Shilpa mantra

Actor Shilpa Shetty shares an introspective message on social media that resonates deeply with her fans

LEISURE | P2



### Trade resumes

Pakistan resumes Afghan transit trade following a ceasefire with Afghan Taliban government

INTERNATIONAL | P10



### **Bull trend**

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty end marginally higher amid growing optimism on the US-India trade deal front

BUSINESS | P11



### **Disappointing show**

Rohit's defiant 73 goes in vain as India surrender 3-match ODI series against Australia after losing the second game

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 24, 2025

### Bihar: Tejashwi Oppn's CM face



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

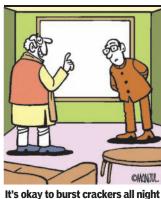
Patna, Oct 23: The Opposition INDIA bloc Thursday declared RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial candidate for the Bihar Assembly polls, in what is being seen as a last-ditch effort to put an end to squabbles and project unity ahead of the elections.

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot, who has been in Patna since Wednesday to resolve differences with the RJD, stated that the decision had the approval of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi.

Addressing a crowded press conference here, Gehlot also said Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani and leaders from other sections of society will be deputy CMs if the INDIA bloc comes to power in the state, 'keeping in mind the complex social structure of Bihar'. 'We have decided, after consultations with our national president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, besides all coalition partners who are here, to name Tejashwi Yadav as our chief ministerial candidate," Gehlot said. Sahani, a 45-year-old former Bollywood set designer, entered politics in 2014 when he campaigned for the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, only to allege, later, that the party had promised to grant Scheduled Castes status to his community but failed to fulfil the same.

Speaking at the press conference, Yadav, who had led the Mahagathbandhan in the last Assembly polls, thanked his allies for reposing trust in him again and said, "It was not a big issue for us, but since there was so much media speculation, we decided to make it clear."

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



and ignore AQI- I spend my Diwali away from the capital

FOR A CAUSE: Delhi Jal Board workers spray de-foaming chemicals to treat toxic foam and reduce pollution levels in Yamuna river ahead of 'Chhath', at Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi, Thursday

## Carbide guns: 110 hospitalised in MP

AGENCIES

Bhopal, Oct 23: A total of 110 persons, most of them children aged between 8 and 14, were hospitalised in Bhopal and neighbouring Vidisha district in Madhya Pradesh due to injuries sustained after using calcium carbide guns on Diwali, officials said Thursday.

While 60 are admitted in government hospitals in the state capital, 50, including five with eye injuries, are recuperating in facilities in Vidisha, they added. "These crude guns, made using a gas lighter, a plastic pipe, and calcium carbide, are in vogue this Diwali. The calcium carbide in the gun produces acetylene gas when it meets water and explodes upon contact with a spark," an official said. Small plastic fragments ejected from the pipe, like shrapnel, cause serious injuries and damage various parts, especially the eyes, face, and skin, he said.

Bhopal's CMHO Manish Sharma said, "Carbide pipe guns are very dangerous. Those injured by the use of these guns are still being treated in hospitals. All are safe." Over 150 cases were reported across Bhopal the day after Diwali, though many were discharged after first aid, an official said.

# US sanctions Russian oil cos

REUTER

Moscow, Oct 23: US President Donald Trump hit Russia's two biggest oil companies with sanctions in a sharp policy shift on Moscow's war in Ukraine, prompting global oil prices to rise by 5 per cent Thursday and India to consider cutting Russian imports.

The sanctions target oil gi-

ants Rosneft and Lukoil, which between them account for more than 5 per cent of global oil output, and mark a dramatic U-turn by Trump, who said only last week that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin would soon hold a summit in Budapest to try to end the war in Ukraine.

While the extent of the financial hit on Russia may be limited in the short term, the move is a powerful signal of Trump's intent to squeeze Russia's finances and try to force the Kremlin towards a peace deal.

Putin derided the sanctions as an unfriendly act, saying they would not significantly affect the Russian economy. He warned a sharp supply drop would push up prices and Refiners in India set to sharply cut crude imports: Report

be uncomfortable for countries like US. "This is, of course, an attempt to put pressure on Russia," Putin said. "But no self-respecting country and no self-respecting people ever decide anything under pressure."

The US sanctions move has already prompted Chinese state oil majors to suspend Russian oil purchases in the short term, trade sources told Reuters. "Refiners in India, the largest buyer of seaborne Russian oil, are set to sharply cut their crude imports," they said.

A drop in demand from Russia's two largest customers will put a strain on Moscow's oil revenues and force the world's top importers to seek alternative supplies. Trump said Wednesday that the planned Putin summit was off because it would not achieve the outcome he wanted and complained that his many 'good conversations' with Putin did not 'go anywhere'.

Russia has signalled that its conditions for ending the war in Ukraine - terms which Kyiv and many European countries regard as tantamount to surrender - remain unchanged.

The conflict raged on as EU leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met in Brussels Thursday to discuss funding for Ukraine, with momentum building to use frozen Russian assets to provide a 140 billion euro (\$163 billion) loan to Kyiv. Moscow said it would deliver a 'painful response' if the assets were seized.

The EU also approved a 19th package of sanctions that includes a ban on Russian liquefied natural gas imports.

The EU also added three Chinese companies to its Russian sanctions list, saying they were significant buyers of Russian crude oil and providing 'substantial' revenue to Moscow. Beijing threatened to retaliate with unspecified measures.

Zelenskyy thanked US for the new sanctions, saying they were 'very important'. Oil prices jumped nearly 5 per cent Thursday amid worries that the sanctions would disrupt global supply.

### Vedanta to invest ₹1L-cr in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: Vedanta Group will invest Rs 1 lakh crore in Odisha, creating over one lakh employment opportunities, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Thursday.

The investment proposal was placed before the state government by Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal, who met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan in the evening. Soon after the meeting, the CMO wrote on X, "In a major boost to #Odisha's industrial growth, @Vedanta\_Group will invest around Rs 1 lakh crore in the state, creating over 1 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities."



"The state government has assured full support, including the provision of required land and other infrastructure facilities, for these investments," it added.

Vedanta's plan includes a Rs 2,000-crore ferro-alloys plant in Keonjhar and two new aluminium parks – one in Jharsuguda and another in Dhenkanal, it said.

Odisha is now poised to emerge as a global hub for industry and technology. "This massive investment will be a game-changer for the bright future of Odisha," he asserted. Majhi said such initiatives will not only accelerate economic growth, but also create vast opportunities for the youth, and prepare the ground for Odisha to become a USD 500-billion economy by 2036.

Agarwal said, "I congratulate

On the occasion, the CM said

the CM for creating an investment-friendly environment in the state, further strengthened by the double-engine growth model. We are proud to be a long-term partner in Odisha's growth story and are deeply committed to the state's all-round development."

### 2 held for job fraud; ₹62L recovered

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, Oct 23: Two persons, including a woman, were arrested on the charge of duping people across western Odisha with false promise of providing jobs.

The accused were identified as Samrat Ray, 32, alias Rahul of Bada Bazar and Padmalaya Tandi, 34, alias Padmabati of Satupali in Sambalpur. The arrests were made on the basis of a complaint lodged at Burla police station.

SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo

said the accused, along with other associates, created a fake company, claiming that it was authorised to provide appointments for sanitation work in four western Odisha districts.

They collected Rs 12,000 per applicant from people in Sambalpur, Bargarh, Boudh and Subarnapur, promising jobs with a daily wage of Rs 400, he said. They allegedly duped over 1,800 unsuspecting job seekers of around Rs 2 crore since October, 2024, police said. "We have recovered Rs 62 lakh from them," the SP added.

### Process begins to appoint new CJI

New Delhi: The government Thursday initiated the process to appoint the next Chief Justice of India (CJI) as incumbent BR Gavai demits office November 23. "The letter asking Justice Gavai to name his successor is set to be delivered either this evening or Friday," people aware of the procedure to appoint SC and HC judges told PTI. According to the memorandum of procedure, a set of documents which guide the appointment, transfer and elevation of SC and HC judges, states that appointment to the office of the CJI should be of the senior-most judge of the SC considered fit to hold the office. Justice Surya Kant is the seniormost judge after the CJI and is next in line to become the head of the Indian judiciary.

# Anna, glamorous Russian spy, makes a comeback

Red-haired Russian spy Anna Chapman is back in the world of espionage with a new mission from Moscow.

The infamous former spy,

now, 43, has been appointed head of the Museum of Russian Intelligence, a new project linked to Vladimir Putin's top secret service, The Sun reported. Once a UK citizen, she is now using the name Anna Romanova. This is her latest alias in a life that could have come straight out of

a spy thriller.
Chapman became known to the wider public in 2010, when she was arrested by the FBI in New York as part of a Russian sleeper cell. She was later expelled from the US in a swap deal.

Chapman's new museum is registered near Gorky Park in Moscow, at the press office of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR). SVR is the ex-KGB spy agency that employed her as a foreign agent.

"The museum is expected to showcase the history and achievements of Russian espionage, highlighting the country's intelligence operations against the West," The Sun said.

Chapman, whose maiden name is reportedly Kuschenko, was born and raised in Volgograd (then called Stalingrad). Her father was a member of the Soviet Union's diplomatic corps and worked in the embassy in Kenya when she was a child.

As per records available, she attended the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia in Moscow, Anna Chapman, now 43, hogged headlines in 2010 when she was arrested by the FBI in New York as part of a Russian sleeper cell

a prestigious institution where she got a degree in economics.

she got a degree in economics.

Chapman's rise to fame began in London, where she used her charm to move in powerful circles of business figures, politicians and oligarchs. It was there that she was recruited by a London-based Russian agent who was impressed by networking skills.

She had become a British citizen after marrying Alex Chapman, though the relationship ended badly. Alex, now dead, once tried to kill her. In a book published last year,

Chapman portrays herself as a real-life female 007, claiming her looks and confidence gave her access to the highest levels of influence.

She wrote, "I knew the effect I had on men." "Nature had generously endowed me with the necessary attributes: a slim waist, a full chest, a cascade of red hair. All I needed was to emphasise it – which I did with simple yet sexy outfits, light makeup, and an effortless air

about me," she said.

"Most importantly, I didn't
try too hard to please. And it
worked like magic," she added.

Her memoir tells stories of luxury trips, lavish parties and encounters with the rich and powerful.

But it remains silent on any British secrets she might have passed to Moscow before her arrest. Neither does it say anything about either the influential member of the House of Lords and a British tycoon she is believed to have befriended during her time here.

Since being handed over to Russia, Chapman has reinvented herself as a businesswoman, TV presenter and social media personality. She is a strong supporter of Putin and has even become a mother to a baby boy.

come a mother to a baby boy.

Now, she is back in the public
eye with a job that once again
ties her to Russia's shadowy

world of intelligence.

The SVR is currently headed by Sergey Naryshkin, a close ally of the Russian president.

## Four Bihar gangsters gunned down in Delhi

New Delhi: Four wanted gangsters, allegedly involved in multiple cases of extortion-cummurder in Bihar and planning a major operation ahead of the Assembly elections there, were killed in a shootout with police in Delhi's Rohini in the early hours of Thursday, officials said. The operation was carried out jointly by Delhi Police and Bihar Police. Those killed were identified as Ranjan Pathak, 25, Bimlesh Mahto alias Bimlesh Sahni, 25, Manish Pathak, 33, and Aman Thakur, 21, all residents of Bihar's Sitamarhi district, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Surender Kumar said, adding that they were part of a gang named 'Sigma & Company'.

# leisure



### **LIZZO FACES COPYRIGHT** INFRINGEMENT LAWSUIT

Controversies don't seem to end for singer-songwriter Lizzo. In a fresh turn of events, the singer-songwriter has been hit by a copyright infringement complaint. The lawsuit has been filed over an unreleased track.

Maddock

Films have in her. Following her

emotional-

ly powerper-

formance

in *Saiyaa-*

audiences

### MILEY CYRUS JOINS AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH

Miley Cyrus will contribute her new song Dream as One to the soundtrack of Avatar: Fire and Ash. Collaborating with Andrew Wyatt, Mark Ronson, and Simon Franglen, the track will feature in the film's end credits and the official soundtrack of James Cameron's third installment.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You will be indecisive today, which is not usually the case with you. Ganesha says this could lead you to indulge in speculation, which is not so bad unless you risk all your money in it. Besides, when it comes to matters of the heart, you must exercise a great deal of caution.

### **TAURUS**

This day your mind is likely to be blissfully drawn towards your personal friends and family members. our warm and intimate relationships will stay uppermost in your mind and fill the day, not leaving room for anything else. Hanging out together with them will give you immense pleasure and contentment.

You will become more emotional and sensitive today. Health, diet, career, iob and such things will be on your mind and will give rise to mental stress and worry. You need to take care of your health and hygiene, says Ganesha.

For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for f you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems. Instead focus on your creative energies, and find fun in life's simple pleasures.

You will try to finish your tasks as per schedule and will also be able to earn well. You will benefit from the influence of high ranking officials. They will appreciate your dedication. A promotion may come your way. You will reap the rewards of your hard work, says Ganesha.

### **VIRGO**

today, like a man of steel, but there is enough warmth in your heart. Forbearance, positivity and extremely artistic abilities will predominate. Ganesha advises you to pursue the arts in

your studies. Your deep insight into life will help you in serving society in a better way.

### Ganesha says that you will

be able to attain a huge benefit because of your nature to take chances. Higher ups in the office will take notice of your skills and ability to work well. Seniors in your office will Ganesha says this is not a good time to get into a direct fight with anyone since it will lead to more problems and issues.

### **SCORPIO**

Nothing much to do today, as you are lost in thoughts. Bouts of depression may make you feel lonely. Meditation, yoga or listening to soft music may bring some respite to your disturbed mind. According to Ganesha, there's light at the end of every tunnel; be hopeful.

### **SAGITTARIUS** A balanced day is in store today. Find yourself as much

at home as at your desk. You may engage in a time of fun and games with your buddies. But when it comes to family, something more practical, like re-arranging your house, is on the cards.

### **CAPRICORN**

If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesha Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when some thing goes wrong. Socially, you will build a stronger reputation, says Ganesha.

### **AQUARIUS**

One way or the other money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesha. Travelling is on the cards for you.

**PISCES** To get away from your daily tasks you will concentrate on entertainment, fun and rest today. You will feel like a free bird today. In all this also some important task will need your attention today. Ganesha says you feel nice as things around you change.



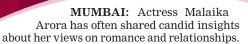
edefining stardom. After captivating audiences with Saiyaara, the highest-grossing love story in Indian cinema, she now becomes the youngest Indian actor to headline a blockbuster cinematic universe film: Dinesh Vijan's Shakti Shalini from the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe (MHCU). Set for a grand Christmas release December 24, 2026, this milestone places her alongside Bollywood's biggest holiday performers, a domain once dominated by Khans and Kapoors. The announcement video of Aneet as Shakti Shalini,

attached to MHCU's latest hit Thamma, instantly went viral, showcasing the immense confidence Dinesh Vijan and

### Aneet gets career momentum

alike hailed her as a revelation, Aneet has emerged as the face of Gen Z cinema - bold, expressive, and authentic.

