonal measures like the Graded Response Action Plan, it noted.

Dharuhera was ranked as the most polluted city in October, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 123 µg/ m³, breaching the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) limit on 77 per cent of the days.

It recorded two 'Severe' and nine

Varanasi to dazzle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, Nov 4: Rows

of earthen lamps would

line the ghats of Vara-

nasi again Wednesday

for Dev Deepawali, also

known as the Diwali of

Celebrations will be-

gin with the lighting of

lamps at all ghats be-

tween 5.15 pm and 5.50

pm. This will be followed

by a special 'Ganga aar-

ti' at prominent ghats

such as Dashashwamedh

Ghat, Sheetla Ghat, Assi

pm to 6.50 pm. The riv-

erfront will ring with

the sound of bells and

chants, coupled with

the shimmering glow of

At Chet Singh Ghat,

a projection and laser

show will be shown for

viewers in three slots -from 6.15 pm to 6.45 pm,

7.15 pm to 7.45 pm and

Tourism and Culture

Minister Jaiveer Singh

said the show will bring

alive the spirituality

and culture of Kashi

through light, sound and

said that the major at-

traction this year will

be 'green fireworks' to be

The minister further

8.15 pm to 8.45 pm.

3D effects.

countless diyas.

Namo Ghat from 6

Ghat and

DEV DEEPAWALI

with diyas, laser shows

opposite Lalita Ghat be-

tween 8 pm and 8.15 pm.

have been made for se-

curity, cleanliness and

traffic management to

ensure a smooth expe-

rience for devotees. The

tourism department, in

coordination with the

municipal corporation,

has also arranged dec-

orative lighting across

the ghats and adjoining

lanes. The minister said

that the green fireworks

will serve the purpose of

entertainment but will

also send a powerful

reminder regarding en-

vironmental protection.

festival of Kashi's soul

and faith," Singh said.

'Under the guidance

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath, Kashi is emerging

as a symbol of cultural

grandeur, spiritual her-

itage and environmental

responsibility," he said.

works, laser shows, and

lamp-lighting, we are

connecting traditional

devotion with modern

technology. Our aim is

for devotees to not only

experience the divinity of

this festival but also feel

the message of a clean,

"Through green fire-

"Dev Deepawali is the

Special arrangements



Very Poor' days during the month. Following Dharuhera, the next most polluted cities were Rohtak, Ghaziabad, Noida, Ballabgarh, Delhi, Bhiwadi, Greater Noida, Hapur, and Gurgaon.

Overall, four cities each from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana dominated the top 10 list, all located within the NCR. Shillong, Meghalaya, was India's cleanest city in October with an average PM2.5 concentration of 10 μg/m³. The top 10 cleanest cities included four from Karnataka, three from Tamil Nadu, and one each from Meghalaya, Sikkim and

Out of 249 cities, 212 recorded PM2.5 levels below India's NAAQS of 60 μg/m³. However, only six cities met the World Health Organization's (WHO) daily safe guideline of $15 \mu g/m^3$.

In October, cities with 'Good' air quality (0-30 µg/m³) dropped from 179 in September to 68, while those in the 'Satisfactory' range (31-60 µg/m3) increased from 52 to 144.

Cities in the 'Moderate' range $(61-90 \mu g/m^3)$ rose from 4 to 27, while nine cities fell into the 'Poor' (91-120 µg/ m³) category and one city reached the 'Very Poor' (121-250 µg/m³).

JNUSU polls see voter turnout of 67%; results Nov 6

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union polls recorded a voter turnout of 67 per cent this year, a slight dip from 70 per cent in the previous election. In the 2023-24 polls, the university had witnessed 73 per cent voting -the highest in the past decade.

The JNU campus came alive Tuesday with the sound of drums, chants and campaign songs as students queued up to cast their votes in the closely watched elections that will decide the new central panel and school councillors

Polling began at 9 am and was supposed to continue till 5:30 pm, with a break from 1 pm to 2:30 pm.

vember 6, according to the JNUSU election committee. Twenty candidates are in the fray for the four key central panel posts -- president, vice-president, general secretary and joint secretary. Students have also voted for 42 councillor seats for various schools of the university. Around 9.043 students were eligible to vote this year.

The contest, often viewed as a reflection of national ideological undercurrents, is primarily between the Left Unity and the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharativa Vidvarthi Parishad (ABVP).

The Left Unity, comprising the All India Students' Association (AISA), Students' Federation of In-

dia (SFI) and Democratic Students' Federation (DSF), has fielded Aditi Mishra for president, Kizhakoot Gopika Babu for vice-president, Sunil Yadav for general secretary and Danish Ali for joint secretary. The ABVP's panel features Vikas Patel, Tanya Kumari, Rajeshwar Kant Dubey and Anuj for the posts. While the ABVP has campaigned on themes of "performance and nationalism," the Left bloc has focused on "inclusion, accessibility and student welfare.

"The Left unity will win all four central panel seats," Aishe Ghosh, a former JNUSU president, told PTI as she campaigned outside a polling booth.

Although voter turnout was mod-

longer in the afternoon as students many of whom were first-time vot ers, arrived with their ID cards to participate in what they described as a festival of democracy.

A postgraduate student from Kolkata said, "It feels like a celebration. In my previous university there were no student union polls Here, it's like a grand festival of de mocracy." Opinions among voters were divided. Mahendra, a 25-year old doctoral student, said, "The Left-affiliated groups at least raise our issues and protest when need ed. Even with limited powers, they make the administration listen."

However, others sought a

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER .I.DIVISION. NAYAGARH E-mail- eeolicnayagarh@gmail.com

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Numbers of Packages	33 Nos.
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3. Tender Paper Cost	As per DTCN
4. Date & Time of availability	Dt.10.11.2025 from 10.00 hours to Dt.18.11.2025
of bid in portal	upto 17.00 hours.
5 Date & Time of	Dt.15.11.2025 upto 17.00 hours
clarification upto	· ·
6 Date & Time of opening	Dt.19.11.2025 at 11.00 hours.
of bid	
of bid	Dt.19.11.2025 at 11.00 hours.

from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation

Sd./- Executive Engineer

EAST COAST RAILWAY NOTIFICATION FOR APOINTMENT OF PASSENGER HALT AGENT FOR DULAKHAPATNA (DLPT) BADAPADAGAON (BDPG), BARITHENGARH (BRTG) & VANI VIHAR (BNBH) PASSENGER HALTS

No. G.51/P.H/DLPT, BDPG, BRTG & BNBH / 4416 Date : 31.10.202 APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT AS PASSENGER HALT AGENT TO SELL TICKETS FOR (1). DULAKHAPATNA (DLPT) PASSENGER HALT IN BETWEEN MANJURI ROAD & BAITARANI ROAD RAILWAY STATIONS, (2). BADAPADAGAON (BDPG) IN BETWEEN CHARBATIA (CBT) AND GURUDIJHATIA (GJTA) RAILWAY STATIONS, (3). BARITHENGARH (BRTG) PASSENGER HALT IN BETWEEN BYREE (BYY) AND DHANMANDAL (DNM) AND (4). VANI VIHAR (BNBH) PASSENGER HALT IN BETWEEN BHUBANESWAR (BBS) AND MANCHESWAR (MCS) RAILWAY STATIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

For complete details, application format and other terms & conditions please visit or ebsite: www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

REGIONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR यूनियन बैंक (🎧 Union Bank 1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur - 768004

Residential Land and

Building bearing Khata No.

344/2628, Plot No.: 1905

[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Concerned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcemen of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred

	Liabilities Due as per Notice	Demand / Possession Notice Date	Description of Secured Assets
under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the S Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Mortg mentioned in the notice plus interest thereor The Borrowers having failed to repay the an and the public in general that the undersig herein below in exercise of powers conferre Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Micautioned not to deal with the properties a charge of the Union Bank of India for an an attention is invited to provisions of Sub- available, to redeem the secured assets.	gagor in loan A/ n within 60 days mount, notice is gned has taken ed on him/her ur lortgagor in parti and any dealings nount mentioned -section (8) of 3	re mentioned is from the date is hereby given in Possession and the section 1 icular and the is with the product & with the product in the pr	below to repay the amount of receipt of the said notice. to the Borrowers/Mortgagor of the properties described 3(4) of the said Act read with public in general are hereby perties will be subject to the est thereon. The Borrower's

₹ 6,47,870/-

expenses thereon 03.11.2025 S/o.: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, 2) Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, S/o · Nath Sahu, Address: 6125, Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 3 Sunapali, P.S. Circuit House Complex, Bhutapara, Near Fahasil/Dist.: Sambalpur, having Area: Ac.0.09 Dec, recorded Panth Nivas, Sambalpur-768001 in the name of Mr. Dillip Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, Bounded by North: Property of Sakuntala Panigrahi, South: Property of S K Pattanaik, East

Road, West: Road BARGARH - 2 BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Late Parasuram Sahu, Flat No.: B-

UMFB SAMBALPUR BRANCH

Borrowers: 1) Mr. Dillip Kumar Sahu,

4th Floor, Sri Gajanand Complex, Kali Mandir Road, Mohanty Pada, Bargarh, Odisha-768028

₹16,56,785.80 | 26.08.2025 | Residential Flat No.: 406 having super built up Area 04.11.2025 expenses thereon B, at "Sri Gajanand Complex", Mohanty Pada, Mouza Tahasil: Bargarh, Thana: Bargarh No.: 33, Ward No.: 12 District: Bargarh, PIN-768028, recorded in the name of

18.08.2025

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sahu, Bounded by North: Block-A, South: Corridor, East: Flat No.: 407 West: Flat No.: 405 Place: Sambalpur, Date: 04.11.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India



the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)

756045

ROURKELA BRANCH /

Borrowers: 1) Mr. Shivsagar

ZONAL OFFICE-BHUBANESWAR DE MAN DE MA First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar-751022 E-mail: cmrecovery_bbsr@mahabank.co.in

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Details of Property Mortgaged

All those pieces and parcels of

land and building being lying and situated at Mouza:

Jharsuguda Town Unit No. 1

Khata No.: 1067/3136, Plot No.

Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Odisha. PIN-768202

admeasuring Area: 2440.00

Ektali,

We have to inform the below mentioned Borrowers that the following credit facilities has been sanctioned to you by Bank of Maharashtra, Concerned Branches. That you have executed the necessary documents in favour of the Bank in consideration of the said credit facilities availed and also created charges and securities in favour of the Bank. Inspite of our repeated Demands, you have not paid the outstanding amount in your Account. Therefore, due to non-payment of installment interest/Principal debt, the account(s) have been classified as NPA as per the RBI Guidelines Demand Notice was issued by the authorized officer against the following Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors of **Bank of Maharashtra**, **Concerned Branches** but the same could not be Served on he below mentioned Parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The details are given below BRANCH / Name & Address of Nature Date of NPA / Date

LESHWAR BRANCH /	HSG MAHASUP	03.10.2025	All those pieces and parcels of
rrower: Mr. Jayanta Kumar	PRIO- RURAL	1	Land situated being and lying
chanty, S/o- Maheswar	1	08.10.2025	at Mouza: Gopalpur, registration
hanty, At: Kudei, Nadigaon,	₹20,00,000/-,	1	Dist.: Balasore, Sub-Dist.: Soro,
S: Soro, Dist.: Balasore,	TL- LN Against	₹23,65,802.00	Village: Kudei, being Plot No.:
lisha, PIN-756045 / Co-	Property RFT	as on 08.10.2025	570/696 & 570/688/788, Khata
rrowers: 1) Miss Twinkle	/	+ subsequent	No.: 181/240, admeasuring
chanty, D/o- Mr. Jayanta		interest thereon	Area: Ac.0.80 dec., Owned by-
ımar Mohanty, At: Kudei,	-	miterest thereon	Mr. Jayanta Kumar Mohanty
digaon, PS: Soro, Dist.: Bala			East: Road, West: Plot of Fakir
N-756045, 2) Mrs. Sagari		Nayak, North: Plo	ot of Narendra Rout, South: Plot
o- Mr. Jayanta Kumar Mohar	nty, At: Kudei,	of Ganesh Patra.	Together with the buildings and
digaon, PS: Soro, Dist.: Bala		structures/reside	ntial block constructed to/to be
N-756045, And also: At: Gop		constructed there	eon admeasuring Ac.0.80 dec.,
8: Soro, Dist.: Balasore, (Odisha, PIN-	on all the piece	and parcel of land and all the

HSG MAHASUF

PRI-U&METRO

Choubey, S/o- Mr. Jagdamba Prasad Choubey, Address: At ₹25,00,000/-QR.: H-4/18, Civil Township, City CC-SME (RT, BE Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh PSE, RTO)-<=25L Odisha, PIN-769004, 2) M/s. Maa Vindhyavashinee, Through Its ₹5.00.000/-Prop.: Mr. Shivsagar Choubey, Address-I: U.U. 16, Civil Township, City Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha, PIN-

769004. Address-II: Town Unit No. 1. Khata No.: 1067/3136, Plot No.: 2297/8602, Ektali, PS: Jharsuguda, Dist.: Jharsuguda, Odisha, PIN-Mr. Shivsagar Choubey, Address: At: QR.: H-4/ annexed thereto. 18, Civil Township, City: Rourkela, Dist.: Sundergarh, Odisha, PIN-769004.

SAMBALPUR BRANCH / **HSG MAHASUP** Borrowers/Guarantors: 1) Mr. Manoj Kumar Chhanda, S/o- Mr. PRI-U&METRO ₹10.00.000/-Chhanda, 2) Mr. **HSG MAHASUF** Ajodhya Chhanda, S/o- Late Parameswar Chhanda, 3) Mr. PRI-U&METRO ₹6,00,000/-, Saroj Chhanda, S/o- Mr. Ajodhya Cash Credit / Chhanda, All are At/PÓ: Baduapalli, PS: Dhama, Dhama ₹4,50,000/-, erm Loan (GECL)/ Road, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha ₹49,000/-, PIN-768117, 4) Mrs. Rukuni Term Loan / Ksheti, D/o- Mr. Ajodhya

₹4,50,000/-Chhanda, At: Pudapada, PO: Salesing, Dhama, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha-

768117. 5) Mrs. Sakuntala Chhanda, At/PO: Baduapalli, PS: Dhama, Dhama Road, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768117.

sqft. and the same is in the name of Mr. Shiv Sagar Choubey and bounded by- East: Plot No 2297(P), West: 2297(P), North: 2297(P), South Road. Together with the buildings and structures residential block constructed to/to be constructed 768202 / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Suman Devi, W/o- thereon admeasuring 2440 sqft. and all the fixture

2297/8602,

fixture annexed thereto

28.09.2025

08.10.2025

₹31 18 174 94

as on 08.10.2025

+ subsequent

interest thereon

All those pieces and parcels of Land & Building Constructed

06.10.2025 ₹30,58,472.26 as on 06.10.2025 + subsequent interest thereon

17.09.2025

No.: 277, Area: Ac.0.140 dec. Plot No.: 279, Area: Ac.0.510 dec., Plot No.: 1331, Area: Ac.10.540 dec., Agriculture Kisam, Plot No.: 1329, Area Ac.0.110 dec. is Pathara Chatana Kisam, Non Chaka Plot No.: 278, Area: Ac.1.170 dec. is Gharabari Kisam

thereon admeasuring Total

Area: Ac.12.50 dec., bearing

Khata No : 5 consists of Six

Plots of different Kisams, Plot

and Plot No.: 466, Area: Ac.0.030 dec. is Ghara Kisam situated at Mouza: Baduapali, No.16, Tehsil Maneswar, No. 306, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha.

Together with the buildings and structures/residential block constructed to/to be constructed thereon

Hence in exercise of Powers conferred on the Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) and without prejudice to the rights of the Bank, the Bank hereby Calls Upon you to repay the amount in Full mentioned above plus future interest and other charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, falling which in addition to and without prejudice to the other rights available to the Bank, the Bank shall be entitled to exercise and /or all of the powers under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the aforesaid Act in respect of these securities/properties enforceable under the Act, in which case you shall also be liable to further pay all costs, charges and expenses or other incidental charges. The Powers available under the Act inter alia include: a) To Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets. b) To Take over the management of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets. c) To Appoint any person (hereafter referred to as the manager) to manage the secured assets the possession of which has been taken over by the secured creditor. d) Require at any time by notice in writing to any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from the borrower and from whom any money is due or may become due to the borrower, to pay the bank, so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt. Please take a note that as per sec.13 (13) of the Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from disposing off or dealing with the above securities without our prior written consent. That attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 04.11.2025

Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

green and globally redisplayed on the sands nowned Kashi," he added. **UP Mati Kala fairs** fetch ₹4.20cr this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 4: The Uttar Pradesh Mati Kala Board has registered record-breaking sales of more than Rs 4.20 crore this year through a series of state, regional, and district-level fairs, the state government said Monday.

The total sales mark a significant increase of Rs 91 lakh compared to last year, reflecting a 27.7 per cent growth despite fewer stalls being set up this year, it said. Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath's vision to uplift traditional artisans and promote indigenous crafts has been a key driver behind this success, the state government said in a statement. The government's focused approach to mar-

keting, branding, and training is enabling the state's pottery products to reach both national and international markets, it said. According to government figures, the 10-day Mati Kala Mahotsav held at Khadi Bhavan in Lucknow from October 10 to 19, 2025, recorded sales of Rs 1.22 crore from 56 stalls. Similarly, the seven-day regional fairs organised in Gorakhpur, Agra, Kanpur Dehat, and Moradabad from October 13 to 19 saw 126 stalls generate Rs 78.84 lakh in sales.

In addition, the threeday district-level Mati Kala fairs held across 70 districts between October 17 and 19 registered sales of Rs 2.19 crore through 509 stalls, it stated.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

nd on behalf of President of India, the Chief Electrical Engineer (Con S.E. Railway, Garden Reach invites e-tenders for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in The e-tender will be losed at 12.00 hrs. on due date e-Tender Notice No. : ELCONKGP-BLS Brief Description of Works: Supply erection, testing & commissioning for the balance 3rd line work of Power supply augmentation, electrification & Genera ervice works from Balasore to Ranita L) cabin in connection with the work f 3rd line between Narayangarh and Bhadrak in kharagpur division of 3.E. Railway. **Tender Cost:** 3,17,87,095.00; **EMD:** ₹ 3,08,900.00; Completion Period: 09 (Nine) months nterested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details: description/ specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case accepted, NB: "Prospective Bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to

participate in all other tenders."

COMMISSION PAYABLE TO THE HALT AGENT WILL BE AS UNDER Amount of Sale of tickets per month ₹ 1/- to 15,000/-₹ 15,001/- to 50,000/ ₹ 1,00,001/- to 2,00,000/-₹ 2,00,001/- and above

Security Deposit for above halt is ₹ 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand) Application duly filled in should reach this office by 1500 hrs. on or before 25.11.2025 (Tuesday). The tender will be opened on same day i.e. 25.11.2025. If the last day i.e. 25.11.2025 happens to be or is declared to be a holiday, applications will be received by the same time on the next working day and tender will be opened on the same day The Railway reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason



RAILWAY RECRUITMENT CELL Parcel Depot, Ali bhai Premji Road, Grant Road (East), Mumbai - 400 007.

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO. RRC/WR/03/2025 (CULTURAL QUOTA), DATED 31.10.2025





Closing Date and Time

Opening Date and Time 03.12.2025 @ 18:00 Hrs.

· Important:

Please read all the instructions in this notification carefully and ensure that you are eligible to apply before filling the application form Online. Applicants can submit their applications ONLINE only on RRC's website

https://www.rrc-wr.com Candidates are advised in their own interest to submit Online Application much before the closing date to avoid possibility of any failure to submit application due to heavy load / jam on

In case the candidate does not have a VALID personal e-mail ID he/she should create his/her e-mail ID before applying online application and must maintain that e-mail ID till the end of

Candidates should visit RRC WR website regularly (https://www.rrc-wr.com) for further ALL NOTICES UPLOADED ON RRC-WR WEBSITE / SENT BY EMAIL / SMS WILL BE

TREATED AS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN READ AND UNDERSTOOD BY THE

1. Applications are invited ONLINE from eligible candidates for filling up of Two (02) posts in Level - 2 of VII CPC Pay Matrix (Rs.19900 - 63200) against Cultural Quota in the following disciplines for the year 2025-2026 over Western Railway:-

Sr. No.	Discipline	No of posts	Suitability for Persons with Benchmark Disability		
1 Keyboard (Synthesizer) Player	01	VI	LD	HI	
		B, LV	BL, OL, LC, DW, AAV	NO	
2	Dancer (Male / Female)	01	Not suitable for PwBD*		

only suitable for NON PwBD. Abbreviations: VI- visually impaired, B- Blind, LV- Low Vision, LD- Locomotor Disability, OL- One leg, BL-Both Legs, LC- Leprosy Cured, DW- Dwarf, AAV- Acid Attack Victim, HI-Hearing Impaired.

2. For further details, refer Employment Notification No. RRC/WR/03/2025 (Cultural Quota) dated 03.12.2025 uploaded on RRC/WR's Website https://www.rrc-wr.com. APO (RRC) Western Railway



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national



Strict action will be taken against any transport, police, or public works department officer found negligent in enforcing road safety

BHAJANLAL SHARMA

2011 MUMBAI TRIPLE BLASTS CASE ACCUSED, 65, GETS BAIL

The Bombay High Court Tuesday granted bail to a 65-year-old man arrested in connection with the July 2011 triple bomb blasts in the metropolis, taking note of the prolonged trial, the accused's old age and his ailments



made to finish the university in a systematic way by the BJP and the RSS

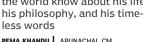


CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI I FORMER PUNJAB CM

Fake birth certificates are being prepared by agencies linked to the Trinamool Congress to ma-



The world knows little about His Holiness the sixth Dalai Lama... It is now our duty to let the world know about his life.



PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Death toll rises to 8 in car-truck collision

Barabanki (UP): Two persons who had sustained serious iniuries in the head-on collision between a car and truck near Bishunpur village of Barabanki district November 3 succumbed to their wounds in Lucknow during treatment Tuesday morning, taking the accident toll to eight, officials said. According to police, the incident took place around 10 pm when a speeding truck collided with an MUV without a number plate on the Kalvani River bridge, which has a single-lane road, under the Deva police station limits.

2 killed as tanker collides with car

Panaji: A top office-bearer of a national association of a sport and its international referee were killed after a speeding tanker jumped a road divider highway in North Goa district Tuesday morning, police said The police arrested the tanker driver under the culpable homicide charge, they said. The victims were identified as President of All India Sepak Takraw Association Yogender Singh (42) and an international referee of the sport Ankit Kumar Baliyan (34), the police said.