In today's era of mega-universes -MHCU, YRF Spyverse, Copverse, and Lokeshverse — Aneet stands out as the only young actor commanding a universe film single-handedly. Following the path once led by Alia Bhatt, she combines creative courage with mass appeal. With Shakti Shalini, Aneet isn't just playing a role; she's leading a generation, cementing her place as India's newest cinematic powerhouse and heralding the next era of Indian cinema.



men she's

drawn to

During a 2021 reality show appearance, she revealed the kind of men she is drawn to, saying, "I like men who are a little rough around the edges, not too polished or clean-shaven. I also like someone who's openly flirty and can kiss really well." She added that she is turned off by gossiping men and prefers someone confident enough to hold his own without unnecessary chatter. Reflecting on her past, Malaika

also shared advice she would Malaika on give her younger self about marriage: "Take your time to get married... it is a huge commitment. Do some work, understand life's journey a little, and then take that plunge — which I didn't, as I got married very young." On the topic of love and marriage in the future, she remained open-minded, stating, "Never say never. Like I said, I'm a hardcore romantic. I believe in love. I believe in all things about love." Her words sparked excitement among fans, fueling speculation about whether romance could be on the horizon again,

especially after her split from Arjun Kapoor. The couple had parted ways last year after nearly six years together. Arjun confirmed their breakup while promoting Singham Again, saying in a viral video, 'Abhi single hoon main, relax." Though they never openly discussed the separation, reports suggested they had "run their course" while continuing to maintain mutual respect and privacy.

SHILPA'S LIFE

**MANTRA** 

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, celebrated for her energy and dedication to wellness, recently shared an introspective message on social media that resonated deeply with her fans. Just days after celebrating Diwali with her family, she posted on Instagram, "Nothing kills you faster than your own mind. Don't stress over things that are out of your control. Focus on what you can control." The post highlighted her belief in mindfulness, emotional resilience, and the power of perspective, earning praise from followers for promoting calmness and clarity. Known for her disciplined yoga practice, healthy lifestyle, and focus on mental well-being, Shilpa has long encouraged her fans to prioritise inner peace and self-care.

Her post followed a joyful Diwali celebration with her husband Raj Kundra and their children, Viaan and Samisha. The family, dressed in traditional attire, performed a home puja and shared warm wishes online, with Shilpa writing, "HAPPY DIWALI from our family to you all. #diwali #celebration #love #gratitude #family." She also shared a playful video with her sister Shamita Shetty, creating a vibrant lotus-shaped rangoli together, reflecting their close bond and festive spirit.

Professionally, Shilpa continues to shine as a judge on *India's Best Dance<mark>r, admired</mark>* for her warmth, humour, and insightful feedback. Balancing career, family, and fitness, she remains an inspiring figure, reminding fans that true strength and peace come from



Shubhangi aces work-life balance

MUMBAI: Shubhangi Atre, best known for her role as Angoori Bhabhi in the show Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain, opened up about the challenges of being a single mother while maintaining a thriving acting career.

In an exclusive quote shared with this news agency, she shared how she manages to balance her professional commitments with raising her Shubchild. hangi emphasised the

importance staying fully present both on set and at home despite the daily pressures and

responsibilities. Speaking about how she man-

ages to balance work and per-



SUDOKU

3

7

4

ter, Ashi, from her marriage with ex-husband Peeyush Poorey. Talking about the challenges of build

ing a career in a competitive industry, she shared, "Competition is everywhere, but I choose to focus on improv-

3

8

2

6

3

5

6

A A A E

DASH ETCETERA

8

8 9 2

ing myself instead of comparing. Opportunities will always come, but you have to be prepared to grab them when they do."

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

2

8

6

3

**SOLUTIONS** 

### **PEANUTS**



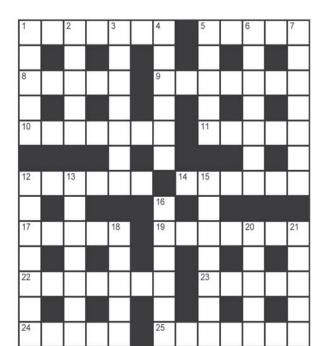
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



### BREVITY



### POST **CROSSWORD**



### Copyright @2025 PuzzleJunction.com 22 Treeless plain

23 Hotel posting

composer

25 Overspend

24 "Bolero"

### Across

- 1 Old square-
- rigger
- 5 Kind of energy 8 Express
- 9 Epicurean
- 10 Music hall
- 11 Banish
- 12 Capers
- 14 Chess piece
- 17 Fancy home 19 Sumptuous

Down

- 1 Scrawny 2 Unit of petrol 3 Unpredictable
- 4 Hen-pecked 5 Recipe direction
- 12 Financial guru
- rodent 7 Draw back

6 Short-tailed

furry-footed

- 13 Israeli city (3,4)
- 15 On the fence
- 16 Kings and
- queens
- 18 Invalidate
- 20 Banana oil, e.g.
- 21 Discernment

### CROSSWORD A C R O B A T S F L E X 7 2 9 3 6 8 1 1 6 4 5 2 8 9 7 5 9 6 4 3 2 9 8 6

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

# 14 in fray for Nuapada bypoll



Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: Five candidates including one from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) were slapped with rejection of their nomination papers for the November 11 Nuapada bypoll during scrutiny, leaving 14 candidates in the fray. They were rejected due to technical errors, sources in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said here

Thursday. A total of 19 candidates had filed nominations for the bypoll, out of which eight are from political parties and 11 are Independents.

However, during scrutiny Wednesday, the papers of BSP nominee Rajaram Sahu, Rashtriya Pariyartan Dal's Sitaram Behera and three Independents – Kamal Kumar Chhatria, Purusottam Behera and Bhujabal Adabang were rejected.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination is October 24.

According to the CEO's office, the nominations of Jay Dholakia (BJP), Snehangini Chhuria (BJD), Ghasiram Majhi (Congress), Ramakant Hati (Samajwadi Party), Hemant Tandi (Bahujan Mukti Party), Sukadhar Dandasena (Odisha Janata Dal) and eight Independents - Ashraya Mahanand, Chakrant Jena, Bhubanlal Sahu, Lochan Majhi, Kishore Kumar Bhaktabandhu Dharua, Nita Bagh and Laxmikanta Tandi were found valid.

The bypoll is likely

contest among the ruling BJP, Opposition BJD and Congress, all of whom have already launched intensive campaigns for their candidates.

The election is politically significant as it will be the first electoral test for Chief Minister Mohan Majhi following the BJP's win in the 2024 polls.

The bypoll is equally important for BJD, which lost power after 24 years, even though it secured a marginally higher vote share than the BJP in the 2024 Assembly elections. While BJD polled 40.22 per cent votes, BJP garnered 40.07 per cent, and Congress secured around 13 per cent.

The contest became more interesting after BJD's prospective candidate, Jay Dholakia, son of late sitting MLA Rajendra Dholakia, switched to the saffron camp and became its nominee.

Following Dholakia's shift, the BJD fielded its women's wing president and former minister from neighbouring Bargarh district, Snehangini Chhuria.

The Congress, headed in Odisha by Bhakta Charan Das, has nominated Ghasiram Majhi, a tribal leader who had polled the second-highest votes in Nuapada in 2024 general elections. The stakes are high for Das, a former MP from Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituency, of which Nuapada is a part.

In the 2024 Assembly polls, Dholakia had won Nuapada seat for the fourth time, securing 61,822 votes, while then Congress rebel and now party nominee Ghasiram Majhi, contesting as an Independent, garnered 50,941 votes. The Congress' official candidate and then OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak polled 15,501 votes, while BJP's Abhinandan Panda had finished third with just

### Crypto fraud: 32 held from Cuttack hotel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 23: Thirty-two persons, most of whom are from West Bengal, were held from a hotel in Cuttack Thursday in connection with a cryptocurrency fraud case that led to a kidnapping, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted at a hotel in Sikharpur area, they said.

As per preliminary vestigation, four individu-

als, including one from Bhubaneswar. duped people, promising them high returns on investment through cryptocurrency trading platforms, they said.

After duping the investors, most of whom are from West Bengal,

the 'fraudsters' were hiding in a place near Puri, they added

After getting to know their whereabouts, some of the investors allegedly abducted the 'fraudsters' from Puri and brought them Wednesday to the hotel in Cuttack, where they had forcefully kept them, police

> said. "We will investigate the case from two angles - cryptocurrency fraud and kidnapping. We will also

verify whether any investor from Odisha became a victim of the fraud," Cuttack DCP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo said.

Four high-value cars were seized in the operation, he said, adding that the investigation would continue.

### **Gadkari to attend Indian Roads Congress**

Bhubaneswar: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, will attend the 84th annual session

of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) scheduled to be held here from November 7 to 10, informed Odisha Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Thursday. Speaking to reporters here, he said that 3,500 delegates from across the country, including engineers, technical experts and other stakeholders, will attend the annual event. Like IRC events of previous years, Union minister Gadkari will certainly attend the conference this year, he said. Notably, Odisha will host the national event for the sixth time this year after 1954, 1982 1994, 2005 and 2015. The Indian Roads Congress serves as a premier national platform for sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences, and deliberating on road construction, maintenance, and transport infrastructure, including new technology, equipment, research, planning, finance, taxation, and policy. The annual conference of IRC will also feature a technical exhibition showcasing the latest developments in road infrastructure and technology. It will display innovative solutions, products and services related to road construction,

maintenance and safety, officials said.

# Dune vegetation to arrest coastal erosion



Dharitri and OrissaPOST Editor Tathagata Satpathy addressing the gathering at Climate-Resilient Dune Rehabilitation and Beach Erosion Mitigation Programme

Astaranga, Oct 23: In the coastal belt of Odisha, where the Bay of Bengal steadily reclaims the shore, villagers in Tandahar under Puri's Sisua gram panchayat have begun rebuilding their natural bulwark against disasters. The small settlement, part of Astaranga block in the district, has launched a community-driven dune vegetation restoration effort to combat sea ingress and protect livelihoods.

The environment protection initiative, pioneered by Bichitra-

nanda Biswal, recipient of Odisha State Wildlife Conservation Award, and supported by Gilehrio and Sabuja Sakha Astaranga, aims to restore a stretch of 5km of the beach that has suffered erosion and habitat loss. Native dune vegetation is being replanted to stabilise sand and revive the ecological balance of the coastline.

Biswal, who has worked on similar dune rehabilitation in Ramtara and Siali (Jagatsinghpur district) and Daluakani and Gundalaba (Puri district), said,



Villagers, environmentalists, and Dharitri and OrissaPOST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy during the community-driven rehabilitation programme

'The approach offers a replicable, low-cost model for coastal protection based on local participation rather than heavy engineering."

Tandahar plantation drive brought together women's selfhelp groups, youth volunteers, and community leaders, along with **Dharitri** and **OrissaPOST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy, the dailies' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, Dibakar Chhatoi (representative of Jagatsinghpur MP), Prof Surya Narayan Mishra, environmentalists Soumya Ranjan Biswal, Bichi Kalia, and Sarpanch Bijay Kumar Khandual. Also present were Anisha Adyasha Sahoo and Sourav Choudhury of Gilehrio, along with local environmental activists Nihar Ranjan Maharana, Gyana Ranjan Biswal, Pravakar Biswal, and Babu Behera. The drive saw plantation of 'Spinifex' grass on the beach that helps in stabilising sand and creating sand dunes which fight against coastal erosion and create a natural barrier.

Addressing the gathering, Tathagata said, "The initiative represented a people-centric approach to adaptation — communities acting before disaster forces their hand.

Taking to Facebook, Adyasha said, "Joined community members of Tandahar village under Sisua gram panchavat of Astaranga block for plantation of 'Spinifex grass. This area has been facing massive coastal erosion and villag ers have been facing loss of land & livelihoods over the years. Appreciating the efforts by the female community members she said women's leadership en sures both continuity and care in

restoration efforts. Women participants, already involved in maintaining local mangrove patches, pledged to care for the newly planted dune veg-

etation. Three forest guardians Bengalata Raut, Chhabilata Kalia, and Rabi Bhuyan — were honoured for their contributions to forest protection.





### New momentum to the resolve of Viksit Bharat through youth empowerment



**Providing government jobs to Youth** 

# Rozgar Mela

Distribution of appointment letters to more than 51,000 selected candidates in the events organised at 40 locations nation-wide

under the leadership of –

### Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

Through a special video message on this occasion

🚞 24 October, 2025 (1) 11:00 AM

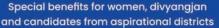


Generation of lakhs of employment opportunities by Central Government and partner State **Governments and Union Territories** 

Recruitment exams being conducted in 13 regional

languages to promote equal opportunities



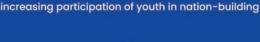




Strengthening 'Citizen-First' approach through



Employment opportunities for talented youth through UPSC's 'Pratibha Setu' in public and private sector



Transparent and time-bound recruitment process and Stringent laws against paper leaks



Appointments through reputed agencies such as UPSC, SSC, RRB & IBPS

Over 1.39 crore Government employees being trained through more than 3600 high quality e-learning courses on iGOT-Karamyogi Portal.







For more information on training visit Karmayogi module website https://portal.igotkarmayogi.gov.in/ or scan the QR code





**Orissa** POST



# Law min backs CBI probe into SI recruitment scam

Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan stresses transparency, integrity in recruitment; says CBI probe will strengthen public trust

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Thursday hailed the state government's decision to order a CBI probe into the multi-crore police Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment scam, calling it a significant move towards ensuring transparency and accountability in the recruitment process.

Speaking to reporters, Harichandan said, "The Chief Minister has already announced a CBI probe, which reflects the government's firm commitment to ensuring complete transparency in the recruitment process. The ongoing recruitment drive will continue to uphold the highest standards of fairness and integrity.'

He added, "The government is committed to establishing a transparent system, with the commission playing a key role in ensuring a clean and credible recruitment process. The ongoing reforms will bring visible improvements." Harichandan expressed confidence that no irregularities will be tolerated and said the CBI probe will reinforce public trust in the government's recruitment efforts.