Seven arrested for cheating US citizens

Kolkata: Seven people were arrested for allegedly duping US citizens through an illegal call centre in Kolkata's Tiljala area Tuesday, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided an apartment on Chandra Nath Roy Road in the early hours and found those arrested making Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calls to US citizens, they said.

2 cancer patients jump to death

Gurugram: Two cancer patients, both in their 60s. allegedly committed suicide in two saperate incidents in Gurugram, police said Tuesday, The first incident took place in the Sector 56 area at around 6 am Tuesday, they said. According to police, Jvoti Wadhwa (62) had been suffering from cancer for several years and despite treatment had reached an advanced stage, causing her severe mental distress. When the rest of the family was sleeping. Wadhwa, at around 5.45 am, left her bedroom and went to the terrace on the third floor and allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the terrace. Family members rushed her to a nearby private hospital where doctors declared her dead, police said. Family members said she couldn't sleep even after taking painkillers at night. The police said the family was asleep at the time of the incident and were unaware of anything and CCTV

confirms her going alone.

Mamata leads TMC anti-SIR stir

The political activities, coupled with fresh reports of multiple deaths during the day allegedly provoked by citizenship trauma, signalled that the voter roll revision process would serve as the

primary battleground for the assembly elections due next year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 4: Rallies, counter-rallies, and fiery speeches from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her chief critic, Suvendu Adhikari, escalated the state's already hyper-charged political atmosphere Tuesday which marked the effective start of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The political activities, coupled with fresh reports of multiple deaths during the day allegedly provoked by citizenship trauma, signalled that the voter roll revision process would serve as the primary battleground for the assembly elections due next year.

The SIR exercise commenced with over 80,000 booth-level officers visiting homes to distribute over 16 lakh enumeration forms on the first day, a senior official said.

While Banerjee mounted a blistering attack on the BJP and the EC, and accused them of turning the SIR into a political tool for a "silent, invisible rigging" ahead of the polls, Adhikari dared the TMC to stop the exercise and demanded that every Bangladeshi infiltrator be deported from the country.

Following a massive anti-SIR rally through the heart of Kolkata, the CM, accompanied by her nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek



Banerjee, alleged that the BJP and the EC were "colluding to disenfranchise two crore voters from West Bengal" as part of a larger plan to capture power.

The TMC supremo also involved leaders across religious communities and celebrities from the television and sports fraternities of the city in her four-km march which she undertook with a copy of the Indian Constitution in her hand.

Adhikari, on the other hand led a rally named 'Parivartan Yatra' and covered a two-km distance from Sodepur to Agarpara in the northern fringes of the city as BJP activists in large numbers carried placards and shouted slogans slamming the TMC for opposing SIR and "passing off every death in Bengal as one caused by fear of SIR and deportation to detention camps". At least two deaths by suicide were reported Tuesday, one from Howrah and another from Murshidabad, where the deceased allegedly ended their lives on account of complications in electoral rolls and apprehension of deportation.

The alleged SIR-related death toll in Bengal currently stands at five although Mamata Banerjee claimed that seven people have already succumbed.

Jahir Mal, a resident of Khalisani in Uluberia, was found hanging at his residence. Police said that the family alleged that he was under severe stress after discovering a spelling error in one of his official documents and his visits to local offices concerned to rectify the mis-

take proved unsuccessful. In Kandi, farmer Mohan Sheikh, died after consuming pesticide. His family alleged he was under stress for the past few days after finding his name missing from the 2002 rolls and apprehended deportation.

Holding the SIR exercise responsible for the panic, the Bengal CM alleged, "The BJP is behind this chaos. People are dying because of the fear they are spreading.

Banerjee warned that the fall of the Narendra Modi government would be "inevitable" if even a single eligible voter was deleted from the state's rolls during the SIR.

'The BJP is conducting SIR in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, but not in Assam, Tripura or other northeastern states. Why this bias? This is discrimination aimed at helping the ruling party at the Centre," she thundered before a charged crowd.

Taking a swipe at Chief Election Commissioner Gvanesh Kumar, whom she mockingly called "kursi babu," Banerjee said, "In 2002, Bengal's last SIR took two years to complete. Why this rush now to finish it within a month? Only to make Modi Babu and Amit Shah hap

Mocking the BJP's electoral strategy for West Bengal, the CM added: "If you think you can win 294 seats by cutting down 2-3 per cent votes, you are living in a fool's paradise.

Speaking at the rally, Abhishek alleged that the BJPled Centre was using the SIR to "intimidate and disenfranchise" voters, and warned of a massive protest in New Delhi over deaths reportedly linked to the exercise.

"The 2026 state polls isn't only about making Mamata Banerjee the chief minister four times in a row, it is also about reducing the BJP to zero," he said. Adhikari, who commenced his rally from the area where one of the suicides took place, said the tragic death of the Agarpara resident last week was not related to any fear about SIR or NRC, as

the person had voted in 2002 and had his name in the electoral rolls of that year. He alleged the TMC was false-

ly linking his death with the SIR to derail the EC's process. Daring the TMC to try to stop the exercise. Adhikari said. 'Those whose parents have residential, birth proofs in India, need not worry.

"If any more death is caused due to misplaced panic about SIR, the chief minister would be held responsible for every such death, and we will level charges against her for misleading people and causing the tragedies,'

Referring to reports of sudden attempts to cross over to Bangladesh by people on this side of the border, Adhikari said that the SIR was akin to use of carbolic acid to flush out snakes from their holes, equating "Bangladeshi/Rohingya il legal migrants" to the reptiles Adhikari mocked Banerjee's assertion in TMC's July 21 Martyrs' day rally of not allowing SIR in Bengal.

India, Israel ink major defence agreement

New Delhi, Nov 4: India and Israel Tuesday inked a defence pact that will facilitate sharing of advanced technologies and promote co-development and co-production of key weapon systems and military hardware, in a major move to further bolster their already robust strategic ties

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Tel Aviv following a meeting of India-Israel joint working group (JWG) on defence cooperation.

The MoU on defence cooperation was signed to provide a 'unified vision and policy direction to deepen the already strong defence cooperation between the two countries", the defence ministry said. The pact also provides for cooperation in the areas of artificial intelligence, cyber security, defence research and innovation and industrial collaboration.

India is a leading buyer of Israel's military hardware and the latter has been supplying various weapon systems. missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles over the last few years. However, the transactions have largely remained behind the curtains. "India-Israel defence partner-

ship is long-standing based on deep mutual trust and shared security interests," the ministry said. The signing of the MoU came when Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar is on a three-day visit to India. In a statement, the defence ministry said a wide range of areas for cooperation have been identified in the MoU that will benefit both countries.

"Important fields include strategic dialogues of mutual interest, training, defence industrial cooperation, and capabilities including science and technology, research and



cooperation was signed to provide a "unified vision and policy direction to deepen the already strong defence cooperation between the two countries"

he pact also provides for cooperation in the areas of artificial intelligence, cyber security, defence research and innovation and industrial collaboration

development and technolog ical innovation, artificial incooperation," the ministry said

'The MoU will enable the sharing of advanced technol ogy and would promote co-de velopment and co-production,

The JWG reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation initia tives and agreed that both the nations have benefited from each other's strengths, the min istry said. "The two sides discussed the potential areas for future collaboration in the field of technology as well as enhance ing operational capabilities,' it said. The signing of the pact came amid reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Net anvahu is likely to visit India in the next couple of months.

S Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Sa'ar held extensive talks in New Delhi Tues day that focused on working for a global approach of "zero tolerance" to combat terrorism. The two sides also decided to enhance cooperation in areas of trade, infrastructure and connectivity.

External Affairs Minister

Faridabad: Hunt on for stalker who shot at teenage girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

on for the alleged stalker who fired gunshots at a 17-year-old in broad daylight, wounding her in the shoulder and abdomen, police said Tuesday.

Kanishka, a Class XII student who was on her way back from the library, is stable and under treatment at a hospital after the attack in Faridabad's Shyam Colony Monday evening.

The main accused -- seen waiting for her in the street in CCTV footage, walking up to her and then shooting her at point blank range -- has been identified as 20-vear-old Jatin Mangla from Sarmathla village near Sohna in Gurugram, officials said.

One bullet struck the teen's shoulder and another grazed her abdomen.

Campaign for 1st phase of Bihar elections ends

Faridabad, Nov 4: A hunt is Patna, Nov 4: The high-voltage campaign for the first phase of the Bihar assembly elections, covering 121 constituencies, ended Tuesday evening, after weeks of acrimonious exchanges, personal attacks, and divisive rhetoric.

> Electioneering began in earnest a couple of weeks after the polls for the 243-member assembly were announced October 6, with most parties having finalised their seats and candidates. and the momentum peaked after the festivities of Diwali and Chhath were over.

> Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the blitzkrieg on behalf of the ruling NDA, with as many as eight rallies, two of which were held on the penultimate day of campaigning, besides a roadshow in Patna, and digital interactions with

with women, on the final day of electioneering.

Modi had begun his campaign with a rally at Samastipur, where he also visited the ancestral house of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur. He shared the stage with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president, who vies with arch-rival Lalu Prasad, the RJD president, in claiming to be the true ideological heir to the EBC (extremely backwards classes) icon. The 75-vear-old PM pulled no punches in charging the RJD-Congress combine, the two largest constituents of the INDIA bloc, with "protecting infiltrators" and cautioned the people against "a return of jungle raj". Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha. Rahul Gandhi, also held as many as seven rallies, the last three falling on the concluding day of the campaign.

SNIPPETS

Maha Cabinet takes 21 decisions in one go

Mumbai: The Maharashtra cabinet took 21 decisions Tuesday, an unusual number for a single meeting, including the closure of the state's asset reconstruction company Maha ARC Ltd and authorisation of guarantee for a Rs 2,000 crore HUDCO loan for a transport corridor. The cabinet decisions were taken hours before to 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats in Maharashtra will take place December 2 and votes will be counted December 3. According to an official statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the Finance Department's proposal to wind up Maha ARC Ltd was approved in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The company was established in September 2022, modelled on the Centre's National Asset Reconstruction Company, but could not commence operations as the Reserve Bank denied it a licence in 2023. The cabinet authorised a state guarantee for a Rs 2,000 crore HUDCO loan to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation for land acquisition for the Virar-Alibaug transport corridor. The corridor will be 126.06 km long and the first phase, covering 96.41 km from Navghar to Balawli, will be taken up on a build, operate and transfer basis.

5 IITs, DU, IISc among top 100 institutes in Asia: QS Rankings

New Delhi: Five Indian Institutes of nnology (ILLS). Indian Institu of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Delhi University figured in Asia's top 100 institutes, according to the QS University Rankings announced Tuesday. IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Kharagpur were in the list of top 100 Asian institutes. "Seven Indian institutions rank in the top 100 in QS World University Asia rankings, 20 in the top 200 and 66 in the top 500," London based QS said in a statement.

4 militants killed in gun battle with security forces in Churachandpur

Imphal/Churachandpur: At least four militants, belonging to a banned outfit, were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Manipur's Churachandpur district Tuesday morning, police said. Based on inputs about the presence of armed cadres belonging to the proscribed United Kuki National Army (UKNA), an operation was launched around 5.30 am at Khanpi village under Henglep sub-division in the district, a senior officer said. UKNA is not a signatory to the Suspension of Operations pact signed between the Centre, the state government and the Kuki and Zomi militant groups. During the operation, a fierce gunfight broke out between army personnel and the militants, the officer said."At least four militants were killed during the exchange of fire while several others managed to flee the spot," the officer said, adding that the identities of the deceased are yet to be established.

Muslim man's 1st wife should be heard on 2nd marriage: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 4: The Kerala High Court here has ruled that if a Muslim man wants to register his second marriage under the Kerala Registration of Marriages (Common) Rules 2008, while his earlier one is still in existence, his first wife should also be heard on whether she is agreeable to it or not. While making

ruling, Justice P V Kunhikrishnan also said that in such situation religion is secondary and constitutional rights are supreme.

"customary Therefore, law is not applicable when the question of registering a second marriage arises", the judge said.

Kunhikrishnan Justice also said, "I don't think that the Holy Quran or the Muslim

Law permits an extramarital relationship with another lady when his first wife is alive and his first marriage with her is in existence, and that also, without the knowledge of his first wife. The court's observations

came while declining to entertain a plea moved by a man and his second wife seeking directions to the state government to register their marriage. The court declined to en-

tertain the plea as the man's first wife was not a party in the proceedings. It said that a second marriage was permissible under

the Muslim Law, "but only in specific situations" It further said that a Muslim first wife cannot be a silent spectator to the registration of

her husband's second marriage.

"The first petitioner (man)

can marry again if his personal law permits him to do so. However, if the first petitioner wishes to register his second marriage with the second petitioner (second wife), the law

of the land will prevail, and in such a situation, an opportunity of hearing for the first wife is necessary. "In such situations, reli-

gion is secondary and consti-

The court's observations came while declining to entertain a plea moved by a man and his second wife seeking directions to the **state government** to register their marriage

tutional rights are supreme. This court cannot ignore the feelings, if any, of the first wife when her husband registers his second marriage in accordance with the law of the land." the court said.

The judge further said that

he was sure that 99.99 per cent of the Muslim women would be against their husband's second marriage when their relationship with him is in existence.

In the instant case, the man had fallen in love with another woman and married her while his first marriage was in exis tence. He had claimed in his plea that he married for the second time with the consent of his first wife.

However, when he tried to register his second marriage, the concerned local body declined to do so.

The court said that the mar-

riage registration officer can hear the first wife, and if she objects to her husband's second marriage, stating that it is invalid, the parties can be referred to a competent civil court to establish the validity of the second marriage.

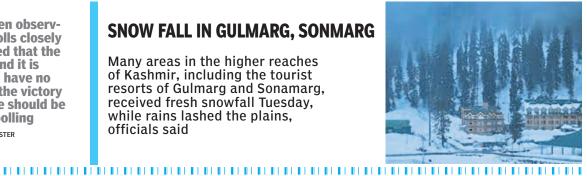
national



I have been observing the polls closely and it is confirmed that the NDA is winning and it is winning big. So, I have no questions about the victory but (I want) there should be more and more polling NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

SNOW FALL IN GULMARG, SONMARG

Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir, including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Sonamarg, received fresh snowfall Tuesday, while rains lashed the plains, officials said



ment has set a goal of making India a developed nation by the year 2047. Young people like students of Kumaun University have a significant role to play in achieving this goal

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

'Vande Mataram' is not merely a song -- it is the soul of India's free and a timeless ode to our motherland



break or disintegrate. The system is such that anything can happen in the world, but India will always remain safe

KIREN RIJIJU I UNION MINISTER





control the narrative through their IT Cell and media is BJP's biggest strength. Till last year, IT Cell and media were vocal

against pollution. This year, BJP is in power in Delhi. So, they have turned 'pro-pollution' (except for parali burning in Punjab).

SHORT **TAKES**

Ex-K'taka minister

HY Meti no more Bangalore: Karnataka

Congress MLA from Bagalkote

and former minister H Y Meti

died at a private hospital here

Tuesday, party and hospital

sources said. He was 79 and

was undergoing treatment

for breathing issues and other

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

visited the hospital to pay his

last respects to Meti, Meti, who

was chairman of the Bagalkote

Urban Development Authority.

is survived by two sons and two

daughters.

Violent clash

breaks out in TN

Salem: Supporters of PMK

founder S Ramadoss and his

son Anbumani clashed violently

near here on Tuesday and both

the camps levelled allegations

and counter-allegations over

while police said a probe was

on into the "clashes between

the two factions" of the party.

Ramadoss's loyalist, legislator

R Arul alleged that his convoy

was attacked by party leader Anbumani's supporters and

demanded that the police take

action against them. The rival

K Balu, an Anbumani loyalist,

camp leader, PMK spokesperson

alleged that party workers were

brutally assaulted by a gang led

by Arul, and he sought the arrest

of the legislator and his followers.

the trigger for the assault

age-related ailments, they said

@PunsterX

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON COLLEGE STUDENT

Three suspects shot at, nabbed by police

The three men--Satish alias Karuppsamy, his brother Karthi alias Kalishewaran. both from Virudhunagar district and their relative Guna alias Thavasi from Madurai district were nabbed late November 3 when they tried to attack the police team that went in search of them, City Police Commissioner A Saravana Sundar told reporters

Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Nov 4: Three suspects involved in the brutal sexual assault of a college student were shot at and nabbed by the police, after which Chief Minister M K Stalin directed filing a chargesheet within a month and ensure the culprits received maximum punishment in the case soon. The three men--Satish alias

Karuppsamy, his brother Karthi alias Kalishewaran, both from Virudhunagar district and their relative Guna alias Thavasi from Madurai district were nabbed late November 3 when they tried to attack the police team that went in search of them, City Police Commissioner A Saravana Sundar told reporters here. Condemning the sexual as-

sault, CM Stalin said the tragedy that befell the young lady was inhumane. No harsh words would be adequate to condemn such heinous crimes.

"The culprits involved in the case have been traced and arrested immediately. I have ordered the police to file a chargesheet within a month and get them the maximum punishment as soon as possible," Stalin said in a post on the social media platform 'X.'

He further said that "the progress that our women achieve in all fields will put an end to the patriarchal mentality of such perverted animals and will lead to our transformation into a completely progressive



According to Saravana Sundar, the investigators scanned about 300 CCTV footages and corroborated them with inputs received from the people and identified the exit route of the suspects, who were identified and swiftly traced at their hiding spot in Vellakinaru at around 10.40 pm of Monday.

'They attacked the police personnel, forcing the latter to use minimum force to overpower them by o pening fire below the knees," he said. A police constable was injured when the trio attacked the team.

Investigation revealed that they were related and have criminal cases, including murder, theft and hurt, pending against them and were attending a court case related to a murder case

"On the night of November 2. the three robbed a two-wheeler and were travelling on the mud road near the airport when they noticed the student and her

friend talking in the car," the Commissioner said. The trio broke the car windows with stones and inflicted cut injuries on the student's male friend before dragging her to a deserted place that had no lighting facility and committed the offence.

"There was no delay on the part of the police in responding to the SoS. Her friend made a call to the police control at 11.20 pm and the police arrived at the spot in 15 minutes. She was taken to the hospital after she emerged from the spot," Sundar said, adding, the woman was out of danger. The victim was being provided psychological counselling, the Commissioner said. Satish (30), Karthi (21), and Guna (20) were labourers and had also worked in a lathe unit. Preliminary investigation revealed that the trio, after robbing a two-wheeler had some alcoholic drinks and were proceeding by the airport when they noticed the couple and sexually assaulted the student.

Girl gangraped while returning from school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tinsukia, Nov 4: A girl was allegedly gang raped in Assam's Tinsukia district when she was returning home from school, police said Tuesday.

The incident happened in the Bordubi police station area Monday afternoon, they said. As per the girl's statement. three men raped and dumped her on the roadside while she was returning home from school, an officer said.

According to her family, the Class XII student did not return home after school, which ended at 2.30 pm, he said.

"Around 5 pm, an e-rickshaw driver informed the family that he had found her lying by the roadside in a semi-conscious condition in the vicinity of a tea garden. They rushed to the spot and found her with visible marks of injuries and clothes torn," the official said. He said a police team was sent to the spot immediately, and the girl was sent to a hospital.

"We are awaiting the medical report. In the meantime, we have launched a manhunt to nab the culprits," he added. The incident created shock and anger among the people, who are demanding the arrest of the accused.

Doctors at the Tinsukia Medical College and Hospital are



on framing nationwide seniority norms in HJS The bench is concerned over the slow and uneven career progression of entry-level judicial

SC reserves verdict



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Supreme Court Tuesday reserved its verdict on whether uniform, nationwide criteria should be framed for determining seniority in the Higher Judicial Service (HJS) to address disparities in career progression for judges across states.

A five-judge Constitution Bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices Surva Kant, Vikram Nath, K Vinod Chandran, and Joymalya Bagchi concluded extensive hearings, spanning three days, in the long-running All India Judges' Association case. The court is considering

whether a national framework is necessary to ensure equitable promotion opportunities for judicial officers entering service as civil judges (junior division). The bench heard a battery

of senior lawyers, including senior advocate and amicus curiae Sidharth Bhatnagar, Rakesh Dwivedi, P S Patwalia, Jayant Bhushan and Gopal Sankaranarayanan, among others. It took note of the situation that "in most of the states, judicial officers recruited as civil judge (CJ) often do not reach the level of principal district judge (PDJ), leave aside reaching the position of a high court judge. This has resulted in many bright young lawyers being dissuaded from joining the service at the level of CJ".

officers across India and began the hearing October 28 on framing uniform, nationwide criteria for determining seniority in the HJS cadre. The case was also heard Oc-

tober 19. During the hearing, the bench had said that some kind of nationwide "uniformity" in criteria for determining seniority of entry-level judicial officers is needed to deal with the slow and uneven career progression of such judges. On Tuesday, several coun

sel argued that inconsistency in recruitment cycles across states creates "bunching" leading to wide gaps in seniority and career progression. Sankaranarayanan, how-

ever, emphasised systemic imbalance and said, "The belief that direct recruits are always better is misplaced. There are high courts where not a single promotee serves among dozens of judges. On October 14, the bench

framed the question which reads: "What should be the criteria for determining seniority in the cadre of Higher Judicial Services". The bench had also clarified that while hearing the main issue, it can also consider "other ancillary or related issues". Bhatnagar, who is assisting the bench as an am icus curiae, advanced the sub missions and highlighted that promotions across most states were "driven more by seniority than by merit", owing largely to the way Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) are evaluated

"Almost everyone has ACRs marked as 'Good' or 'Very Good,' which means seniority becomes the de facto determin ing factor," he said.

SC concerned over misuse of POCSO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The POC-SO act is being misused in cases of marital discord and consensual relationships between adolescents, the Supreme Court said Tuesday while stressing the need to spread awareness in boys and men about its legal

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan was hearing a PIL seeking directions to sensitise people about the penal provisions for rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to make the country a better place for girls and women.

"One thing, we would like to remark. POCSO Act is being misused in cases of marital discords and matters pertaining to consensual relationships between adolescents.

We should spread awareness in boys and men about the legal provisions," the bench $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($ remarked orally.

The apex court had earlier issued notices to the Centre, the Union ministries of Education and Information and Broadcasting and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) on the plea filed by senior advocate Aabad Harshad Ponda. Ponda said there is need to inform people about the laws regarding rape and the change in such laws after the Nirbhaya case.

The plea seeks several measures, including directing the education ministry to ask all educational institutions providing free and compulsory education to children aged up to 14 years to incorporate the penal provisions regarding offences against women and children.



'The Railway Administra-

tion is extending all possible

assistance to the affected pas-

sengers and their families.