CM Majhi directed the CBI to investigate the scam following allegations of massive irregularities, corruption, and possible inter-state criminal network

Preliminary findings suggest the scam may extend beyond Odisha, with possible connections in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal involving organised criminal networks

Odisha government plans to set up a permanent commission for police and uniformed personnel recruitment to ensure future transparency, while 123 individuals have already been arrested in connection with the scam

involvement It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday ordered a CBI probe into the multi-crore SI recruitment examination scam. According to an official statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), serious allegations of massive irregularities and corruption had emerged in the Odisha Police SI recruitment exam. The case was initially investigated by the state

police's Crime Branch-CID. Preliminary findings indicate that the scam may have connections beyond Odisha, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Additionally. it is suspected that inter-state organised criminal networks could be involved in this multicrore recruitment fraud.

"Considering these developments, the Chief Minister has decided to hand over the probe to the CBI to ensure a thorough investigation, full exposure of the scam, and strict action against all involved," the CMO stated.

The state government is also planning to set up a permanent commission for the recruitment of police and other uniformed personnel to ensure transparency and accountability in future selections. So far, Odisha Police have arrested 123 individuals linked to the SI recruitment scam.

### Odisha Urban Conclave 2025 begins in City

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: The Odisha Urban Conclave 2025, a flagship two-day event hosted by the Housing & Urban Development department, was inaugurated Thursday here with the vision of steering Odisha's cities towards a smarter, inclusive, and sustainable urban future. The conclave is a strategic initiative aligned with the long-term developmental goals of a Viksit Odisha by 2036 and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Held under the theme, "Collaborate, Build, Progress", the conclave brings together key stakeholders from urban local bodies (ULBs), government departments, policy institutions, urban planners, technology providers, financial institutions, civil society, and academic experts.

The conclave was formal-



ly inaugurated by Housing & Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra. In his keynote address, Moha patra emphasised the critical role of sustainable urban infrastructure, efficient service delivery, and empowered local

governance in building vibrant urban centres. He lauded the efforts of ULBs in implementing flagship schemes and encouraged greater innovation and inter-city learning.

Department's Secretary Usha Padhee highhensive urban development roadmap and the importance of collaborative governance citizen-centric planning, and technological adoption to achieve future-ready cities. As per a government press release. the sessions of the conclave are structured around pressing ur ban challenges and emerging opportunities, including; urban governance & infrastructure development, urban planning & mobility, e-governance & SA HAJOG, financial management in ULBs, PM SVANidhi & ur ban livelihoods, urban housing sanitation & water supply.

The Odisha Urban Conclave 2025 aims to serve as a vibrant platform for knowledge-shar partnership-building and policy dialogue, aiming to accelerate Odisha's journey towards inclusive and sustain able urbanisation.

### **Amaresh Jena** walks out of jail

45 Corporator Amaresh Jena walked out of Jharpada jail Thursday after being granted bail by the Orissa High Court. Jena had been behind bars since July 27, following his arrest from Balasore in an alleged rape case. The BJD leader, who was suspended from the party after his arrest, expressed relief upon his release, claiming he had been framed. "This is a victory of truth. Those who conspired against me have been exposed and I have forgiven them. I don't even know the people who have framed me. The truth will come to the fore soon," Jena said while addressing

# Bhubaneswar: BMC ward number

### 44 Loyola students became scribes for visually impaired



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: In a heartwarming gesture of empathy and inclusion, 44 students from Loyola Odia Medium School here, have come forward to assist visually impaired students of Louis Braille School, Bharatpur, by serving as scribes during their ongoing Class X examinations.

This initiative is a part of 'Be My Scribe' programme, spearheaded by WE4YOU charitable trust, a city-based organisation known for promoting inclusive education and volunteerism. The exams are being held daily from 10am to 11:30am, starting from October 23 to 28.

The outfit's founder Abhaya Mohanta said, "The support was extended following a special request from Louis Braille

### **Initiative is a part** of 'Be My Scribe'

programme by **WE4YOU trust** promoting inclusive education and volunteerism School headmaster, who sought

ly impaired students during their tests. WE4YOU, which had organised a similar drive last year, promptly mobilised young volunteers from Loyola Odia Medium School to meet the need." "We are proud to see young students stepping forward with

compassion. Such initiatives

not only help visually impaired

learners but also inspire the

volunteers to understand the

volunteers to assist visual-

value of inclusion and service," he added. 'Be My Scribe' initiative was launched April 3, 2025, with an aim of connecting volunteers with visually impaired students in need of writing assis-

tance during examinations. The programme ensures that no student misses the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge due to lack of a scribe. Over the months, it has grown into a movement fostering empathy, accessibility, and

educational equality.

### Global energy leaders summit in December



Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: The Global Energy Leaders Sum mit, jointly organised by state government and Tony Blair Institute will be held December 6 and 7. In this context, a preparatory meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo here Thursday.

Former UK PM Tony Blair. former Finland PM and TBI Strategic Counselor Sanna Marin UAE, Singapore, and Bhutan's energy ministers will attend the event. Energy ministers from all Indian states will participate and address various sessions.

"The conference will provide an opportunity for investment, promoting India's power sector and will help in building a great Odisha by keeping the economy in harmony with the ecology, Singh Deo said. The two-day conference will feature a display of Odisha's art, culture and history. The meeting was attended by Energy department's Principal Secretary Vishal Kumai Dev, OPTCL CMD Bhaskar Jyo ti Sharma, Gridco MD Satya Priya Rath, TBI's Vivek Agrawal Ninad Sagar and Pierre Walsh (virtual).

### -2 held for assaulting cops

for allegedly abusing and assaulting police personnel under the influence of alcohol late Wednesday night. The arrested were identified as Subhransı Das, 34, and Prakash Kumar Panda, 42. of Kanakpur under Tirtol police limits in Jagatsinghpur district. The incident occurred after a PCR van brought the duo to the PS as they were driving ehicles in inebriated condition. Wher ASI Sukul Charan Hembram, who was started conducting a breath analyze test on Subhranshu, the accused duo allegedly started verbally abusing also threatened to kill the officers and physically assaulted them, said the police. They allegedly misbehaved with case has been registered under several Sections of BNS. Their vehicles have

### OPTCL lays foundation for multi-sport arena

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) marked a key move for employee well-being and community engagement by laying the foundation stone of the "OPTCL Sports Arena," a state-of-the-art multi-sport facility promoting health, recreation, and athletic excellence.

The foundation stone for the landmark project was laid Thursday by Deputy Chief Minister and Energy & Agriculture Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, in the presence of Sports & Youth Services, Higher Ed-

ucation, and Odia Language, Literature & Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh Deo said that the OPT-CL Sports Arena symbolises our dedication to nurturing the holistic well-being of employees working in Odisha's power sector while extending the health benefits to the larger commu-

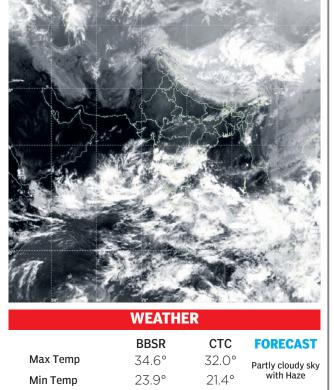
nity. This initiative reinforces our belief that a healthy workforce is the foundation of a productive and motivated organisation, he added.

Minister Suraj said that the new sports arena stands as a testament to OPTCL's commitment to building a healthy, active, and community-oriented workplace ecosystem

### Illegal horns removed from 62 buses

Bhubaneswar: In a massive crackdown against illegal horns used by vehicles, the Commissionerate Police Thursday removed pressure horns from as many as 62 buses in the Capital city and collected penalties to the tune of ₹31,000. The drive, aimed at ensuring traffic norms, was carried out at various intersections in the City including Vani Vihar, Jaydev Vihar, Satsang Vihar and Barmunda Squares. Besides, the enforcement was carried out as part of the "Safe City Drive" initiative to spread awareness about road safety and curb noise pollution in the City. This drive comes after several warnings were issued by the Commissionerate Police to remove the horns which cause noise pollution and discomfort to commuters, and violate RTO guidelines. The bus drivers have expressed dissatisfaction over the drive, saying that the loud horns helped them clear the traffic. Some drivers have also said that normal horns are not effective in clearing the traffic. The police, however, maintained that the drive will continue and violators will be penalised. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Traffic, Tapan Mohanty said, "Today, (Thursday) we have carried out checking for the loud horns at various busy intersections in the City. Loud horns have been removed from 62 buses. Besides, fine amounting to ₹31,000 have been collected. We will undertake a crackdown against





## 76% 80% Humidity Rainfall BOOKING

### CLASSIFIED

This is to undertake that Baljit Singh Saluja and Sunny Singh are names of one and the same person as sworn in affidavit before Notary, Bhubaneswar.

By virtue of an

affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, dated 22nd October 2025, I declare that my actual and correct name is Bibhudatta Panigrahi, which is recorded in my Aadhaar Card No. XXXX XXXX 5432. However, in my daughter's Class X certificate from Venkateswar English Medium School, Bhubaneswar (Index No. 1256095/049, Certificate No. TY40088818, Unique ID 8568812), my name has been wrongly mentioned as Bibhudutta Panigrahi. Both names belong to one and the same person. ASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT

## ECoR cautions against risky social media stunts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has issued a strong advisory urging citizens to prioritise safety over social media stunts and strictly adhere to railway rules during the festive season. The appeal, aimed at curbing the growing trend of taking selfies or making 'reels' near railway tracks and promoting disciplined crowd behaviour. comes as ECoR steps up efforts to prevent accidents and ensure safe, smooth travel for lakhs of passengers.

ECoR has launched an intensive awareness drive caupeople—especially youth and social media enthusiasts—against taking selfies, shooting videos, or performing stunts on or near railway tracks, platforms, or moving trains. Officials warned that such reckless behaviour is not only life-threatening but also a punishable offence under Sections 147 and 153 of the Railways Act, 1989, which stipulate imprisonment and fines for violators.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have been directed to enforce a 'Ze-



ro Tolerance' policy against violations. Individuals found trespassing, leaning out of trains, travelling on footboards or rooftops, or filming videos in restricted areas will face strict legal action. ECoR warned that performing stunts near railway tracks or trains not only endangers the individual's life but also poses a serious risk to safe railway operations

The railway premises and tracks are not meant to be entertainment backdrops. A moment of carelessness for a video can cost a life," ECoR cautioned in its advisory, urging parents and teachers to guide youngsters against such dangerous activities. The public was also reminded that overhead electric lines carry extremely high

voltage, and even brief contact

can prove instantly fatal. At the same time, ECoR has appealed for public cooperation in maintaining order and discipline at stations amid the festive rush. To handle the surge in passenger footfall, the railway has introduced 367 special trains, reinforced station security with additional RPF and GRP deployment, and set up 24×7 control rooms for real-time monitoring of passenger movement.

Passengers have been advised to maintain orderly queues while entering or exiting stations, purchasing tickets, and boarding trains. They are urged to avoid rushing, pushing, or crowding near platforms, Foot Over Bridges (FOBs), and escalators. ECoR has appealed to travellers to cooperate with railway staff and security personnel, arrive well in advance, follow announcements, and use designated waiting areas to prevent

overcrowding. Passengers have been urged to stay vigilant, keep their belongings secure, and promptly report any unattended luggage or suspicious activity to the nearest RPF officer or through the Railway Helpline No. 139.

illegal bullet silencers Friday.'

OUR

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.

**KORAPUT-KIRANDUL LINE** 

**Landslide disrupts** 

train services again

Koraput, Oct 23: Train ser

vices on the Koraput-Kiran-

dul rail route were suspended

for about three hours Thurs

day afternoon after boulders

rolled down from a hill near

The latest landslide oc

curred near the 210-km

mark between Maliguda

and Jarati stations on the

Koraput-Jeypore section

A Kirandul-bound VK pas-

senger train was halted at

Jarati station, while the

blocked the tracks.

# **Operating within legal framework: JSPL**

Keonjhar, Oct 23: Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) said it continues to operate within India's legal framework following the Forest department's decision to revoke its working permission for the Roida-I iron ore and manganese mines in Keonihar district.

In a statement issued Thursday, the company said it had secured the mining lease for the Roida-I Iron Ore Block in July 2025 through a government-conducted online auction process. Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Rules, JSPL said, all rights, approvals, and statutory clearances held by the previous lessee, Mideast Integrated Steel Ltd. (MISL), were legally transferred to it, enabling a seamless continuation of mining operations.

department had issued working permission allowing it to transport minerals, similar to the earlier lessee, as part of the compliance process. Based on that authorisation. JSPL said it has been operating the mine for the past two months using the same route previously used by MISL for mineral transportation.

ready initiated the forest diversion process for the said road as advised by the local forest authority, which is under process, and has begun the transfer of forest land from the

**REVOCATION OF** WORKING ORDER

Forest officials said the same route had been used earlier by MISL without obtaining forest clearance. Although a diversion proposal had been submitted, the necessary compliance was reportedly not completed, and clearance was never granted.

Despite this, the department said JSPL continued to use the route for mineral transport, prompting a show-cause notice and a field inspection. An office order dated October 19 stated that JSPL had used forest land "without obtaining prior approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)" under the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and in violation of the Odisha Forest Act. 1972.

A forest case was subsequently registered against an authorised company representative, and two vehicles were seized inside the Sidhamath Reserve Forest, Officials also said JSPL has yet to secure forest land diversion approval for its Deojhar pellet plant, pending since 2015.

The Keonjhar Forest Division has reportedly submitted a detailed report on the violations to the Integrated Regional Office, the Director of Mines, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for further action.

### Eviction notice to steel plant over tribal land grab

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Oct 23: The Keonjhar district administration has issued an eviction notice to the Jagannath Steel and Power Plant located in Uliburu under Karakhendra panchayat of Joda block on charge of encroaching on tribal land.

The matter came to the fore after the office of Champua Sub-Collector issued a notice to the Barbil tehsildar directing him for removal of encroachment.

Sources said the company has allegedly occupied 4.92 acre land belonging to a tribal resident, Junei Munda of Karakhendra village. The encroached plots include khata no-49 and plot no-81 and 82, comprising 3.62 acre of agricultural land and 1.3 acre of homestead land.

The action came after Junei filed a formal complaint with the Champua Sub-Collector, supported by local youth leader Jakriyes Kispeta Junei, who has been pursuing justice for Junei and his son Karamsing Munda. Kispeta said they had even petitioned the Chief Minister regarding the issue. Despite delays, the landowners expressed hope that the administration would deliver justice.

Plant owner Prashant Ahluwalia did not respond to calls made to get his comments. Reports indicate that the company has been using the disputed land to store slag waste from its plant operations.

### Pitabas murder: Jeypore farmhouse owner held

**ANOTHER ACCUSED SURRENDERS; BIKRAM PANDA, 2 MORE FILE FOR BAIL** 



POST NEWS NETWORK

According to investigators, after Panda was shot dead, accused Kurupati Bhuyan and Uma Bisoi fled to Jeypore, where Hota allegedly shelFollowing his arrest, Hota was produced in the court and later remanded to Berhampur Jail Thursday.

Meanwhile, another accused to have financed the killing,

13 people in connection with the murder, including former MLA and BJD's district president Bikram Panda, former Berhampur Mayor Siba Shankar Das alias Pintu, Ward 41 Corporator Malaya Bisoi, and

within the legal framework."

According to Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD, the permission was withdrawn due to "continued non-compliance and violation of the Forest Conservation

Berhampur, Oct 23: Police Thursday arrested another suspect in the murder case of BJP leader and senior advocate Pitabas Panda

The accused has been identified as Sunil Hota, 52, the owner of a farmhouse in Jeypore of Koraput district.

tered them at his farmhouse.

Sudarsan Jena, surrendered before the police Thursday. Jena, an associate of former MLA Bikram Panda, is alleged police said. He is currently in custody and being interrogated. So far, police have arrested

BJD leader Madan Dalai.

Bikram, Malaya and Madan filed bail petitions through their lawyers in the court of the SDJM, Berhampur Thursday. Sources said other accused are also likely to seek bail in the coming days.

Rourkela Intercity Express coming from Jagdalpur toward Koraput was stopped at Maliguda station. A rescue team from Koraput station rushed to the site and

cleared the rocks and debris from the track. Train move ment resumed normally after the cleanup, station master Balaram Muduli said.

### Body found near Rushikulya river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 23: Police have recovered the body of an unidentified man from the Rushikulva riverbank near a village outside Ganjam town.

Locals spotted the body Wednesday evening and alerted police, who arrived at the scene shortly after receiving the information.

Residents suspected foul play, saying the body showed deep injury marks and bruises and appeared swollen. The body was recovered by police and fire personnel and sent for post-mortem examination.

of unnatural death and launched an investigation to identify the deceased and determine the cause of death. The discovery has sparked fear among villagers.

Police have registered a case

### **POACHING SUSPECTED IN SIMILIPAL**

## Leopard hide seized; 2 held

Keonihar, Oct 23: Suspicion of wildlife poaching in Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district has again started doing the rounds after a joint team arrested two persons and seized a leopard hide from their possession in neighbouring Keonjhar district Thursday.

The accused were identified as Rabindra Tudu, 40, a resident of Asanabani village under Patana block and his brother-in-law Manua Hembram, 46, of Munda Sahi in Judiaghati under Town police limits of Keonjhar district.

Both were produced in court Thursday, Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD said. A case has been registered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,

as part of the 2024-25 OR Case Number 16. Further investigation is underway, forest officials confirmed.

The breakthrough came when a joint team of Keonihar forest and police personnel seized a leopard hide from the house of Tudu at Asanabani village during a raid October 20 following a tip-off by the cyber cell of Keonjhar police. Authorities suspect the animal may have been killed in Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary.

During questioning, officials

learned that his brother-in-law, Hembram, was involved in the illegal trade of wildlife body parts. Subsequently, a raid at Munda

led to Hembram's arrest. Forest officials said he is the first person from the Keonjhar Town area to be directly linked to the illegal wildlife trade.

Examination of the duo's mobile phones revealed multiple videos suggesting their involvement in ivory smuggling and the trade of animal body parts. The seized hide is believed to have come from a 10-yearold leopard suspected to have been killed in the forests of Similipal un-

investigating officer Ashok Das.

Man fights off croc to save goat, loses hand

ANGUL: A man in Jhampuli village under Kishorenagar police limits in Angul

district lost his hand while fighting off a crocodile which attacked his goat

near the Jhimai rivulet Thursday. According to reports, the goat was grazing

near the water when a crocodile suddenly grabbed it. The owner, identified

as Ranjit Pradhan, jumped into the water in an attempt to rescue the animal

During the struggle, the crocodile bit off Pradhan's hand. Pradhan was first

taken to a health facility in Kishorenagar and later transferred to the Angul

District Headquarters Hospital for advanced treatment. His condition is

reported to be critical as doctors continue to provide emergency care.

**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING** Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, PIN - 695 033, Phone : 0471-2723333

विज्ञापन सं. सीडैकित/आरसीटी/05/2025/तारीख/24/10/2025 Advt. No: CDACT/RCT/05/2025 dated 24/10/2025 सी-डैक, तिरुवनंतपुरम में समेकित वेतन पर विभिन्न अनुबंध पदों के लिय

रायपुर स्थान के लिए वॉकइन/ऑनलाइन इंटरव्यु WALK IN/ONLINE INTERVIEW FOR RAIPUR LOCATION FOR VARIOUS CONTRACT POSITIONS ON CONSOLIDATED PAY FOR C-DAC **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM** 

अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट देखें / For more details, please visit our website www.cdac.in cbc 06165/12/0005/2526 प्रबंधक (प्रशासन), एच आर / Manager (Admn). HR

### EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. MSM-EARTHING-SBP-23-25 NAME OF WORK : ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF EARTHING EQUIPMENTS PROVIDEL IN THE LHB COACHES OF COACHING

OF TWO YEARS.

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 82,41,085.04, <u>EMD</u> : ₹ 1,64,800/-, <u>Cost o</u> tender document : ₹ 5,900/-, <u>Completior</u> Period of the Work: 24 Months Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530

DEPOT, SAMBALPUR FOR A PERIO

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

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender in

available in website: www.ireps.gov.in PR-707/Q/25-26 (EnHM)/Sambalpu

वैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया BOI

Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-751001

REDEMPTION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-751006. Sir/Madam.

Sub: Your NPA A/c No.: 513275110000047 & 513275110000076 WITH OUR SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

We refer to notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 dated 13.06.2025 (paper publication done on 05.07.2025) and symbolic possession taken u/s 13(4) dated 20.09.2025 (paper publication done on 23.09.2025) You have not satisfied our demand amount Rs.30,80,178.11 (Thirty Lakh Eighty Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Eleven only) as mentioned in the demand notice dated 13.06.2025 for which Authorised Officer has gone for sale of secured assets. The sale notice has been published in the newspapers "Orissa Post (English) and Sambad (Odiya)" on 15.10.2025 and we are enclosing a copy of the newspapers. The reserve price fixed for the sale of the property is Rs.29.00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Only).

Please refer to the link provided in https://:baanknet.com Date of E-Auction is 25.11.2025 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM. In case you are interested in redeeming your property, you may repay the entire outstanding of Rs.30.80.178.11 (Thirty Lakh Eighty Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Eleven only) along with the interest and other charges thereon or may bring purchaser for purchasing your property minimum at Reserve Price fixed by the Competent Authority on or before 25.11.2025 by 4.00

P.M. failing which we shall be confirming the sale to the highest bidder. Schedule of property/ies All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Flat No.: 403, 4th Floor, Maa Santoshi Enclave Apartment, Plot No.: 1050, Khata No.: 668/568, Mouza: Bhagabanpur, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Area: 680 sqft., standing in the name of **Mrs. Prativa Das**, W/o- Narottam Mohanty. Apartment bounded by- North: BDA Land, South: Road, East: Sub Plot No.-B (rest part of

Plot No. 1035) and West: Land of GA Department. The Flat is bounded by North: Community Hall South: Flat No.- 401, East: Corridor, West: Open Space. S/d- Authorised Office Bank of India

कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्राल्य त्वरित कॉपोरिट समापन प्रसंस्करण केन्द्र (सी-पेस), आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल, प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव, हरियाणा – 122050

**Government of India Ministry of Corporate Affairs** 

Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

**Centre for Processing Accelerated** Corporate Exit (C-PACE), IICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P- 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050 Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

### Form No. STK - 6 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1339 Reference: In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (5) companies in the state of Odisha

### CIN AB7514305 U551010R2023PTC041701 JAYMEERA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS & RESORTS PRIVATE LIMITED

AB6363165 U15130OR2022PTC040924 SHANAR DAIRY PRIVATE LIMITED

AB6413018 U51109OR2011PTC014476 JGTL TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED AB6315837 U28112OR2011PTC013347 J G INFRATECH & ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED

248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on an business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within suc period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtaine the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay a the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of it incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and nave, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies 3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the

Register of Companies

Raunak Agrawa Deputy Registra

### Dhemsa dance and enthusiastic day after the long-pending bypass trade, ensure faster connectivity participation of BJP workers and road map received official approval. and strengthen tourism prospects. local residents. The joyful crowd The people's dream has finally tak-

Koraput celebrates bypass road map approval with grand rally

Koraput, Oct 23: A wave of celebration swept through Koraput Thurs-

To mark the milestone moment, a grand procession was organised from the residence of MLA Raghuram Machha to the Koraput Munic-

The rally showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region featuring the lively steps of tribal marched through the streets, celebrating a development project that has been a decade-long aspiration of the people of Koraput.

"This bypass is not just a road project, it is the future lifeline of Koraput. It will ease traffic, boost en shape, and we are committed to completing the work without delay," MLA Machha said.

### 1,200-yr-old Jagannath temple cries for revival

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 23: While the state government has been proactive for the protection, restoration and development of various religious sites. a 1,200-year-old Jagannath temple atop a hill in Balarampurgarh under Dharmasala block of Jajpur district has been left neglected.

Parts of the ancient temple's boundary wall collapsed during last year's monsoon, and much of its paint has peeled off. Despite repeated appeals from locals for its conservation, authorities have not taken any concrete steps, leaving residents distressed.

According to available records, Balarampurgarh was established in 553 AD by King Balaram Singh. Since then until 1952, as many as 45 kings ruled the region. Known for their generosity and people-friendly governance, the rulers ensured peace even after India's independence. The royals of Balarampurgarh were known particularly for their devotion to worship Lord Vishnu and female deities.

In 1326 AD, Radhapriya, queen of Athagarh estate and sister of Dasharathi Dhirabirabar Harichandan Mohapatra, a descendant of King Balaram Singh built a Jagannath temple on the foothills. When the structure deteriorated over time, it was reconstructed in



the late 18th century.

Another temple dedicated to Goddess Gadachandi is situated at Kusunpur near the foothills. This temple was reportedly damaged during the invasion by Kalapahada but was later repaired through the efforts of Kusunpur villagers.

Several other temples including those of Balunkeshwar, Gopinath, Patitapaban, Madan Mohan and Dadhibaman are also located around the base of the Balarampur hill. Reiterating that these heritage

locals have urged the government to intervene before further damage occurs. Rulers once played a key role in

fostering religious devotion among

structures are emotionally and

culturally significant to the region,

the people, forging a close bond with their subjects.

In 2015, the 'Nabakalebara' ritual of Lord Jagannath was conducted at the Balarampurgarh temple

under the initiative of royal Prabir Chandra Dhirabirabar Harichandan Mohapatra, with the support from local residents. Prabir Chandra was the 42nd descendant of King Balaram Singh. The state department of Art and Culture also undertook restoration of the temple's boundary wall.

However, the historic temple has since fallen into neglect and disrepair.'About 2 km away lies Ramgarh, another landmark on the Balarampur hill range. A small hilly stream flows through the site, adding to its natural beauty. Despite the hill's rich heritage and scenic charm, stone mining mafias in the past attempted to destroy it. Local residents say illegal black stone extraction has been halted due to strong public resistance. Villagers including Manoj Kumar

Dhir, Smrutiranjan Dhir, Chinmay Dhir, Sanjav Kumar Dhir, Anil Barik and Sagar Kumar Dhir say Balarampur hill could see holistic development if it were declared a tourist destination. They added that the historic vil-

lage still lacks a proper road and

its future depends on government

intervention.

(2) e-Tender No. 41-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date : 14.10.2025

NAMEOFWORK PROVISION OF ANT SLIPPING ARRANGEMENT BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL CATENARY PIECE & PG CLAMP ACROSS THE

BHAWANIPATNA AND BALANGIR CHAMPAPUR OVER SAMBALPUR

CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM (SCADA) IN SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION OVER SAMBALPUR Approx. Cost : ₹ 1,45,03,110.00, EMD ₹ 2,22,500/-

Completion Period: 12 Months (for SI. No. 1 & 2) and 08 Months (for SI. No. 3 & Fender Closing Date and Time: At 1530 Hrs. on 06.11.2025 (for all the Tenders). nual offers sent by Post / Courier e-tenders even if these are submitted or

without any consideration. Complete information including e-tende vailable in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen

days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued fo his tender. The tenderers/bidders mus have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
PR-706/Q/25-26 Sambalput

the Maliguda station and This is the second such incident within a week as a similar situation had arisen October 19 affecting train services.

The company said the Forest

JSPL added that it has al-

previous lessee which includes compensatory afforestation obligations.

"The recent revocation of the working permission by the district forest authority is sudden and unexpected," the company said. "Jindal Steel is in active discussions with the local Forest department and district administration to resolve the matter. As a responsible corporate citizen, the company will always continue to operate

The company's statement came a day after reports surfaced that the Keonihar Forest Division had revoked JSPL's working permission for alleged violations of forest laws.

Act and the Odisha Forest Act. Officials alleged that JSPL had been using a forest road passing through the Sidhamath Reserve Forest to transport minerals without prior approval for for-

Sahi under Town police limits

der Karanjia Wildlife Division. Officials are investigating involvement of others and the exact location of the leopard's death, said

### (1) e-Tender No. 40-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date : 14.10.2025

NAME OF WORKS TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE ON NH-353 IN LIEU OF RV-30 BETWEEN BELSONDA-MAHASAMUND

IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION. prox. Cost : ₹ 39,62,351.79, EMD

ENDING OF LARGE SPAN WIRE TO AVOID BREAKAGE OF LARGE SPAN WIRE AT ENDING CLAMP EDGE IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx. Cost : ₹ 44,78,252.55, EMD

(3) e-Tender No. 42-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26. Date: 15.10.2025 NAME OF WORK : PROVISION FOR CYBER SECURITY IMPLEMENTATION N EXISTING SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM (SCADA) OF JHARSUGUDA ROAD-TITLAGARH, SINGAPUR ROAD AKHOLI, LANJIGARH ROAD

Approx. Cost : ₹ 7,58,39,205.27, EMD : ₹ 5,29,200/-

(4) e-Tender No. 43-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date: 15.10.2025

NAME OF WORK: PROVISION OF CYBER SECURITY IMPLEMENTATION IN EXISTING SUPERVISORY

irm's letter head and received in time. A buch manual offers shall be considered in time. A such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarial

ly registered tenderer/bidder car ticipate on e-tendering.

CBC 07123/11/0436/2526

BANK OF INDIA, SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH Plot No.: 206, Madhusudan Nagar, VIP Road, Sastri Nagar

Borrower: Mrs. Prativa Das, W/o- Mr. Narottam Mohanty, Flat No.: 202, Tridhara Enclave, Mahadev Nagar, Jharapada, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-751006.