Continuous coordination is

being maintained with district

authorities and medical teams

A man throws fallen 'Chinar' leaves in the air amidst the autumn foliage in Srinagar

Bilaspur train mishap: Railways alleges signal breach

"Passing Signal at Danger by DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) train seems to be the reason in the preliminary assessment by railway authorities," a press note

from the Railway Board stated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Hours after a local passenger train collided with a goods train near Bilaspur station in Chhattisgarh claiming eight lives, the Railway Board Tuesday said the accident took place as the passenger train seems to have overshot a red signal.

The collision took place around 4 pm when the DE-MU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) train was heading to Bi-

laspur from Gevra in neighbouring Korba district, railway officials said, adding it rammed into the goods train from behind between Gatora and Bilaspur stations.

'Passing Signal at Danger by DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) train seems to be the reason in the preliminary assessment by railway authorities," a press note from the Railway Board stated. "An unfortunate incident

involving a collision between a goods train and a DEMU local train occurred near Bilaspur railway station today. The Railway Administration has taken swift action to initiate relief and rescue operations on a war footing," the press note said.

Senior officials have reached the site and are closely monitoring the situation, it said, adding six persons died and five were injured in the incident.

The injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals for



immediate medical assistance, the note said.

According to the Railway Board, ex gratia compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased, Rs 5 lakh to those grievously injured and Rs 1 lakh to those with minor

sures," the Board said. It added, "A detailed inqui-

to ensure prompt relief mea-

ry into the incident will be conducted at the level of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) to ascertain the exact cause and recommend necessary corrective actions.' Emergency contact

Bilaspur numbers of 7777857335, 7869953330; Cham-8085956528; Raigarh 9752485600; Pendra Road -8294730162; Korba - 7869953330 and Uslapur – 7777857338, have been made operational for the convenience of passengers and their families.

"Passengers and their relatives may contact these numbers for necessary information and assistance. The Railway Administration continues to monitor the situation closely and is ensuring all possible relief and support to the affected," the Board said.

Bihar polls: FIR filed against JD(U)'s Lalan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 4: An FIR was registered against Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' Tuesday for making a contro versial statement against op position leaders during campaigning for arrested JD(U) candidate Anant Singh in Bi har's Mokama, the Patna district administration said.

The minister landed in a fresh controversy with the surfacing of a video in which he purportedly asked NDA supporters to intimidate the Opponents on polling day.

"The video footage was examined by the District Administration, Patna. Following the investigation, an FIR has been registered against Lalan Singh alias Rajiv Ranjan Singh under the sections of the BNSS and the Representation of the People Act," the Patna district administration said in a post on X.

The video is of Mokama, which falls under Lalan's Munger Lok Sabha seat, where the former JD(U) president's de fence of party candidate Anant Singh, arrested in a murder case last week, has already drawn flak from the opposition

In the footage, Lalan could be heard saying, in Magahi, that "There are some people out here whom you must not allow to venture out on the polling day. Lock them up in side their homes. If they cajole you, accompany them to polling booths and ensure that they go home after casting their votes.

Lalan's video, the authenticity of which could not be independently verified by PTI, went viral on social media. Anant Singh, who seeks to reclaim Mokama seat, along with his two other associates -- Manikant Thakur and Ran jeet Ram -- were arrested in the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday in connection with the murder of Jan Suraaj Party supporter Dular Chand Yadav



Delhi police thwart

Kala inside Tihar Jail, an official said Tuesday. The accused -Vinod (27) and Dhruy (19), both residents of Jharoda Kalan were under police radar after the police learnt that they frequently visited Tihar Jail to meet Om Parkash and his brother Amit alias Bage, who are currently in judicial custody

in separate cases.

international



Just as President Park **Chung-hee paved the** highway for industrialisation and President Kim Dae-jung built the highway for the information age, we must now construct the highway for the AI era to open a future of progress and growth

LEE JAE MYUNG

8 ANCIENT SITES DISCOVERED IN PAK

Eight new ancient sites have been discovered across Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province stretching from Swat to Taxila during the ongoing excavation and exploration work in the region. The discoveries were made by Italian archaeologists in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Directorate of Archaeology.





performance that we inherited from the last gov ernment is weake

thought. We're putting in more, we're getting out less

RACHEL REEVES | UK TREASURY CHIEF

China



of religion or human rights and opposes the arbitrary use of sanctions and threats of force MAO NING | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

We all spy on each other. but we don't conduct wholesale intellectual propertv theft. We don't actually interfere



MIKE BURGESS | DIRECTOR-GENERAL, AUSTRA LIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

SHORT **TAKES**

Sudan war out of control: UN chief

Dubai: The United Nations secretary-general warned Tuesday that the war in Sudan is "spiralling out of control" after a paramilitary force seized the besieged and famine-stricken Darfur city of el-Fasher. Speaking in Qatar, Antonio Guterres called for an immediate ceasefire in the two-year conflict that's become one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. "Hundreds of thousands of civilians are trapped by this siege," Guterres said. "People are dying of malnutrition, disease and violence." He noted "credible reports of widespread executions since the Rapid Support Forces entered the city." The paramilitary RSF reportedly killed more than 450 people in a hospital and carried out ethnically targeted killings of civilians and sexual assaults while seizing the city last week. It had besieged el-Fasher for 18 months, cutting off most food and other supplies needed by tens of thousands of people. The war between the RSF and the Sudanese military began in April 2023. More than 40,000 people have been killed, according to UN figures, but aid groups say the true death toll could be many times higher.

Ex-US Vice President **Dick Cheney dies**

Washington: Dick

Cheney, the hard-charging conservative who became one of the most powerful and polarising vice presidents in US history and a leading advocate for the invasion of Irag, has died at age 84. Cheney died Monday night due to complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, his family said in a statement. "For decades, Dick Cheney served our nation, including as White House Chief of Staff, Wyoming's Congressman, Secretary of Defence, and Vice President of the United States," the statement said. Dick Cheney was a great and good man who taught his children and grandchildren to love our country, and to live lives of courage, honour, love, kindness, and fly fishing. We are grateful beyond measure for all Dick Cheney did for our country. And we are blessed beyond measure to have loved and been loved by this noble giant of a man." The quietly forceful Chenev served father and son presidents, leading the armed forces as defence chief during the Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush before returning to public life as vice president under Bush's son George W. Bush. Cheney was, in effect, the chief operating officer of the younger Bush's presidency

US goes to polls; all eyes on NYC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 4: Polls opened Tuesday across the US as the country headed to a crucial poll, with all eyes set on the important New York City mayoral election, where Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani is emerging as a front-runner.

November 4 is election day across the US, with polls opening from 6 am to 9 pm. The early voting period, which commenced on October 25, ended Sunday. This is the first national election in the second term of Donald Trump's presidency, and the results will also shine a spotlight on the country's mood towards the current White House administration.

Apart from the NYC mayoral election, ballots for the governor of New Jersey and Virginia will also be closely watched.

and raised in New York City, is a New York State Assembly member and democratic socialist running for Mayor.

The Democratic nominee will face off against former New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, who is running as an independent candidate and the Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa on the ballots. Current New York City Mayor Eric Adams. whose administration has been plagued by scandals, dropped out of the mayoral race in September.

Mamdani has been leading Cuomo in the polls in the race up to the ballots, with most surveys showing him up by double digits.

Mamdani, the son of renowned Indian filmmaker Mira Nair and Mahmood Mamdani. a Ugandan author of Indian ancestry, upset Cuomo in the

New York City mayor and was declared victorious in June.

As the New York City mayoral race entered its final lap. President Trump officially endorsed the former New York State Governor, saying in a post on Truth Social, "Whether you personally like Andrew Cuomo or not, you really have no choice. You must vote for him and hope he does a fantastic job He is capable of it, Mamdani

With New Yorkers going to the polls, Trump warned voters that the city would be a "complete and total economic and social disaster" and would not survive if Mamdani won the mayoral race.

"If Communist Candidate Zohran Mamdani wins the Election for Mayor of New York City, it is highly unlikely that I will be contributing Federal Funds, other than the

very minimum as required. to my beloved first home, because of the fact that, as a Communist, this once great City has ZERO chance of success, or even survival!

"It can only get worse with a Communist at the helm, and I don't want to send, as President, good money after bad. It is my obligation to run the Nation, and it is my strong conviction that New York City will be a Complete and Total Economic and Social Disaster should Mamdani win, Trump said.

Slamming Mamdani, Trump said his principles have been tested for "over a thousand years", and never once have they been successful.

'I would much rather see a Democrat, who has had a Record of Success, WIN, than a Communist with no experience and a Record of COMPLETE AND TOTAL FAILURE," Trump said.

On Trump's endorsement of Cuomo, Mamdani said. "We've known since the Primary that Andrew Cuomo was funded by the same billionaires that gave us Donald Trump's second term... even iust until these final days, (Cuomo) denied that he was Donald Trump's preferred candidate.

"But now it's written out for the entire world to see. This is the man that Donald Trump wants to be the next mayor of New York City, and not because he'll be good for New Yorkers but because he'll be good for Donald Trump and New Yorkers are exhausted of this agenda in Washington. They don't want to see a mimic of it come here

Typhoon leaves 26 dead in Philippines



Manila, Nov 4: Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 26 people dead in the Philippines, mostly in flooding set off by the storm. which barreled across the central part of the country on Tuesday, disaster response officials said. Floodwaters trapped scores of people on their roofs and submerged cars.

A Philippine air force helicopter with five personnel on board crashed in a separate incident in southern Agusan del Sur province while flying to help provide humanitarian assistance to provinces battered by Kalmaegi. The Super Huey chopper crashed near Loreto town, and efforts were underway to locate the air force personnel aboard, the military's Eastern Mindanao Command said in a statement.

Military officials didn't immediately provide other details about the crash, including the condition of the five air force personnel aboard and what could have caused the crash.

over the coastal waters of Jordan town in the central province of Guimaras with sustained winds of 130 kph (81 mph) and gusts of up to 180 kph (112 mph). It was forecast to blow away into the South China Sea late Tuesday or ear ly Wednesday after hitting the western province of Palawan.

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defence, said that at least 26 people were reported killed, many in flooding in Cebu province and other central island provinces pummeled by Kalmaegi, the 20th tropical cy clone to batter the Philippine archipelago this year. Details of those typhoon deaths were still being verified, he said. Among the dead was an old

er villager, who drowned in floodwaters in Southern Leyte, where a province-wide power outage was reported after the typhoon made landfall around midnight in one of its eastern towns. A resident died after being hit by a fallen tree in central Bohol province, provincial

9 climbers killed in Ukrainian drones reach deep inside Russia Nepal avalanches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 4: At least nine climbers, including two Nepalese guides, have been killed in two separate avalanches in Nepal, officials said Tuesday.

Seven climbers were buried in an avalanche near Mt. Yalung Ri (6,920m) under Gaurishanker Rural Municipality at around 10 am on Monday while attempting to scale the peak, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Gyan Kumar Mahato.

A joint rescue mission have been mobilised to retrieve the bodies of the seven climbers, he said.

The deceased climbers include two Nepali citizens, two Italians identified as Paolo Cocco and Marco Di Marcello, a Canadian, a French, and a German national.

Five others, including three Nepalis and two French nationals, were injured and airlifted to hospitals in Kathmandu. Four more climbers with minor injuries were also rescued from the site.

In a separate incident, two Italian climbers, Stefano Far-



ronato and Alessandro Caputo, who had been missing after heavy snowfall since October 28, were found dead inside their tent at Camp I of Mt. Panbari (6,887m) in the Manaslu region.

Their bodies were recovered Tuesday from an altitude of 5,242 metres, police said.