Guarantor: Mr. Narottam Mohanty, Flat No.: 202, Tridhara Enclave, Mahadev Nagar, Jharapada

CDAC

भारत सरकार



under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of: S. No. Work Item

AB7629715 U13100OR2004PTC007642 CENTURY RESOURCES (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED . Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his of her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

**Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit** 





The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it.





Chatteriee &

Arvind Subramanian

The new China

**Shock is not just** 

about economic

consequences. It

is also a test of

whether China

can serve as a

fair steward of

or remain a

**formidable** 

beggar-thy-

mercantilism

neighbour

practitioner of

global prosperity,

### The New China Shock

veloping world, where hundreds of millions of people still depend on manufacturing for jobs and upward mobility. China's trade dominance not only threatens growth across the Global South; it also undermines

Influential work by David Autor and his co-authors documented how the first China Shock, from the mid-1990s to the late 2000s, wiped out manufacturing jobs and communities across the US. Yet much of that adjustment reflected deeper, long-term forces: technological progress and the steady reallocation of workers from factories to services – a shift that predated the China Shock, but was accelerated by it. As a result, advanced economies have largely vacated the low-skill sectors

trillion, about \$1.4 trillion of which comes from low-skill goods. For the West, then, the new China Shock is narrower, concentrated in a few sectors such as electric vehicles and renewables, and in specific technologies where Chinese imports still account for about 1.5 per cent of the West's GDP.

The story is far more alarming for lowand middle-income countries (LMICs), which face a threat to the sectors where their comparative advantage lies - namely, low-skill manufacturing industries, which remain crucial for job creation and economic development. Accounting for almost 4 per cent of LMICs' combined GDP, the import shock from China represents a larger (and growing) share of their economies than imports of high-skill goods do in developed countries.

How serious is this threat? One benchmark is to compare China's share of lowskill exports among LMICs to its share of for more than half of global low-skill exports, and though its market share has declined slightly since peaking in 2015, the trend line should have been far steep er, given its shrinking labour force. The its labour-force share - roughly 28 percentage points - suggests that China continues to occupy "excess" export space that could otherwise support tens of millions of manufacturing jobs in poorer economies.

striking is that China's manufacturing wages are now far higher than those in LMICs – and still increasing. For example, in apparel, the canonical labour-intensive sector, the annual wage in China averages around \$10,000, which is roughly five times higher than in Bangladesh and four

the development ladder.

berger famously argued that hegemons provide global public goods. such as financing during crises, resources for long-term development, and support for open markets. When the US was the world's economic hegemon after World War II, it created manufacturing and export space for others - first Japan, then the Asian Tigers, and eventually China itself. Its willingness to absorb imports and allow others to grow was an essential part of its global leadership. Yet today, as the Trump administration retreats from that role, China's actions will determine whether it can credibly replace the US as a responsible provider of

actions against China. The recent unrest in Indonesia – a by-product of de-industrialisation and exposure to Chinese competition – underscores what is at stake. To its credit, China has taken symbolic steps toward offering real leadership, including by voluntarily relinquishing its developing-country status at the World Trade Organization and granting duty-free access to poorer countries.

But these gestures will ring hollow unless China genuinely vacates the global manufacturing space. If China truly aspires to global leadership. it must internalise a simple truth: hegemons gain legitimacy not by dominating others, especially the poor, but by enabling their rise. The new China Shock is not just about economic consequences. It is also a test of whether China can serve as a fair steward of global prosperity, or remain a formidable practitioner of beggar-thy-neighbour mercantilism.

Shoumitro Chatterjee is Assistant Professor of International Economics at Johns Hopkins University. Arvind Subramanian, a former chief economic adviser to the Indian government, is a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.



hina's rising trade surplus is once again causing unease in the United States and Europe. But the real casualties from this new 'China Shock" will not be in the West. They will be in the de-China's own claim to global leadership.

that China continues to dominate.

Today, China's manufacturing trade surplus stands at roughly \$2

the global workforce. China still accounts wedge between China's export share and

What makes this persistence even more times higher than in India. Even with such

wage differentials, China's export strength might be less troubling if it stemmed purely from productivity gains and automation. In that case, one would still have to question China's hegemonic legitimacy, because true hegemons accommodate rather than crowd out others, but it would not necessarily be unfair. Mounting evidence suggests that this is not the case, though. Instead, China shows signs of significant policy distortions. Industrial subsidies, undervalued exchange rates, and persistent excess capacity are all tilting the playing field in its favour. China's continued dominance reflects not just efficiency, but deliberate policy choices that prevent poorer countries from climbing

History underscores how unfair China's strategy is. Charles Kindlethat critical global public good.

The pressure on LMICs is already evident in their growing trade

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### FOCUS POLLUTION

# BREATHLESS IN DIWALI

the clock struck midnight, sleepless and exasperated with the relentless firecracker noise, I rang up the local police station. "Its past midnight and crackers are still being burst. Will you take action as per the Supreme Court guidelines please?" The voice on the line sounded fatigued: "Koshish karrahe hai sir par log sunte nahi!" (We are trying but people don't listen). I almost felt sorry for the constable on the night beat. When citizens don't seem to care, how do you enforce a court order that has mandated a 10 pm deadline for bursting firecrackers?

The next morning, while on my regular morning walk in the park, I could feel the toxicity in the air. Light autumn sunshine was replaced by a thick, black smog, the inevitable fallout of a night of festivity for some, misery for many others. So who does one hold accountable for the national capital being amongst the most polluted cities in the world where in Diwali week the air quality routinely takes a turn for the worse and only aggravates chronic respi ratory illnesses?

Let's start with the Court itself. Why did a Bench headed by the Chief Justice BR Gavai choose to lift the blanket cracker ban? Were they genuinely trying to 'balance' conflicting interests or simply surrender ing before those who insisted that banning crackers was against 'Hindu sentiment'? Was the Chief Justice, already under pressure from Hindutva foot-soldiers after his comments on a Lord Vishnu idol led to a deplorable shoe-throwing incident, keen to make peace with his critics? After all, a temporary litmus test to determine whether regulated relaxation of norms could co-exist with pollution control measures was always fraught with risk. The approval granted to 'green crackers' - an oxymoronic term -- was a rhetorical fig-leaf: far from providing a middle ground between festivities and environ-



A match-up between the right to breathe clean air versus religious freedom is a no-contest: clean air doesn't win you votes, religious appeasement almost always does

mental protection, it only gave a licence to citizens to burst crackers with impunity.

The BJP government returned to power in Delhi in February this year after a 'vanvas' of 27 years. Amongst its slew of promises was a commitment to bring back the 'joy' of bursting crackers. Forget about addressing drainage, garbage collection and a slew of urgent issues, those in power were determined to revive a Diwali 'tradition' of bursting crackers. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta framed it as a 'cultural celebration' with no mention of its health fallout. The BJP had accused the previous AAP government of being 'anti-Hindu' by banning firecrackers. It was a dangerous argument, aimed to inject a religious dimension to a grave public health issue. In an environment of coarsened majoritarian politics, it was just the kind of populist narrative that pushed the opposition on the defensive. A match-up between the right to breathe clean air versus religious freedom is a no-contest: clean air doesn't win you votes, religious appeasement almost always does.

Ironically, there is scant historical evidence to suggest that fire-crackers have been an intrinsic part of Diwali celebrations. Traditionally, Diwali is seen as a festival of lights and not noise, a magically lit-up diya providing a sparkling touch. It is only in more recent times that the cracker

industry has become a gigantic multi-crore enterprise, driven by a consumerised religiosity that converts every religious occasion into a grand spectacle. Moreover, vote bank politics has pushed governments into pandering to the competing sentiments of every religion: if Muslims can slaughter goats on Bakri Eid, why can't Hindus have an unhindered cracker-fest in Diwali week? This is an illogical argument when human lungs are at stake but then logic takes a backseat

when emotions take over. If the government was serious about enforcing the court directives, it could have sent out a firm message to the police force that it meant business this time, not just empty rhetoric and token fines. But to expect an over-burdened constabulary to move from mohalla to mohalla to check on cracker usage in the absence of any political will from the top leadership was ab initio an unworkable proposition.

Which leaves one to ask questions of 'We, the People', those who are the heart of the firecracker nuisance. No ban or regulation on crackers will work unless the general public willingly complies with the rules. Compliance with any law is a major challenge in a sub-continental size country. In 2024, for example, approximately 8 crore traffic challans were issued across India for a variety of offences. The fact that many were repeat offenders

suggests that despite heavier penalties under the amended Motor Vehicles Act, the deterrent factor still isn't as strong as it should be.

The route to compliance must

emerge from a mix of fear and voluntarism. If even a dozen firecracker violators were named, shamed and jailed, it might act as a deterrent. If citizen awareness campaigns were started across schools, offices and media outlets, it might have a long term impact. Unfortunately, millions have been brainwashed into believing that firecrackers represent an unfettered fundamental right of religious freedom that cannot be constrained through coercive state power. Concerned public-spirited citizens who raise their voice against crackers are easily branded as 'anti-Hindu' elites and even 'anti-national' for denying the masses their choice of festive celebration.

Truth is Hindu dharma promotes environmental protection through concepts like respecting nature as divine, venerating trees and rivers while constantly striving for ecological sustainability. Demanding a cleaner environment is not an elite pre-occupation but a dharmic duty. Polluted air affects every Indian, irrespective of their income levels. There are no easy solutions but a sensitive, futuristic government ought to create a holistic round the year action plan to tackle every potential environmental hazard, then be it stubble burning farmers, polluting industries or indeed frenzied cracker crowds. A Viksit Bharat cannot be built with millions of people choking on poor air.

Post-script: When I interviewed him, Delhi's environment minister, Manjinder Singh Sirsa blamed the AAP government in Punjab for worsening air quality levels, even bizarrely accusing them of 'forcing' farmers to burn crop residue. Shirking responsibility and passing the buck remains a habitual problem with our netas. Change isn't in the air anytime soon. only suffocating pollution is.

The writer is a senor journalist and author.

### SPECTRUM BANKING

Rajdeep Sardesai

**A VIKSIT** 

**BHARAT** 

**CANNOT BE** 

**BUILT WITH** 

**MILLIONS** 

**POOR AIR** 

**OF PEOPLE** 

**CHOKING ON** 

# Lost fortune: Unlocking unclaimed deposits



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

**FOR AN ECONOMY STRIVING FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION** AND STABILITY, **THIS GROWING MOUNTAIN OF IDLE WEALTH PRESENTS A PARADOXICAL CHALLENGE** 

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

magine a treasure chest full of hard-earned money, not buried on a deserted island, but lying dormant within the vaults of India's banking system. This is the reality of unclaimed deposits, a staggering sum that belongs to ordinary citizens but remains untouched, often forgotten. For an economy striving for financial inclusion and stability, this growing mountain of idle wealth, money that could otherwise fuel consumption, investment, or provide a safety net for families, presents a paradoxical challenge

Unclaimed deposits are generally defined as the balance in savings or current accounts that have not been operated for 10 years or more or term deposits that have not been claimed within 10 years of maturity. As of June 30, 2025 the total value of unclaimed deposits transferred to the RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund stood at an overwhelming ₹67,003 crore. A look at the data over the last few years reveals a rapid accumulation: the amount nearly trebled from around ₹4.500 crore annually to ₹12,254.29 crore in 2022–23. In

severe issue that demands urgent attention. Public sector banks account for the lion's share of this total.

The reasons behind this sub-

stantial financial lethargy are multifaceted, stemming from both individual customer behaviour and systemic banking practices. A primary cause is simply the failure to update contact details following a change of address, job or marital status. When a bank attempts to communicate about an inactive account, the correspondence is returned, cutting the thread of connection. Migration, both internal and external, often results in customers opening new accounts in new locations while neglecting to close or maintain minimal activity in old ones. A tragic, yet significant reason is the death of the account holder without leaving a clear nomination or will, leaving legal heirs unaware of the existence of the deposit or unable to navigate the cumbersome claim process due to lack of necessary documents or knowledge. In many cases, especially with small or initial

deposits, the amount is simply forgotten by the original depositor, especially when multiple bank accounts are maintained or when a small fixed deposit was made years ago and its maturity passed unnoticed. Lastly, a persistent gap in financial literacy means many customers are unaware of the rules regarding account dormancy, the nomination facility or the procedure for claiming deposits.

Recognising the gravity of the situation, the RBI has initiated several proactive steps to encourage the return of these funds to their rightful claimants. A significant move has been the launch of the UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access Information) portal. This centralised web portal allows individuals to search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks using a single interface, making the discovery process vastly simpler.

The RBI also mandates banks to proactively identify and contact customers whose accounts have become inoperative and to display the names and addresses of unclaimed account holders on their websites.

To fundamentally improve the situation, a multi-pronged strategy is required. Banks must embrace digital and automated tracing mechanisms to regularly cross-verify customer data with external databases (while maintaining privacy) and to send timely, persistent electronic alerts to customers about their account status long before it becomes dormant. Regulatory measures should be stream lined further, particularly the claim settlement process, making it simpler for legal heirs to retrieve funds with minimal documentation and without unnec essary delays, perhaps through a standardised, common online application platform linked to UDGAM. Crucially, a mandatory and simple nomination pro cess should be strictly enforced at the time of account opening with banks required to confirm the validity of nomination details periodically. Finally, government-led nationwide campaigns must be sustained to raise public awareness about the issue.

The writer is a former college principal and founder of Supporting Shoulders.

### WISDOM CORNER

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things.

Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darknesses of other people.

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1861:** The first transcontinental telegram was sent via the telegraph in the United States, effectively bringing to an end the Pony Express.
- **1922:** Benito Mussolini helped plan the March on Rome, which began on October 28 and resulted in him becoming dictator of Italy.

### Basic right

Sir, Right to good roads is irretrievably linked with right to life. The Bombay High Court has, in a recent verdict, poignantly ruled that this aspect is enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. Most of the time, authorities pay lip service following the casualties and look the other way. There is hardly any semblance of accountability fixed on contractors or engineers. Every rule on roads are bent. Funds are siphoned off and citizens are left in the lurch. Cities like Bangalore and Mumbai are facing huge issues with potholes that are converted into dangerous craters. Encroachers have left no space on the footpaths and pedestrians are forced to walk dangerously on the roads. And politicians are the "saviours" of these encroachers for obvious reasons. It is unfortunate that courts have to step-in for the smallest, and most rectifiable, administrative loopholes.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### **Audacious heist**

Sir, In a stunning daylight heist on 19 October four masked thieves scaled the Louvre Museum's façade using a lift, smashed into the Galerie d'Apollon, and vanished within minutes with eight priceless French crown jewels once owned by Empress Marie-Louise and Empress Eugénie. Exploiting a renovation zone and thin security, the gang displayed cinematic precision that stunned the world. France's loss exceeds \$25 million, but the real damage lies in the theft of its royal legacy—artefacts symbolising centuries of history and grandeur. The Louvre's closure, frantic investigations, and global manhunt now unfold like scenes from a thriller. As France scrambles to tighten security and recover its treasures, this audacious heist—blending high-stakes crime, royal intrigue, and flawless execution—has all the ingredients of a blockbuster film waiting to be made, reminding the world how even history's most guarded gems can vanish in minutes. Let's hope the profit through the movie in the offing helps cover up the loss of museum through its true story.