Another Italian climber, Velter Paralion, who was stranded with them, was rescued Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Nepal Tourism Board has issued a condolence message on the demise of the mountaineers in the Himalavas of Nepal.

Moscow, Nov 4: Ukrainian long-range drones attacked an industrial plant around 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) inside Russia, local officials said Tuesday, while Ukraine's army remained locked in an intense battle to hold back a Russian push on the key city of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region.

Two drones targeted an industrial facility in Sterlitamak, a city in Russia's Bashkortostan region, regional Gov. Radiy Habirov said in an online statement. He didn't specify what facility was targeted, but he said that both drones were shot down. There were no casualties, and the facility was operating normally, he said.

Meanwhile, the city administration reported an explosion at the Sterlitamak Petrochemical Plant caused the plant's water treatment facility to partially collapse. adding that the cause of the explosion was not known. The plant, which makes rubber and aviation fuel, is not known to have been attacked

Ukraine's daring strikes deep inside Russia using do-

mestically produced drones have embarrassed Moscow, with officials being unforthcoming about any damage, unnerved Russians. Ukraine has taken aim at manufacturing plants, oil refineries and military logistics hubs in a bid to disrupt Russia's war effort almost four years after Moscow launched an all-out invasion.

Explosions were also heard at an industrial area of the

Nizhny Novgorod region, some 800 kilometres (500 miles) from Ukraine, where an oil refinery and a petrochemical plant are located, Russian media reported. Officials did not confirm the reports.

Both Bashkortostan and Nizhny Novgorod are among the regions where the Russian Defence Ministry said Tuesday that Ukrainian drones were shot down, claiming that

85 were intercepted overnight Ukrainian officials said Russia bombarded the southeastern Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine with drones, missiles and artillery over night, killing one person and injuring 11 others, including

two children. Russia fired seven missiles of various types and 130 strike and decoy drones at Ukraine during the night, Ukraine's air force said.

'Hara hachi bu': Japanese concept of eating until 80% full

THE CONVERSATION

Cardiff (UK), Nov 4: Some of the world's healthiest and longest-living people follow the practice of "hara hachi bu" an eating philosophy rooted in moderation. This practice comes from a Japanese Confucian teaching which instructs people to only eat until they're around 80 per cent full.

More recently, it's been gaining attention as a strategy for weight loss. But while hara hachi bu might emphasise eating in moderation and stopping before you're full, it shouldn't really be as seen as a method of dietary restriction. Rather, it represents a way of eating that can help us learn to have awareness and gratitude while slowing down at mealtimes.

Research on hara hachi bu is limited. Previous studies have evaluated the overall dietary patterns of those living in regions where this eating philosophy is more commonplace, not the "80 per cent rule" in isolation. However, the available evi-

dence does suggest hara hachi hu can reduce total daily calorie intake. It's also associated with lower long-term weight gain and lower average body mass index (BMI). The practice also aligns with healthier meal-pattern choices in men, with participants choosing to eat more vegetables at mealtimes and fewer grains when following hara hachi bu.

Hara hachi bu also shares many similar principles with the concepts of mindful eat-



ing or intuitive eating. These non-diet, awareness-based approaches encourage a stronger connection with internal hunger and satiety cues. Research shows both approaches can

also help reduce emotional

eating and enhance overall

diet quality.

Hara hachi bu may also have many advantages that go beyond losing weight.

For instance, hara hachi bu's focus on awareness and eating intuitively may offer a gentle and sustainable way of supporting long-term health changes. Sustainable health changes are far easier to maintain in the long-term. This may improve health and prevent weight regain, which can be a risk for those who lose weight through traditional diet approaches.

The ethos of hara hachi bu also makes perfect sense in the context of modern life and may help us develop a better relationship with the food we eat.

Evidence suggests that around 70 per cent of adults and children use digital devices while eating. This behaviour has been linked to higher calorie intake, lower fruit and vegetable intake and a greater incidence of disordered eating behaviours including restriction,

binge eating and overeating.

Being more aware of the food we eat and taking time to taste, enjoy and truly experience it as hara hachi bu emphasises, can allow us to reconnect with our bodies, support digestion and make more nourishing food Importantly, hara hachi bu

is not meant to be a restrictive eating approach. It promotes moderation and eating in tune with your body - not "eating

While often reduced to a simple "80 per cent full" guideline. hara hachi bu reflects a much broader principle of mindful moderation. At its core, it's about tuning into the body, honouring hunger without overindulgence and appreciating food as fuel — a timeless habit worth ado

business



Low prices of steel in the market now is a problem for small companies, especially when the government is aiming to increase capacity of this important sector in the next five to seven vears

SANDEEP POUNDRIK | STEEL SECRETARY

CHATGPT GO 1-YEAR FREE IN INDIA

OpenAI's ChatGPT Go subscription service went live in India, Tuesday, offering one-year free access to users in India who sign up during the limited-time promotional period. The promotion is available now for redemption from the ChatGPT web or the Google Play store, and will be available to redeem next week from the Apple app store. ChatGPT Go is OpenAI's recently launched subscription tier that offers increased message limits, image generation, and file uploads for users in India





have heard this expression of twin balance sheet problem in 2012-13 and to correct that,

it took us nearly six years. Now I am confident to say our Indian banks stand out exemplary in terms of the asset quality, credit and deposit growth

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER



coverage....adding that, advanced data integration and analytics are crucial for sustainable ocean governance.

S SOMANATH | FORMER ISRO CHAIRMAN

India negotiates with advanced countries and is to their future. as

keen to contribute we would like them to contribute to our future for a

Viksit Bharat. PIYUSH GOYAL I

UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

APSEZ net rises

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), Tuesday reported a 29 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,120 crore for the quarter ended September 2025, driven by strong growth in the logistics, marine and international operations. The consolidated net profit of the company stood at Rs 2,413 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2024, the company said in a regulatory

IndiGo posts loss

New Delhi: The country's largest airline IndiGo, Tuesday reported a loss of Rs 2,582.10 crore in the September quarter. The airline, which had a loss of Rs 986.7 crore in the year-ago period, said hedging actions and more revenues in foreign currencies from international operations, will help cushion the currency movements. It had a profit of Rs 2,176.30 crore in the June quarter.

IHCL net tanks

New Delhi: Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), Tuesday reported a 45 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit of Rs 318.26 crore for the second quarter ended September 2025. In the yearago period, the country's biggest hospitality player had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 582.71 crore. The decline is despite revenue growth during the July-September quarter under review, as revenue from operations stood at Rs 2,040.89 crore, as against Rs 1,826.12 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

Suzlon net iump

New Delhi: Renewable energy solutions provider Suzlon's consolidated net profit witnessed a nearly sixfold jump to Rs 1,279 crore in the September quarter of this financial year, compared to the year-ago period. The company has reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 200.60 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2024, it said in a regulatory filing.

SBI Q2 jumps

Mumbai: The State Bank of India (SBI), Tuesday reported a 6.84 per cent jump in consolidated net profit for the September quarter at Rs 21,137 crore, helped by a gain of Rs 4,593 crore from its stake sale in Yes Bank. The country's largest lender reported a 10 per cent increase in the July-September quarter profit to Rs 20,160 crore, up from Rs 18,331 crore in the year-ago period.

NCLAT lifts CCI ban on WhatsApp

New Delhi, Nov 4: Appellate tribunal NCLAT, Tuesday set aside a section of a Competition Commission of India (CCI) order that had banned WhatsApp from sharing data with Meta Platforms for advertising purposes for five years.

Modifying the order passed by the CCI, November 18, 2024, the NCLAT set aside section 247.1 of the 158-page-long order. However, the tribunal retained the Rs 213 crore penalty on the company and the rest of the "We are setting aside the

findings of the Commission insofar as it holds breach of Section 4 (2)(D) and setting aside the directions in paragraph 247.1, (which stated) WhatsApp will not share user data collected on its platform with other data companies or advertising purposes for a period of five years from the date of receipt of this order," said NCLAT bench while pronouncing its order orally in the open court.

"In respect of such sharing of data for advertising purposes,

VENUE N Line, redefining

technology, and thrilling

Hyundai's philosophy of

the compact SUV segment

with a bold design, advanced

performance. Priced from Rs 7.89 lakh (ex-showroom), the

new VENUE lineup embodies

'Tech up. Go beyond," offer-

superior safety, and dynamic

ing enhanced connectivity,

styling. Unsoo Kim, Manag-



the rest of the impugned order is upheld. The order dated 18 November 2024 is modified accordingly," said a two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Arun Baroka, Member,

A detailed copy of the judgement on this is awaited.

Earlier in September, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) reserved its order after completing its hearing over the petitions filed by Meta Platforms and WhatsApp against the orders of the CCI, in which the fair trade regulator had imposed a penalty on both

Hvundai unveils All-New VENUE and VENUE N Line

ing Director of HMIL, said, "The all-new VENUE marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter as

the first product from our Pune plant and among 26 new models to be

launched by 2030. It represents our commitment to India, backed by an

investment of Rs 45,000 crore." TarunGarg, Whole-Time Director & COO added, "Since its 2019 debut, the VENUE has sold over seven lakh units,

becoming one of India's top compact SUVs. The new VENUE, exclusively

made in India for global markets, strengthens Hyundai's SUV leadership

and showcases our 'Make in India for the World' vision." The redesigned

VENUE stands out with its assertive stance, wider dimensions, and confi

dent road presence, setting new benchmarks for compact SUVs.

SAMBALPUR: Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) marked a major

milestone with the global debut of the all-new Hyundai VENUE and

social media major Meta for unfair business ways with respect to the WhatsApp privacy policy update done in 2021.

Both technology companies

had also challenged a penalty of Rs 213.14 crore on the social media major for unfair business practices with respect to the WhatsApp privacy policy update done in 2021.

In November last year, the CCI imposed a penalty of Rs 213.14 crore on social media major Meta with respect to the WhatsApp privacy policy update done in 2021.

Platforms Meta and

cybersecurity awareness

JHARSUGUDA: Vedanta

Aluminium, India's largest

collaboration with Odisha

Police, organised a session

of the state government's

Cyber Security awareness

its Jharsuguda operations

to promote safe digital practices under the theme

Stop. Verify. Be Secure.'

campaign – Odisha 2025 at

aluminium producer, in

Vedanta, Odisha Police to promote

The event aimed to spread awareness about cyber threats such as phishing,

OTP/QR scams, identity theft, and deepfake manipulation, while encouraging responsible online behaviour and secure digital transactions. Eminent officials

Madhusmita Mishra and James Samad, Additional SPs; Jyotsnamayee Pradhan,

Vedanta Jharsuguda, said, "At Vedanta, safety extends beyond our plants into

our digital lives. Awareness and vigilance are our first lines of defence." SP GR

and urged citizens to adopt the "Stop. Verify. Be Secure" habit

Raghvendra emphasized that cybercrime prevention is a collective responsibility

Uma Shankar Singh, and Rajendra Sial, were present along with Vedanta employ-ees, partners, and township residents. Speaking on the occasion, C Chandru, CEO,

from Odisha Police, including G R Raghvendra, IPS, Superintendent of Police;

order before the NCLAT, which in January this year passing an interim order, stayed the fiveyear ban imposed by the CCI on data-sharing practices between WhatsApp and Meta for advertising purposes, offering a breather to the tech giant. According to a CCI order,

Meta and WhatsApp have also been asked to implement certain behavioural remedies within a defined timeline to address the anti-competition

The regulator has called for implementing various remedial measures, including barring WhatsApp from sharing data collected on its platform with other Meta companies or Meta company products for advertising purposes for five years.

Among other directions, CCI has said that sharing of user da ta collected on WhatsApp with other Meta companies or Meta company products for purposes other than for providing WhatsApp services shall not be made a condition for users to access WhatsApp services in India.

Sensex tanks over 519 pts on foreign fund outflows



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. Nov 4: Benchmark Sensex tanked 519 points and broader Nifty settled below the 25,600 level, Tuesday due to profit-taking in utility, metal and IT shares triggered by weak global trends and foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 519.34 points, or 0.62 per cent, to settle at 83,459,15 with 25 of its constituents ending lower and five with gains. During the day, it tanked 565.72 points, or 0.67 per cent, to 83,412.77. The 50-share NSE Nifty de-

clined 165.70 points, or 0.64 per cent, to 25,597.65. It hit a low of 25,578.40 due to losses in bluechip shares such as PowerGrid, Eternal and Adani Enterprises.

Among Sensex firms, Power Grid fell the most by 3.13 per cent after the utility posted a decline in the September quarter profit. Eternal dropped 2.79 per cent. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle by 2.53 per cent, Tata Steel by 1.86 per cent, Maruti by 1.76 per cent and Bharat Electronics by 1.69 per cent.

However, Titan was the biggest gainer, rising by 2.28 per cent on strong Q2 financial results. The company reported a 59 per cent jump in consolidatfor the September quarter of FY26. Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, and State Bank of India were the gainers

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,883.78 crore, Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 3,516.36 crore in the previous trade. The BSE smallcap gauge

dropped 0.69 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.26 per cent. Utilities tumbled the most by 1.56 per cent, followed by metal

1.40 per cent, commodities (1.11 per cent), BSE Focused IT (1.08 per cent), IT (1.06 per cent) power (0.99 per cent) and realty (0.83 per cent). Telecommunication jumped

0.93 per cent and consumer durables climbed 0.11 per cent. A total of 2,549 stocks de clined while 1,618 advanced

and 162 remained unchanged on the BSE Stock markets would remain

closed, Wednesday for Guru Nanak Jayanti.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled lower.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.34 per cent to \$64.02 a barrel.

New low for Gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Gold prices plunged by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,24,100 per 10 grams in the national capital, Tuesday amid weak global cues after comments from several US Federal Reserve officials dampened expectations of another rate cut next month.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,23,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). extending its losses for the second straight session. It had settled at Rs 1,24,700 per 10 grams, Monday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had finished at Rs 1,25,300 per 10 grams in the previous market

"Gold fell, Tuesday, pressured by a strong US dollar and hawkish remarks from several Federal Reserve officials, who dismissed the possibility of another interest rate cut next month," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Silver also fell sharply by Rs 2,500 to Rs 1,51,500 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), Tuesday from the previous close of Rs 1,54,000 per kg, Monday.

Govt launches 3rd round of PLI scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The government Tuesday launched the third round of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for speciality steel to attract investment in the sector, as part of its objective to boost domestic output and reduce imports.

Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy launched the scheme buoyed by the investment commitment of around Rs 44.000 crore in the first two rounds.

He informed that the PLI scheme for speciality steel was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2021 to encourage production of high-value, highgrade steels used in sectors such as defence, aerospace, energy, automobiles, and in-

frastructure. The scheme with a total outlay of Rs 6.322 crore aims to add about 26 million tonnes of speciality steel capacity over the

next few years. "So far, the PLI scheme has attracted investment commitments worth Rs 43.874 crore... and is expected to add 14.3 million tonnes of new specialty steel capacity in India," Kumaraswamy said.



According to the latest data, as of September 2025, companies participating in the first two rounds have already invested Rs 22,973 crore and generated 13,284 jobs.

"The response to the first two rounds has been highly encouraging. The success demonstrates the strength of India's reform-oriented and industry-driven policy framework," the minister said.

Kumaraswamy said the 'PLI 1.2' is designed to accelerate India's journey towards becoming a global hub for high-grade steel production.

"It will attract new investments in emerging and advanced categories such as super alloys, CRGO steel, stainless steel long and flat products, titanium alloys, and coated steels. materials that are essential for next-generation industrial and defence applications," he added.

The third round will also open up new avenues for both existing and new players, including MSMEs, who have expanded or upgraded their investment plans after the earlier rounds.

'Through this initiative, we aim not just to produce steel for India, but to supply the world from India," the minister noted.

When asked about the expected investment in the third round. Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik said it would be known over the next few months. He said there have been some relaxations in the current third round of this scheme to encourage investors.

The PLI scheme incentivises incremental production and investment in identified product categories, thereby enhancing value addition within the country and reducing import dependence in critical sectors, such as defence, power, aerospace and infrastructure.

The scheme covers 22 product sub-categories, including super alloys, CRGO, alloy forgings, stainless steel (long and flat), titanium alloys, and coated steels.

Incentive rates range from 4 per cent to 15 per cent, applicable for five years starting 2025-26, with disbursal beginning in the next fiscal. The base year for pricing has also been updated to 2024-25 to better reflect current trends.

As per government data. the first round of PLI attracted investment commitment of Rs 27,106 crore. Out of this, Rs 22,343 crore has already been invested till September this

The second round of PLI 1.1 received a commitment of Rs 17,000 crore, of which Rs 630 crore has been invested till September 2025.

₹ rebounds 7p against S

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 4: The rupee recovered from the record low level and settled with a gain of 7 paise at 88.70 against the US dollar, Tuesday, boosted by a correction

Forex traders said a firm dollar, foreign fund outflows and subdued domestic equity mar kets prevented a sharp gain in the Indian currency.

in global crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.55 and hit the intra-day high of 88.28 against the greenback The unit finally closed at 88.70 up 7 paise from its previous

closing level. Monday, the domestic unit, declining for the third consec utive session, ended 7 paise lower at 88.77 against the US dollar near its all-time closing level.

The rupee had recorded its lowest-ever closing level of 88.81 against the dollar, October 14. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Cur rency, LKP Securities, said the rupee started the session on a strong note, "likely supported by intervention".

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.09 per cent to 99.80.

Strengthening India's agricultural backbone: Govt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 4: Strengthening the synergy between education, innovation, and skilling is crucial to India's agricultural progress, said the government, Tuesday

Agriculture provides the primary livelihood for nearly half of India's population and contributes about 18 per cent

To raise productivity, reduce costs, and achieve national goals, building human capacity is vital. This can be achieved via higher education, research, and hands-on training, the government said, while also calling these "key pillars of the sector".

These pillars form "the institutional and scientific base essential for sustaining the targeted 5 per cent agricultural growth rate and achieving the national vision of 'Viksit Krishi aur Samruddh Kisan' (Developed Agriculture and Prosperous Farmer) -- the core philosophy of 'Viksit Bharat'. "India's agricultural educa-

tion and training system today reflects a well-integrated approach linking education, research, technology, and field-level skill development," the government said in an official statement. Recognising modern farming

requirements, the government has also prioritised capacity

building to help farmers adapt to technological innovations, climatic and market transformations.

Programmes such as the Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), Sub-Mission on Ag-

ricultural Mechanization Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PM-KVY), and initiatives through Krishi Vigvan Kendras (KVKs) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) are equipping farmers with practical knowledge and vocational expertise for sustainable agriculture practices. 'The continuous emphasis

on quality education, accreditation reforms, and farmer-centric training is helping bridge the gap between scientific research and practical application," the government said.

In addition, the inclusion of technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and precision farming tools is driving a significant shift toward modern and data-based agriculture.

Through initiatives like the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), and the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), farmers and rural youth are being equipped with essential technical and entrepreneurial skills, fostering employment and self-reliance in villages. "Together, these efforts are

contributing to higher productivity, better incomes, and sustainable use of resources. As India aims for self-reliance in food production and a resilient rural economy, strengthening this synergy between education, innovation, and skilling will remain central to the na tion's agricultural progress, the government said.

Divesh & Umed joint lead after Round 1

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The

AGENCIES

Never stop dreaming: Harmanpreet

New Delhi, Nov 4: Still quite overwhelmed by emotions, India's newest World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur has recalled how picking up her sports tragic father's "big" cricket bat as a kid ignited the dream that is now a reality.

After leading India to a 52-run win over South Africa in the women's World Cup summit clash in Navi Mumbai Sunday, Harmanpreet, in a video posted by the BCCI, recalled her childhood and also had one advice for aspiring young players – "Never stop dreaming. You never know where your destiny will take you."

"Ever since, I was a kid, I've always had a bat in my hand. I still remember we used to play with a bat from my dad's kit bag. The bat was very big. One day, my dad carved a small bat for me out of one of his old bats. We used to play with it."

"Whenever we used to watch a match on TV, or watch India play, or watch the World Cup, I used to think, I need an opportunity like this. At that time, I didn't even know about women's cricket," Harmanpreet said.

Harmanpreet's father Harmandar Singh Bhullar dabbled in cricket and football before settling for a clerk's job at a local judicial court in Punjab's Moga, the city where she was born and brought up.

With the firm support of her father, the journey which began as a child culminated into a World Cup trophy for Harmanpreet Sunday. None of it came easy but Harmanpreet said she wasn't the one to get bogged down by the challenges that were integral to women's cricket.

"I was dreaming, when will I wear this blue jersey? So I



The victorious Indian women's cricket team led by Harmanpreet Kaur touched down in the national capital Tuesday evening for its meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday.

The squad members along with head coach Amol Muzumdar got a warm reception at the Mumbai airport where a sizeable crowd came to see them off.

However, at the General Aviation Terminal (GA), a specialised dedicated facility at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, there was only a posse of mediapersons present with general public not allowed due to security protocol.

operated a special charter flight (S5-8328) to carry the team to Delhi from Mumbai. Upon arrival at IGI, the Indian team members left for the hotel and are scheduled to meet the prime minister Wednesday evening, before dispersing for their respective home towns. PM Modi will felicitate the triumphant Indian team during the meeting.

at an average of 71.37 to break

the record for the most runs at

any single edition of the Wom-

Gardner and leg-spinner Ala-

na King feature from the Aus-

tralian team that reached the

Annabel Sutherland, Ash

en's World Cup.

Star Air, a regional airline,

My job was to apply finishing touches, says Richa Ghosh



MUMBAI: India's World Cup-winning team was built on trust and role clarity, feels dashing keeper-batter Richa Ghosh, who was assigned the finisher's role by head coach Amol Muzumdar.

"My main job was to finish innings strongly by scoring quickly in the final overs," the 22-year-old said on JioStar's Follow The Blues.

"Whenever I got the chance to bat, my focus was on applying the finishing touches. I aimed to maintain a high strike-rate and put pressure on the opposition bowlers.

Mandhana, Jemimah, Deepti in ICC Women's WC Team of Tournament

"Scoring those extra runs reduces the pressure on our team and gives us a better chance to win," added Richa who played a blistering 34 off 24 balls in the final batting at No 7 to lift India to 298/7. In reply, South Africa folded for 246.

She further credited head coach Amol Muzumdar for creating an environment where every player knew exactly what was expected of them.

"Amol sir made everyone's role in the team very clear."

"For me, it was to play fearless cricket, look for the big shots and finish the innings strongly," she said, adding that Muzumdar's reassurance to "take time to settle in" gave her the confidence to back her strengths under pressure.

Richa, who often walked in during the final overs, said she had worked hard in the leadup to the tournament to balance aggression with patience.

side reach the semi-finals, while

compatriot Nat Sciver-Brunt is

TEAM Smriti Mandhana (India).