RS Narula, PATIALA



# TWO STATES





# Delhi opens doors to women night-shift workers

*The employers will make suitable arrangements* regarding safety, security and transportation for all employees, who have been asked to work overtime or in the night shift, the notification said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Delhi government, in a notification issued on Thursday, allowed the engagement of women workers at shops and commercial establishments in night shifts with their mandatory written consent, officials said.

The notification also said everv employee will be entitled to double pay for overtime and a maximum of 48 hours of weekly duty, in accordance with the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act. Internal complaints committees (ICCs) will also have to be formed, it said.

Approval to the city government's proposal for engaging women workers at shops and other commercial establishments in night shifts was given earlier this year by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

A recent notification issued by the Delhi government's la-

**DIWALI AFTERMATH** 

Air, noise pollution fuels

Kolkata health woes



bour department added two entries pertaining to employing women and the conditions of their employment under the Delhi Shops and Establishment

The additions laid down that women workers will be allowed to work in night shifts but their written consent for this will be mandatory. No employee will be employed or allowed to work

for more than nine hours (including the time for meals and rest) on any day and for not more than 48 hours a week, the notification said.

The employers will make suitable arrangements regarding safety, security and trans portation for all employees, who have been asked to work overtime or in the night shift, it said. Further, no employee will be allowed to work for more than five hours at a stretch, it said.

"Overtime wages will be paid to eligible employees at double the normal rate as provided under Section 8 of the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act, 1954.

only," the notification said. Importantly, every employer

engaging women workers will constitute ICCs under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the notification said.

Further, the employers will install CCTV cameras for the videography of the establishment, preserve the footage for not less than a month and submit it on demand from the chief inspector of shops

The notified entries also included compensatory leave in lieu of work on national holidays, weekly off days, legal benefits like minimum wages, provident fund, insurance and

### **Delhi mops up ₹600cr** in excise revenue from liquor sale during Diwali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Delhi government mopped up about ₹600 crore in excise revenue from the sale of liquor from retail stores run by its corpo rations during Diwali, officials said Thursday.

The excise department has recorded sale of ₹594 crore of liquor from the retail vends during 15 days preceding Diwali, a senior Delhi government

The revenue from liquor sale this year was 15 per cent higher than the sale during the same period last year, he said.

"The sale was ₹516 crore during the fortnight before Diwali in 2024. This year's sale of ₹594 crore during the same period shows that there is 15 per cent increase in the total quantum of sale amount of li

The Delhi government registered over 12 per cent growth in excise revenue collection in the first half of the current financial year as compared to the same period last year, officials said.

As per official figures, the excise revenue, including value added tax (VAT) was ₹3.731.79 crore during April-September 2024-25. It grew to ₹4,192.86 crore in the first half of the current financial year.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 23: Mystery has surfaced in a village near Bolpur in Birbhum district of West Bengal following the recovery of a live World War II-era bomb there.

Although the Army personnel posted at a nearby base successfully defused the bomb recovered from Laudaha village near Bolpur, which houses the iconic Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore-founded Visva Bharati University, a mystery has cropped up as to how the bomb was brought to that spot and remained unattended for so long.

The Army personnel defused the bomb Wednesday by safely exploding it. The impact of the explosion was so massive that tremors were felt in near by villages.

It is learnt that the local fishermen first noticed an unknown cylinder-like metal object on the banks of the Ajay River in Laudaha village under the Bola month ago. However, initially, they did not give much importance, and finally, the matter was brought to the notice of

The area was cordoned off, and the police asked local people not to go near the site. Later, Army officials were informed, who made inspections before deciding to defuse the bomb. The bomb was neutralised under the supervision of the Central forces. "The bomb was defused

yesterday in the presence of Army officials. There was panic in the area since the bomb was discovered. We had cordoned off the area for the safety of others. The situation has now improved after the bomb was neutralised," said a senior officer of Birbhum district police on Thursday morning.

### **ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED**

(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING) SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR-751002 Tel-MD 0674-2340573, E-mail-mdosscltd456@gmail.com

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No.OSSC/Engg-130/2025 / No-OSSC/Engg/131/2025 No.CAD-2087:The Managing Director, Odisha State Seeds Corporation Ltd invites the following tender through ONLINE through e-procurement site of Govt. of Odisha www.tenderodisha.gov.in.

Percentage Rate Tenders from eligible Civil works contractors registered under Competent authority of

	SI	Name of the Work	Estimated EMD	Cost of Tender	Completion	Eligibility class	
				document	period	of contractors	
	1	Repair of Roof of Seed Storage Godown at Mathili, Malkanagiri	6,41,457.00	6,415.00	4,480.00	120	D or above
	2	Repair of Roof of Seed Storage Godown at Rayagada	9,08,635.00	9,086.00	4,480.00	120	D or above
١		The details of location of work.	estimated amo	unt regardir	na construction v	vork alongwit	h cost of Tende

Document, EMD and other criteria alongwith critical dates for the above Tenders can be seen in the Detailed Tender Call Notice posted in website of Govt. of Odisha www.tenderodisha.gov.in.

The last date for uploading of tender to tender portal is dt.03.11.2025 OIPR-01045/11/0111/2526 Sd./- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd., BBSR

**West Bengal capital** sees post-Diwali surge in respiratory illnesses, pregnancy complications due to pollution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 23: Hospitals across Kolkata have reported a significant rise in respiratory illnesses among people and complications among pregnant women and IVF patients after Diwali and Kali Puja celebrations, with doctors attributing the surge to heightened air and noise pollution caused by bursting of

Pulmonologists and gynaecologists observed an uptick in both outpatient and inpatient visits between October 20 and 22, with pollution levels soaring well beyond safe limits.

Several medical professionals warned of serious health risks for vulnerable groups, including those with pre-existing respiratory conditions and expecting mothers.

Dr Mrinmoy Mitra, senior consultant pulmonologist at ILS Hospital, Dumdum, reported a 10-15 per cent

in the Burari area, Gupta said in

preparations have been complet-

ed to induce artificial rain through

cloud seeding, marking a signifi-

cant technological milestone in the

capital's fight against air pollution.

Experts on Thursday successfully

conducted a trial test in the Bura-

ri area. According to the weather

department, cloudy conditions are

expected on October 28, 29, and 30.

If the weather remains favourable,

Delhi is likely to witness its first

Delhi Environment Minister

"For the first time in Delhi,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

a post on X.

post read.

respiratory illnesses and a 20 per cent rise in OPD visits during the festive period.

gravated asthma, AECOPD, chest tightness, wheezing, and nasal blockage. Diwali smoke and firecracker emissions create a hazardous environment, especially for those with chronic lung diseases,' Dr Mitra noted.

Echoing him, Dr Soumya Sengupta, senior consultant pulmonologist at Techno India DAMA Hospital, said that in just three days, over 40 patients sought treatment for asthma and COPD exacerbation, up from the usual 10 to 15 patients.

and ethyl-benzene from firecrackers severely compromise air quality. Throat irritation, sneezing, and shortness of breath were common symptoms," he said.

increase in hospital admissions for

"Most patients came in with ag-

At Manipal Hospitals, OPD cases rose by nearly 25 per cent, while inpatient admissions increased by around 5-10 per cent. Dr Debrai Jash, Head of Pulmonology Department, told PTI. "There has been a noticeable increase in cases when compared to the period before Kali Puja and Diwali. The inpatient numbers have gone up by around 5-10 per

Delhi preps for first-ever artificial rain

The capital conducts successful trial for artificial rain; 1st cloud seeding likely Oct 29

"Toxic gases like sulphur dioxide

cent, while the outpatient cases have risen by nearly 20-25 per cent," he said. Most of the affected patients had pre-existing respiratory illnesses such as asthma, COPD, or interstitial lung disease (ILD). Children accounted for a large portion of the OPD cases, while hospitalised patients were primarily elderly individuals or those with chronic conditions, he said. Dr Souray Bhuin, consultant at Abha Surgy Centre, highlighted a 15-20 per cent spike in health complaints among pregnant and IVF patients following Diwali.

"We saw an increased number of cases of respiratory distress, hypertensive episodes, sleep disturbances, and even signs of preterm labour. The high levels of PM2.5 and PM10 can penetrate deep into the lungs and may cross the placental barrier. posing a threat to both mother and foetus. Loud firecrackers also led to anxiety and insomnia, further complicating pregnancy outcomes," Dr Bhuin said. However, other hospitals observed a more cautious trend among pregnant women.

According to Dr Debraj Jash, the number of respiratory complications in expectant mothers remained low. "Pregnant women generally take extra precautions to avoid exposure, so we didn't see a major rise in such cases," he said.

The medical professionals unanimously urged citizens and authorities to adopt safer, quieter, and more environmentally friendly celebration practices. "Firecracker restrictions must be enforced more strictly, and public awareness campaigns are essential to prevent post-festival health crises," said Dr Mitra of ILS Hospital, Dumdum,

"People with respiratory conditions should wear N95 masks, avoid outdoor exposure during peak pollution hours, and stay on prescribed

medications," he said. With Kolkata's Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeding 200 in multiple areas post-Diwali, healthcare providers have reiterated that protecting public health, particularly of vulnerable groups, must be prioritised alongside festive traditions.

### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RWS&S DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**

"e"- Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.07 of 2025-26

No.O-1083: The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Sundargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids in Single Cover System from bidders registered with Central Government /MES/Railways and other State Government having validity of Civil License for execution of the works detailed in the table below Construction of Additional Of-

		luce koom for he(ii) at kwso			
	Nature of Work	Section, Rajgangpur under Offic			
		of the Superintending Enginee			
		RWS&S Division, Sundargarh			
	No. of Tender	: 01 No.			
١	Tender Paper Cost	: 6,000/-			
	Class of Contractor	: 'C' & 'D'			
	Date and Time of availability of bid	: Dt.24.10.2025 at 11.00 AM to			
	document in the portal	Dt.03.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM			
	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	: Dt.04.11.2025 at 11.00 AM.			
	The bidders have to participate in	online bidding only. Further detail			

and any type of corrigendum can be seen from the Govt. website http:// The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders withou

Sd./-Superintending Engineer RWS&S Division, Sundargarh OIPR-25009/11/0004/2526

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-630 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **BOLANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BOLANGIR**

Mail ID: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No.: 06652-232374 BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/19/2025-26

The Superiintending Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behal of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of building work detailed in the table below from eligible contractors

Nature of Work Civil and Electrical Work 8 Nos. of Civil work and 2 Nos

Electrical work Rs.2000/-, Rs.4000/-, Rs.6000/-Tender Cost

Class of Contractor "B" Class, "C" Class, "D" Class

(Registered with CDMS) (For Civil Work) MV/HT/ "Specialized agency having MOU with associate electrica contractor (MV/HT or Above) having valid licence from ELBO associate electrical contractor (MV/HT or Above having valid license from ELBO From Dt.24.10.25, 11.00 A.M.

Date & time of sale & receipt Dt.03.11.25 upto 5.00 P.M. Dt.04.11.25 at 11.30 A.M. Date of Opening Bid The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further detail can be seen from the website: http://tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Bolangir (R&B) Division

OIPR-34028/11/0038/2526

बक आफ़ इंडिया Bank of India बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

### Bank of India

Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 8985368533 (E-Auction) Sale of secured movable / immovable Assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002

E-AUCTION

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT. 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) / 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of India, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on Auction Date mentioned nereunder, for recovery of balance due to the Bank of India from the Borrower as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower Co-Borrower/Guarantor, amount due, short description the immovable properties and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under.

BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Total Dues					
NAYAGARH BRANCH, PH.: 9439781834 /					
Borrower: Mr. Gunanidhi Dakua, S/o- Sri Narayan Daki Co-Borrower: Mr. Rakesh Kumar Dakua, S/o- Gunanio Dakua / Guarantor: Mr. Purna Chandra Mohapat S/o- Rakesh Mohaptra, All are At: Balikudia, P					

Barapalli, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752070 / Total Dues: ₹11.44,188.72 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid 2. ARB CUTTACK, PH.: 8249067773 1) Borrower: M/s. Mahaveer Food Processing, Prop.: Mr. Pradipta Kumar Rout, S/o-Mr. Bhaskar Rout, At: Plot No.:

1351, Mahanadi Vihar, Nayabazar, Cuttack, PIN-753003,

2) Borrower: M/s Mahaveer Industries, Prop.: Mr. Pradipta

Kumar Rout, At: Plot No. 1351, Mahanadi Vihar, Nayabazar,

Cuttack, PIN-753003 / Total Dues: 1.72.42.689.06 + Interest.

costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.

Date: 23.10.2025

Residential Land and Building pertaining to Plot No.: 13, Khata No.: 257/153, having Area Ac.0.07dec. i.e. 3049.20 sqft., Mouza: Balikudia, PS: Nayagarh (Thana No. 157), Tehsil: Nayagarh

Description of the Properties

(No. 420), Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha, standing in the name of Mr. Gunanidhi Dakua, S/o- Mr. Narayar Dakua. Bounded by- East: Kirtan Muduli, West: Akura Pradhan, North: Road, South: Own. All that part and parcel of Land and Building, Plan

and Machinery situated over Mouza: Suanri, PS Tangi, SRO: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Plot No.: 205/ 602, Khata No.: 116/41, Area: Ac.0.500dec. Kissam: Gharabari, standing in the name of Mr Pradipta Kumar Rout. Bounded by- East: Govt. Land, West: Bimal Kumar Rath, North: Tangi Haripu Road, South: Bimal Kumar Rath.

(excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹1,81,900/-₹50,000/-₹99.36.000/-(excluding GST

& other

atutory dues)

₹9,93,600/-

₹50.000/-

₹18,19,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.11.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.

Last date for submission of EMD & Documents: 25.11.2025 upto 4.00 P.M. nspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 24.11.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the

Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com Place: Bhubaneswar, **Authorised Officer** 

New Delhi, Oct 23: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Thursday said the city is set to witness its first-ever artificial rain through cloud seeding as preparations for the ambitious pollution-control initiative have been completed. A successful trial of the project was conducted earlier in the day

> Gupta and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their support in ensuring timely approvals for the project.
> "Today, a trial seeding flight was

conducted from IIT Kanpur to the Delhi area via Meerut, Khekra, Burari, Sadakpur, Bhojpur, Aligarh, and back to IIT Kanpur. Cloud seeding flares were fired between Khekra and Burari and over the Badli area using pyro techniques,' Sirsa said in a post on X.