Laura Wolvaardt (c) (South

Africa), Jemimah Rodrigues

(South Africa), Ash Gardner

(Australia), Deepti Sharma

(India), Annabel Sutherland

(Australia), Nadine de Klerk

(South Africa), Sidra Nawaz

(wk) (Pakistan), Alana King

(Australia), Sophie Ecclestone

(India), Marizanne Kapp

named as the 12th player.

Haryana duo of Divesh Rana and Umed Kumar fired scores of five-under 67 to take the joint lead in round one of the PGTI NEXGEN's Dilip Tirkey Invitational 2025, being played at the Bhubaneswar Golf Club. Saurav Rathi and Bipin Mukhiya were placed two shots

Saurav Rathi and Bipin Mukhiya were placed two shots behind the joint leaders in tied third place at PGTI's first-ever event being played in the state of Odisha.

Pradeep Bhagat was the highest-placed among the local professionals at the INR 20 lakh event after he shot a 77 to be tied 37th in the 58-man field.

The 27-year-old Divesh Rana, who hails from Faridabad, collected four birdies on the first 10 holes as he landed a couple of shots within two feet of the flag. After dropping a bogey on the 13th, the strongly-built Divesh regained his touch with a brilliant tee shot on the Par-4 15th that stopped just half a foot from the pin, resulting in an eagle for him.

Divesh said, "It was a great experience playing here at the Bhubaneswar Golf Club for the first time. The greens at this course are in top shape. Importantly, I was very consistent off the tees, which helped me negotiate the narrow fairways well."

Umed Kumar of Chandimandir, a winner on the NEX-GEN this year and currently placed second in the Order of Merit, also carded a 67 featuring six birdies and a bogey to join Divesh at the top. The 24-year-old Umed said, "I made most of the fairways today, and my approach shots were excellent. That set up a good score for me. This course is a lot like my home course in Chandimandir, so I'm quite comfortable playing here."

SHORT **TAKES**

India to face Thailand in U-23 friendly Nov 15

New Delhi: The Indian Under-23

men's football team will travel to Bangkok to play an international friendly against Thailand U-23 November 15 during the FIFA international match window. The Blue Colts will assemble for a preparatory camp in Kolkata from November 7 before departing for Thailand. The match will be held at the Thammasat Stadium in Pathum Thani November 15. India U-23s had earlier travelled to Taiikistan in June to play against the hosts and Kyrgyz Republic, followed by two matches against Iraq in Malaysia in August ahead of the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers. In October, the Blue Colts played two away games against Indonesia, winning 2-1 and drawing 1-1. Head coach Naushad Moosa has named a 25-member list of probables for the upcoming friendly.

Sir David Beckham receives knighthood

Berkshire: Former England captain Sir David Beckham received a knighthood at Windsor Castle Tuesday. The football star was honoured for his services to sport and charity. Earlier this year, Sir David said he was "immensely proud" of being recognised in the King's Birthday Honours, "I couldn't be prouder," said Beckham. "People know how patriotic I am - I love my country." The former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder earned 115 caps for England and captained the Three Lions for six years, from 2000 to 2006.

Rybakina stuns Swiatek

Riyadh: Elena Rybakina qualified for the WTA Finals semifinals for the first time after overcoming Iga Swiatek 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 Monday. That result and Amanda Anisimova's win over Madison Keys in the first professional matchup of the Americans, meant Swiatek and Anisimova will play Wednesday for a spot in the semifinals. Swiatek beat Anisimova in the Wimbledon final 6-0, 6-0 but Anisimova ousted Swiatek in the US Open quarterfinals 6-4, 6-3.

Judy Bell dies at 89

Colorado Springs (USA: Judy Bell, whose devotion to golf led her to become the first female president of the US Golf Association, died Monday at her home in Colorado after spending 15 months in hospice care, the USGA said. She was 89.

ASIA CUP SKIRMISHES

think this means a lot to me,

a young girl who didn't know

about women's cricket, but still

dreamt, that one day, I want to

bring that change in our coun-

vou should never stop dream-

ing. You never know where

your destiny will take you. You

never think, when will it hap-

pen, how will it happen. You

self-belief, that this can be pos-

sible. And that is exactly what

happened." The 36-year-old stal-

wart said she is feeling relaxed

and humbled after realising her

"So, I think, that was my

only think, this will happen."

"And I think, it all shows that

SKY fined 30%, Bumrah handed demerit point; Rauf suspended

Dubai: The title-winning Indi-

an stars expectedly dominat-

ed the ICC Women's Cricket

World Cup Team of the Tour-

nament with Smriti Mandha-

na, Jemimah Rodrigues and

Deepti Sharma making it to the

Runners-up South Africa al-

so have three of their players

in the side, with skipper Laura

Wolvaardt chosen to captain

the Team of the Tournament

following her sensational ef-

forts with the bat where she

amassed a whopping 571 runs

line-up announced Tuesday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

childhood dream.

Dubai, Nov 4: India's T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav and Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf were Tuesday fined for "bringing the game into disrepute" during the Asia Cup in September with the latter also copping a two-ODI suspension for accumulating four demerit points during the tournament.

Rauf was handed financial penalties of 30 per cent of his match fee for two incidents in two separate games against India, leading to a two-match ban in the ODI series against South Africa that began Tuesday. The next game is November 6 and he will sit out of that as well.

Rauf accumulated four demerit points for the two incidents which were converted into two suspension points as per ICC rules.

Suryakumar was penalised 30 per cent of his match fee for his comments supporting the Indian armed forces and showing solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam terror attack after the September 14 game between the two sides.



Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was also handed one demerit point for making a "plane down" gesture after

yorking Rauf in the final.

Pakistan batter Sahibzada
Farhan was also handed a demerit point but Indian pacer
Arshdeep Singh was let off
without a fine or demerit point.

ICC meet: Naqvi unlike to
attend

"Domestic political issues"
might prevent Pakistan Cricket
Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi
from attending the ICC's Executive Board meeting in Dubai
where the BCCI is set to raise
the issue of the Asia Cup trophy

not being presented to India.
The four-day meeting bega

The four-day meeting began Tuesday and Naqvi, who is also the chairman of the Asian Cricket Council, was to face the BCCI's ire for not handing the trophy after the winning players refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India statements.

The PCB source did not specify the exact political issues that would come in the way of his attendance. Naqvi also holds the interior minister's position in his country and has not attended ICC meetings after Jay Shah was elected Chairman of the world body last year.

The Asia Cup Trophy lies locked in the Asian Cricket Council headquarter in Dubai despite the final being held back in late September.

The Pakistan minister was at the centre of the trophy controversy when he had it sent to the ACC secretariat in Dubai. He has since insisted that the Indian team must accept the trophy from him and has ordered the ACC staff not to move the silverware without his permission.

DDCA sacks Ashu Dani

semi-finals, with standout wick-

et-keeper Sidra Nawaz of Paki-

stan the only player named in a

side to miss out on the final four,

England's Sophie Ecclestone

was also included following some

strong efforts that helped her

stated an ICC press release.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Delhi and Districts Cricket Association Tuesday sacked controversial former opener Ashu Dani from the chairman's post of U-19 selection committee for his alleged involvement in Indian Heavens Premier League (IH-PL), a privately organised T20 tournament in Kashmir, which amounts to conflict of interest.

While Dani had denied his involvement in the organisation of the league calling his designation as the league president "symbolic", the non-payment of salaries to former international players like Chris Gayle, Jesse Ryder and Kashmir's very own Parvez Rasool has still tarnished his image.

Multiple videos have surfaced with Dani addressing the press conference along with another Delhi stalwart Surinder Khanna, who was also allegedly involved in the league. The tournament was called off after three games and the organisers, led by Dani, didn;t even pay for the five-star facility where the players were put up.

"We have already sacked Ashu Dani from U-19 chairman of selector's post. After we sacked him he did send his resignation letter. As far as former India batter Surinder Khanna is concerned, he will not continue further as CAC chairman since the panel will be dissolved," DDCA secretary Ashok Sharma told PTI.

12-year-old 'Messi of Chess' Oro Faustino stuns GM Vidit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panjim, Nov 4: Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi was held to a draw by 12-year-old Argentine sensation Oro Faustino in the first game of the second round of the FIDE World Cup here Tuesday.

Called the 'Messi of Chess' back home due to his extraordinary talent and rapid rise in the sport, Faustino, who famously defeated higher ranked Ante Brkic of Croatia in the opener, came up with another impressive performance with his black pieces.

The Argentine prodigy started off with the Berlin defense and Gujrathi went for the middle game which gave an easy equality to Faustino. The Indian did try to find some flaws in black's position but decided against any undue risk and repeated the position three times.

The game lasted 28 moves.

In the return game under Classical time format, Gujrathi will play with the black pieces on Wednesday and if the deadlock continues, the players will play games under shorter duration to determine the winner. This is Gujrathi's last at-

This is Gujrathi's last attempt to find a place in the Candidates tournament of 2026 for



which the top three from here would qualify.

INDIAN RESULTS ROUND 2 GAME 1

D Gukesh Nogerbek Kazybek (Kaz); Martin Petrov (Bul) Arjun Erigaisi; R Praggnanand haa Temur Kuybokarov (Aus); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) beat Surya Shekhar Ganguly; Diptayan Ghosh Ian Nepomni achtchi (Fid); Levon Aronian (Usa) beat Aronyak Ghosh; Vid it Santosh Gujrathi drew with Oro Faustino (Arg); Karthik Venkataraman Chithambaram; Kourkoulos-Arditis Stamatis (Gre) Nihal Sarin; Nesterov Arseniy(Fid) P Harikrishna; Nguyen Tha Dai Van (Cze) Pa Iniyan; Idani Pouya (Iri) Murali Karthikeyan; S L Narayanan drew with Nikita Vitiugov (Eng); Dmitrij Kollars (Ger) M Pranesh: Arv an Tari (Nor) V Pranav; Robert Hovhannisyan (Arm) Raunak Sadhwani.

MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD

Frame criteria to consider hearing impaired sportspersons: HC to Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to expeditiously frame appropriate criteria for conferring the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025 on hearing impaired sportspersons, noting that the existing criteria discriminates against them vis-a-vis para sportspersons.

The high court said the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 leaves no scope of discrimination between persons having hearing impairment vis-a-vis those having physical or locomotor disability.

However, in the context of the 'Scheme of Cash Awards for Medal Winners' in international sports events, lack of opportunity for deaf sportspersons has the impact of creating a discriminatory regime, it said.

Justice Sachin Datta, in an order passed Monday, said the criteria be framed expeditiously to enable the deaf sportspersons to submit applications for the purpose of award, and directed that the deadline, which was October 28, for submission of applications be extended suitably.

The court was hearing a plea by Virender Singh, internationally renowned hearing impaired wrestler, multi-time Deaflympics gold medallist and an Arjuna Awardee, along with another deaf sportsperson.

The petitioners, represented by advocate Ajay Verma, challenged exclusion of deaf athletes from key government sports schemes and alleged discriminatory treatment visa-vis para-athletes and sought parity between deaf and para-athletes.

It was stated that while framing the criteria for conferring the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025, no dispensation is created for hearing impaired sportspersons.

After going through the criteria, the court observed that there is no scope for hearing impaired sportspersons to even apply or be considered for conferment of the award, making it discriminatory against deaf sportspersons vis-a-vis para sportspersons.

"In the above conspectus, there is merit in the contentions of the petitioner/ applicant that the aforesaid criteria discriminate against deaf sportspersons vis-a-vis para sportspersons," it said.



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