He added that the flight served artificial rain on October 29," her as a proving mission to assess the cloud-seeding system's capabilities, aircraft endurance and coor-Manjinder Singh Sirsa thanked dination among all participating

This initiative is not only technologically historic but also establishes a scientific approach to combatting pollution in Delhi. The government aims to clean the capital's air and balance its environment through this innovation REKHA GUPTA CM, DELHI

The cloud-seeding project, jointly developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, and the Delhi government, aims to explore artificial rainfall as a method to reduce particulate-pollution levels in the city during the post-Diwali smog season.

Delhi's much-awaited artificial rain experiment was supposed to be conducted July 4 but was post-

Last month, the Delhi government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IIT-Kanpur for five cloud-seeding trials, which are expected to be conducted in northwest Delhi.

# national



An area that lacks education may remain an area of darkness. The light of education illuminates the path to individual and collective progress

ed by LPDs will

also help the Na-

vy undertake

peacekeeping

humanitarian

assistance and

disaster-relief

"The induc-

measures.

tion of ALWT,

which is indigenous-

ly developed by Naval

Science and Technological

Laboratory, DRDO is capable of

targeting conventional, nucle-

ar and midget submarines," the

ministry said in a statement.

The procurement of 30-mm

operations,

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

India and Bhutan reviewed bilateral security cooperation, border management and issues like mobile signal spill over, future roadmap for integrated check posts, among others, at a highlevel meeting held in Thimphu

**INDIA AND BHUTAN STRENGTHEN** 



The Prime Minister also gave a new slogan "Raftaar

pakad chuka Bihar, phir se NDA sarkar", asserting

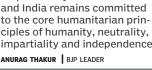
that the state was witnessing all-round development

with schools, hospitals and new rail routes being built

Chandrababu has been making false claims about the data centre (Google investment) and attempting to hijack credit, even though the (previous) YSRCP (govt) had sown the seeds for the project. He is at his old game again, just as he took credit for Hyderabad's cyber towers

JAGAN MOHAN REDDY I YSRCP CHIEF

India's humanitarian engagement is guided by sovereignty, non-interference, moral responsibility



The morale of feudal elements is high in this government. Criminals and feudal-minded



people are enjoying the protection of the BJP administration. Discrimination is taking place at every level

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Mephedrone haul: Key accused in custody

Mumbai: The Mumbai police have arre ted a key accused in a Rs 252-crore mephedrone seizure case after his deportation from Dubai, officials said Thursday. Mohammed Salim Mohammed Suhail Shaikh was apprehended in Dubai by "sister agencies" a few days ago and was subsequently brought to Mumbai Wednesday, an official said.

### Fire at multi-storev **building in Mumbai**

Mumbai: As many as 17 persons suffered from suffocation after a fire broke out at a 13-storey commercial building in Mumbai's Jogeshwari suburb Thursday morning, officials said. Nine of those who complained of suffocation were being treated at the nearby civic-run HBT Hospital, a civic official said, adding that eight others opted to be discharged against medical advice.

### Ram temple changes darshan timings

Ayodhya: The darshan timings for Ram Lalla at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya have been adjusted starting Thursday, as devotees will now be allowed entry until 8.30 pm, which is half an hour earlier than the previous closing time of 9 pm. These minor adjustments to the darshan timings were implemented to accommodate the winter season.

### **Vehicle showroom** owner dies in fire

Indore: The owner of a major automobile manufacturer's showroom died, apparently due to suffocation, after a fire broke out in a three-storey commercial-cum-residential building in Indore in the wee hours of Thursday, a police official said. A minor daughter of the deceased, Pravesh Agarwal was hospitalised after she inhaled smoke.

### Man sentenced to death for killing wife, daughter

Barpeta: A court in Assam's Barpeta district gave the death penalty to a man for killing his wife and daughter. Sessions Judge Deepak Thakuriya convicted Rishav Das for killing his wife, Binita, and daughter, Hiya, with an axe, and pronounced the sentence Wednesday.

# Govt clears ₹79K-cr weapons deal PM: People won't forget

New Delhi, Oct 23: The defence ministry Thursday cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth Rs 79,000 crore, including Nag missiles, amphibious warfare ships and electronic intelligence and surveillance systems, to boost the combat capabilities of the three services.

The procurement proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

It is the second major decision on procurement following Operation Sindoor. Procurement projects worth Rs 67,000 crore were approved August 5.

The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 79,000 crore, the defence ministry said.

For the Indian Navy, approval was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPDs), 30-mm Naval Surface Guns (NSGs), Weight Advanced Light Torpedoes (ALWTs), the Electro Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for the 76-mm Super Rapid Gun Mount.

**Blast disrupts** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

officials said.

train services in

Assam, N Bengal

Kokraihar, Oct 23: Railway

services across lower Assam

and parts of north Bengal were

disrupted Thursday after a

suspected improvised explosive

device (IED) went off on the

tracks in Kokrajhar district,

Assam Chief Minister Hi-

The explosion took place at

manta Biswa Sarma said police

have identified one suspect for

1 am. around 5 km away from

the Kokrajhar railway station

towards Salakati in Alipurduar

division of the Northeast Fron-

nearly three feet of railway

line with fragments of the

damaged track found strewn

several metres away," he said.

Kokrajhar's Senior Superinten-

dent of Police Pushpraj Singh

said there were no reports of

any casualties or derailment

Railway services were sus-

pended overnight, affecting

several Up and Down trains

in Lower Assam and northern

West Bengal till around 8 am,

another official said. Author-

ities have intensified security

along the route and launched

an investigation to identify

and apprehend those involved.

he added. NFR's Chief Public

Relations Officer Kapinjal

Kishore Sharma said, "When

a goods train was passing be-

tween Salakati and Kokrajhar,

the train manager reported a

heavy jerk, after which the

train was stopped."

in the incident.

"The blast ripped apart

tier Railway, an official said.

his alleged involvement.

procure-MAJOR DECISION ON ment of LPDs PROCUREMENT FOLLOWING will help the OPERATION SINDOOR Navy undertake amphibi-PROCUREMENT PROJECTS ous operations WORTH RS 67,000 CRORE WERE along with the

**APPROVED AUGUST 5** THE DAC APPROVED VARIOUS PROPOSALS AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL COST OF ABOUT ₹79.000 CRORE

LPDs are amphibious warfare ships that are generally capable of carrying helicopters, ground mobility vehicles, tanks and land troops. The Indian Navy was looking at procuring at least four LPDs.

Army and the

Air Force, the

ministry said.

The ministry said the integrated sea capability providduct low-intensity maritime operations and initiate anti-piracy measures. For the Indian Army,

hicles (HMVs).

significantly improve logistics support to the forces in diverse geographical terrains, it added. The DAC approved the procurement of Collaborative Long Range Target Saturation/Destruction System (CLRTS/DS) for the Indian Air Force (IAF). It also cleared some other pro-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi

Thursday said the "jungle raj"

in Bihar will be discussed for

another 100 years and no mat-

ter how hard the opposition

tries to hide its misdeeds, peo-

Training his guns at the

RJD-Congress tie-up on a

day Tejashwi Yadav was de-

clared the Grand Alliance's

chief ministerial candidate

for the upcoming Bihar polls,

Modi said the Opposition

alliance is not a "gathband-

han" but a "lathbandhan" (a

coalition of criminals) as all its

leaders from Delhi and Bihar

Modi asked Bharatiya Ja-

nata Party (BJP) workers to

ensure that elderly people

educate youngsters about the

atrocities during the "jungle

raj", an apparent reference to

the time when Bihar was un-

der the rule of RJD chief Lalu

Prasad. Addressing the "Mera

Booth Sabse Mazboot: Yuva

Samvaad" event through au-

dio-conferencing, the prime

minister said people will not

forget the "jungle raj" in Bi-

har for another 100 years and

no matter how hard the Oppo-

sition tries to hide its misdeeds,

sters in Bihar to gather all the

young people at every booth

"I would tell all the young-

people will not forgive it.

are out on bail.

ple will not forgive it.

The CLRTS/DS has the capability of autonomous takeoff, landing, navigating, detecting and delivering payloads in

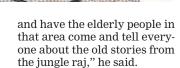
'jungle raj' for 100 years the Indian Coast Guard to con-

approval was accorded for the procurement of the Nag missile system (Tracked) Mk-II (NA-MIS), the ground-based mobile ELINT (electronic intelligence system) and high-mobility ve-The procurement of the NA-

MIS will enhance the Army's capability of neutralising the enemy's combat vehicles, bunkers and other field fortifications, whereas the GBMES will provide round-the-clock electronic intelligence of enemy activities, the ministry said.

The induction of HMVs will curement proposals of the IAF.

the mission area.



Interacting with a BJP worker. Modi said a "mahayagya" of development is going on in the country, with all-round work being carried out due to a stable government at the Centre and in Bihar.

"In Bihar, work is happening in every sector, in every direction. Hospitals are being built, good schools are being established and new railway routes are being developed. A major reason for this is that there is a stable government in the country and in Bihar. When there is stability, development accelerates. This is the strength of Bihar's NDA government as well," he said.

"That is why youngsters in Bihar are saying with enthusiasm - 'raftaar pakad chuka Bihar, phir se NDA sarkar',' the prime minister said.

He said the Bihar Assembly polls are about writing a new chapter in the history of the state and that youngsters will play a key role in it.

Modi said no one understands the power of people's votes better than the brothers and sisters of Bihar. He appealed to youngsters in the state to visit every household and request the voters to exer cise their franchise.



A woman dressed in traditional attire lights incense sticks, as she poses for a picture ahead of the 'Chhath' festival at the Yamuna riverfront, Kalindi Kuni, New Delhi

### IAS officer's VRS kicks up political row in T'gana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 23: Senior IAS officer Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi's voluntary retirement has triggered a political row in Telangana with the BRS accusing the government of "harassing" bureaucrats to engage in corruption.

Rizvi, a 1999 batch officer who has about a decade of service left, opted for voluntary retirement from October 31 and the state government accepted it. The reason for his VRS is not known.

Reacting to Rizvi's VRS, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the IAS officer's retirement exposes how Telangana's bureaucracy is being crushed between corrupt politics and blame games.

He said Telangana deserves to know why an honest and efficient officer was forced to take this step.

"If ministers can't make an officer bend to their pressure, do they choose to sacrifice him instead? Is this how the Congress government plans to run administration - by harassing officers who refuse to serve their personal interests?," the

minister asked in a post on 'X'. Ministers interfere in tenders, twist rules, and when caught, blame the officers who refused to compromise, he alleged. Kumar further said

the BRS did the same during its tenure. KCR (BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao) humiliated officers by making them face the Kaleshwaram probe for his failed project decisions. His son blamed bureaucrats in the Formula E case to save

himself for his blunders. "Now Congress has picked up where BRS left off - targeting officers while defending their favourites. This is not governance. It's harassment in the name of administration and open protection of corruption," he added.

Addressing a press conference, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao alleged that IAS and IPS officers are opting for

voluntary retirement (VRS) because they are being pressured to commit wrongful acts.

"Rizvi refused to carry out orders by Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao. The minister also wrote a letter to the government not to accept his resignation," Rao alleged.

Rijvi, who is currently serving as Principal Secretary, Revenue (Prohibition & Excise), could not be reached for comment.

A letter purportedly written by Krishna Rao to the Chief Secretary alleged that Rizvi was deliberately stalling a tendering process for high security holograms to be pasted on liquor bottles.

relationship between him and

While rejecting accused's

contention of delay, Justice

Sharma said, "Quite natu-

rally, it was owing to the

fear and trauma of the said

incident that the complainant

had initially resisted from

disclosing about the incident

"Therefore, in view of the

the victim was consensual.

### zeroes in on 6 suspects PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bangalore, Oct 23: The SIT

'Vote theft': K'taka SIT

probing the alleged 'vote chori' (vote theft) in Aland assembly segment in 2023 Assembly elections in Karnataka has discovered that "attempts" were made to delete names from the voters list and zeroed in on at least six suspects in-

volved in the scam. Top sources in the Criminal Investigation Department told PTI that for every successfully deleted name, the suspects were paid Rs 80.

There were requests to delete 6,994 names, but barring a few genuine cases, other requests were bogus.

Aland is in Kalaburagi in North Karnataka, the home district of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior Congress MLA B R Patil represents the assembly seat. It was Patil and Kharge's son Priyank Kharge, a minister and Chittapur MLA, who unearthed the alleged vote deletion attempts and alerted the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer.

According to Patil, applications were filed to delete 6,994 'Congress votes' comprising Dalits and minorities. The deletion was stopped after the CEO ordered status quo.

Recently, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held a press conference in New Delhi detailing how the 'vote chori' have been taking place and cited the example of Aland.

Patil said had these names deleted he would have surely lost the election.

He had won the 2023 Assembly election with a margin of about 10,000 votes against his nearest rival, Subhash Guttedar (BJP).

### Friendship does not give licence to rape: Delhi HC "Even if the parties concerned were friends, friendship does not give any licence to the applicant to rape the victim

repeatedly, confine her in his friend's house and beat her mercilessly, as prima facie disclosed by the complainant in her statement...duly corroborated by the medical records," the judge said in an order passed October 17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Delhi High Court has denied anticipatory bail to a man accused of raping a 17-year old girl while rejecting his contention that both were friends, saying friendship does not give licence to rape the victim repeatedly, confine her, or beat her mercilessly.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma dismissed the application of the man in the case lodged under Prevention of Child from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, noting that the accused had still not joined the investigation, despite his anticipatory bail plea having been either withdrawn or rejected on four occasions in the past.



"The contention on behalf of the applicant that the applicant and the complainant were friends and therefore, it could he a case of consensual rela-

tionship, cannot be accepted

by this court."

"Even if the parties concerned were friends, friendship does not give any licence to the applicant to rape the victim repeatedly, confine her

in his friend's house and beat her mercilessly, as prima facie disclosed by the complainant in her statement...duly corroborated by the medical records," the judge said in an order passed October 17. According to the FIR lodged

on the basis of a complaint by the minor girl, she had known the accused for several years as a neighbour.

She alleged that he took her to his friend's house, where he beat and repeatedly sexually assaulted her, and threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident to anyone.

The accused had sought the bail on the ground that there was a delay of 11 days in filing of the FIR, adding that the

foregoing circumstances, coupled with the serious nature

to her parents.'

of allegations levelled in the present case, prima facie corroborated by the material on record, this Court finds that no case for grant of anticipatory bail is made out. Accordingly, the present application stands dismissed," the judge said.

# national



Prior to June 2025, the bookings of rest houses of the PWD were done offline but since June 2025, the **bookings** were made online for all rest houses SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

### **FAMILY OCCASIONS BRING THACKERAY COUSINS TOGETHER**

Amid buzz over a possible alliance, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and his cousin, MNS president Raj Thackeray met once again Thursday during a family gathering



is moving from ease of doing business towards speed of doing business and Amaravati will be a hub for new opportunities and innovation N CHANDRABABU NAIDU ANDHRA CM

The RJD has fielded Shahabuddin's son... how can it ensure the security of the people of Bihar if it fields such candidates?





BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM





Hills, irrespective of their caste, religion & region. are all saving only one thing. 'There is no

business, since congress came to power', 'We were happy during KCR rule'. People have decided whom to vote. They are very clear #JubileeHillsBvElection @vsathishreddv

-- CMS-03 and private US Radar (NISAR) satellite, currently in the calibration

Kolkata: A 45-year-old man suffered burn injuries after allegedly being set ablaze during a brawl among participants of a Kali Puja immersion procession at Bediapara in South Dumdum area Thursday, police said. with some others who were part of the procession, a senior officer of the **Barrackpore Police** 



### Stubble burning cases cross 500 mark in Punjab

Chandigarh: Punjab recorded 28 fresh stubble burning incidents Thursday, taking the total farm fire count to 512 since September 15, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) data showed. The state saw a jump of 324 crop residue burning incidents from the 188 cases recorded till October 16, the data further showed. According to the data, the highest number of farm fires were reported in Tarn Taran at 159, followed by Amritsar at 133, Ferozepur 58, Patiala 32 and Gurdaspur 25, as many farmers continue to ignore government appeals to stop crop residue burning.

### Stalker stabs man to death; three juveniles nabbed

New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy allegedly stabbed to death a man outside his home in outer Delhi's Ranhola area after the victim confronted him for harassing his brother's daughter, police said Thursday. The incident took place around 8.30 pm Wednesday in Vikas Kunj when the teenager, armed with a knife-like weapon, arrived outside the house of the 27-year-old and picked a fight with the mother of the girl. Police have apprehended the juvenile, a vegetable seller, and two of his associates who were with him at the time of the attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

virtually.

the two sides.

official statement.

New Delhi, Oct 23: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi will

not travel to Kuala Lumpur

for annual ASEAN meetings

due to scheduling issues and

he will join India's annual sum-

mit with the 10-nation grouping

Following a phone conver-

sation with Malaysian Prime

Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Mo-

di said he was looking forward

to joining the ASEAN-India

summit virtually, and to fur-

ther deepening comprehensive

strategic partnership between

External Affairs Minister

S Jaishankar will represent

PM Modi at the 20th East Asia

Summit in Kuala Lumpur

October 27, according to an

The Association of South-

east Asian Nations (ASEAN)

is considered one of the most

influential groupings in the

region and India and several

other countries including the

US, China, Japan and Australia

are its dialogue partners.

### **Tripura bandh** turns violent

Agartala: Ten people, including three government officers. were injured as the shutdown called by a newly-floated outfit turned violent in Tripura's Dhalai district Thursday evening. prompting the government to impose prohibitory orders. officials said. The 24-hour bandh was called by the 'Tripura Civil Society', demanding the implementation of the Tiprasa Accord, detection of illegal immigrants, and setting up of detention camps in each district. Violence broke out in Santinagar Market in Kamalpur sub-division of Dhalai when shopkeepers tried to open their outlets around 6 pm. officials said.



Army personnel take part in a motorcycle rally from Tawang War Memorial to Bumla Pass as a tribute to the martyrs of the 1962 Indo-China War, including a special homage to martyr Subedar Joginder Singh on his 'Shaheed Diwas', in Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh

### Ladakh home to around 477 snow **leopards: Report**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh/Jammu, Oct 23: The Union Territory of Ladakh is hosting the highest population of about 477 snow leopards out of a total of 718 across India, marking a major milestone in the region's collaborative conservation efforts involving local communities, scientific research and awareness initiatives, officials said Thursday.

They added that Ladakh's success story serves as a model for global conservation efforts, showcasing the power of community-led initiatives in protecting endangered species.

"The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) report 2024 estimates 718 snow leopards in India, with Ladakh hosting the highest population of about 477. As the State animal of Ladakh, the snow leopard's conservation remains vital to protecting the region's unique high-altitude ecosystem," a se-



Apart from the ASEAN member states, East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Russia.

In a social media post, the Malaysian prime minister said he had spoken to PM Modi last night and discussed efforts to strengthen the bilateral relationship to a more strategic and comprehensive level.

The ASEAN summit and related meetings will be held in Kuala Lumpur from October 26 to 28. PM Modi has led the Indian delegations at the ASEAN-India summit and the East Asia

Summit in the last few years.

"Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of upcoming Summits," Modi said on 'X'.

"Look forward to joining the ASEAN-India Summit virtually, and to further deepening of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he said.

People familiar with the matter said PM Modi is not travelling to Kuala Lumpur due to

Malaysian PM Ibrahim said Modi told him that he would attend the India-ASEAN summit online since the "Deepavali festival was still being celebrated".

Ibrahim said **External Affairs Minister** "informed him that **S Jaishankar will** will he represent PM Modi at the attend virtual-**20th East Asia Summit in** ly due to **Kuala Lumpur October 27** the ongoing Deepaccording to an official avali celestatement brations in

Malaysia will remain committed to strengthening relations with India and further enhancing ASEAN-?India cooperation towards a more peaceful and prosperous region, he added.

The Ministry of External Affairs said PM Modi will virtually attend the 22nd ASEAN-India summit October 26

India at that

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ASEAN leaders will jointly review the progress

in ASEAN-India relations and discuss initiatives for strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," it said.

The MEA said strengthening the relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of India's Act East Policy and its Indo-Pacific vision.

> External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 20th East Asia Summit October 27.

It

"The East Asia Summit will provide an opportunity to de liberate on the challenges to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and also exchange views on regional and international developments," the MEA said.

The ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a sectoral partner-

India, US trade talks

progressing: Goyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### SHORT **TAKES**

### ISRO to launch CMS-03 satellite Bangalore: ISRO has

scheduled two launches of its heavy-lift rocket LVM-3 to place in orbit two satellites communications satellite BlueBird--before this year-end, chairman V Narayanan said Thursday, Narayanan said the launched July 30, was stage and will become operational within 10-15 days.

### Man set ablaze after brawl

Ranjit Karmakar was returning home after the idol immersion in the early hours when he was involved in a heated argument



awareness for the safe future of the majestic snow leopard found in the higher regions of Ladakh, the Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army. in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Ladakh administration, came together Thursday to celebrate International Snow Leopard Day to generate awareness on the safety and preservation of the elusive species.

Officials said that with an estimated 477 snow leopards calling Ladakh home, the region boasts one of the world's highest densities of these creatures, accounting for approximately 68 per cent of India's total snow leopard

### Cong, PDP extend support to NC in RS polls

*In a letter to NC president* Farooq Abdullah, Pradesh Congress Committee chief Tariq Hamid Karra called the decision "a principled stand to keep the BJP away'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 23: Setting aside differences, the Congress Thursday said its six MLAs will vote for candidates of alliance partner National Conference in the polls to four Raiva Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a letter to NC president Farooq Abdullah, Pradesh Congress Committee chief Tariq Hamid Karra called the decision "a principled stand to keep the BJP away'

The Congress' decision to vote in favour of NC comes hours after the PDP made a similar pledge. Earlier in the day, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti announced its support to the NC, saying it wanted to keep the "fascist forces" out.



party has decided to support the NC candidates in the Raiva Sabha elections to be held Friday. While the NC is expected to have a smooth sailing on three seats, the latest developments have turned the battle for the fourth seat a close contest.

Karra said the party's decision to support the NC candidates stems from Congress' "principled stand" in spite of the regional party refusing a safe seat to it.

"Post discussions on sharing

tween us, it was not so pleasant an experience in the backdrop of expectations and understand ing we had arrived at the time of forging the alliance. However, the hiccups that generally occur in such arrangements, it doesn't deter us from taking a principled stand." he said.

The JKPCC chief said it has been very enduring for the Congress as a party of values and as an ardent lover of secular ethos to forego personal and party interests if confronting to a larger cause. "Our electoral alliance

assembly polls emanated from this larger commitment of ours, besides our dislike for the BJP who have been imposing agonies on people of J&K. It was our desire to stand united and serve the suffering people hand in hand, which we did irrespective of negativities that were involved during the course of partnership," the letter said.

Karra told the NC president that the Congress party cadre and its MLAs bore "instant humiliations and your apathy" in the last one year since the al-

"Sad as this appears our one-vear experience has been of disappointment. Our party colleagues in assembly in particular and the party cadre in general bore instant humiliations and your apathy. Though we were never partners in compulsion nor would we ever be,' he added.

He, however, said the party has now again chosen to be on the NC's side "primarily and necessarily to stand united against what we call BJP agenda of atrocities and subjugation".

to K S Shivappa in 1989.

A civil suit filed by Jayade-

vamma, claiming ownership,

was eventually rejected by the

Karnataka High Court, which

upheld the minors' right to

repudiate their father's sale

through their own subsequent

sale deed. A similar transaction

occurred with plot number 57,

which Rudrappa sold without

to Krishnoji Rao, who in turn

New Delhi, Oct 23: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Thursday said talks between India and the US for the proposed trade agreement are pro gressing, and expressed

> future. An Indian official team, headed by Commerce Sec. retary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last week to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day

hope that both sides would

work towards a fair and equi

table agreement in the near

talks ended October 17. "We are in dialogue with the USA, our teams are engaged. We recently had the Commerce Secretary visit the US, and he met with his counterparts. We continue to engage with them and talks

are progressing.' "We hope to work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future, Goyal told Doordarshan in

In February this year, leaders of India and the US directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral

Trade Agreement (BTA). They have fixed a deadline to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So

far, five rounds of negotia tions have been completed. Last month, Goyal also led an official delegation to New York for trade talks.

These deliberations are important as the relations

between the two countries have been reeling under se vere stress after the Trump administration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff or Indian goods. It includes a 25 per cent

additional import duty for buying Russian crude oil.

brief period after the US announced high tariffs on Indian goods.

### population. of four Rajya Sabha seats bewith your party (NC) in 2024 Commissionerate said. Minors can reject property sale by guardian after turning 18: SC

*In a judgement delivered October 7, the apex* court said minors, on becoming majors, can repudiate the transfer of properties by manifesting through clear and unambiguous conduct, such as independently selling or transferring the same

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: In a significant verdict on property transactions involving minors. the Supreme Court has ruled that those aged below 18 years, upon attaining majority, are not mandatorily required to institute a lawsuit to repudiate property transfers executed by their natural guardians without approval from a court.

The verdict came in the case of K S Shivappa Vs Smt K Neelamma from a bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and

Prasanna B Varale. "It can safely be concluded that a voidable transaction executed by the guardian of the minor can be repudiated and ignored by the minor within time on attaining majority either

by instituting a suit for setting

aside the voidable transaction

or by repudiating the same by his unequivocal conduct," Justice Mithal, authoring the judgment, said

The verdict said the moot question was whether it was necessary for minors to have filed a suit upon attaining maiority within the prescribed time period to set aside an earlier sale deed executed by their natural guardian.

It said the question was whether such a sale deed could be repudiated through their conduct within three years of attaining majority.

In order to answer the questions, the bench referred to sections 7 and 8 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956 and said, "A simple reading of the provisions makes it

abundantly clear that a natural guardian of a minor has no authority in law to mortgage, sell. gift or otherwise transfer any part of the immovable property of the minor or even to lease out any part of such property for a term exceeding five years or for a term extending more than one year beyond the date on which the minor will attain majority without the prior permission of the court.' The dispute revolved around

two adjoining plots -- numbers 56 and 57 -- in Shamanur village in Karnataka's Davanagere, originally purchased in 1971 by one Rudrappa in the names of his three minor sons -- Maharudrappa, Basavaraj and Mungeshappa. Without obtaining prior permission from the



district court, Rudrappa sold these plots to third parties. Plot number 56 was sold to SI Bidari and later, purchased by BT Jayadevamma in 1983. After the surviving minors

attained majority, they and their mother sold the same plot

sold it to K Neelamma in 1993. The surviving minors, on attaining majority, sold the same plot to K S Shivappa, who later combined both the plots and

the court's permission

ownership.

Neelamma then filed a case before the additional civil judge in Davanagere, claiming

The talks halted for a

# international



Lebanon negotiated in the past with Israel with mediation by the **United States and the Unit**ed Nations. What prevents repeating the same thing to find solutions to pending matters especially that war did not lead to results?

JOSEPH AOUN | PRESIDENT, LEBANON

### **PAK BANS ISLAMIST PARTY**

Pakistan's cabinet unanimously approved a ban on hardline Islamist group Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan under the country's anti-terrorism act, the government said Thursday



Pak resumes Afghan

transit trade after

10-day suspension

only watches but

LUC FRIEDEN | PRIME MINISTER, LUXEMBOURG

I'm turning 80, but you can be sure I have the same energy I had when I was 30. And I'm going to run for a fourth



LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA | PRESIDENT, BRAZIL

If we want to give them to Ukraine, we have to do it all together. If not. **Russian retaliation** might only hit Belgium. That's not very reasonable



### SHORT **TAKES**

### UK boosts security funding for mosques

London: Prime Minister Keir Starmer Thursday announced a 10-million-pounds boost to security funding for the UK's mosques and Muslim faith centres to protect them from hate crime and attacks. The additional investment into the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme is aimed at providing security measures such as CCTV, alarm systems secure fencing, and security personnel services. The scheme was created to protect mosques, Muslim community centres, and Muslim faith schools that have experienced or are vulnerable to hate crime.

### Cambodian police arrest 57 S Koreans

Phnom Penh: Cambodian police said Thursday they arrested 57 South Korean nationals over alleged links to an online scam organisation in the Southeast Asian country. The arrests happened Wednesday as police raided a building on the outskirts of the capital. Phnom Penh. Police found 86 people working at the complex. including 57 South Koreans and 29 Chinese, according to a statement Thursday by Cambodia's Secretariat of the Commission for Combating Online Scams, A visiting group of South Korean lawmakers accompanied the raid.

### Indian student dies of cardiac arrest

Dubai: An 18-year-old Indian student, recipient of the UAE Golden Visa, died of cardiac arrest in Dubai during Diwali celebrations, local media reported. Vaishnav Krishnakumar, a first-year BBA Marketing student at Middlesex University Dubai, reportedly collapsed during a Diwali celebration Tuesday at **Dubai International Academic** City, the Gulf News reported Wednesday. He was rushed to the hospital, but the doctors declared him "brought dead due to cardiac arrest," the report added. According to the family, the Dubai Police Forensic Department is conducting further investigations, adding that Vaishnav had no known

Pogranichny, Russia: A French cyclist, freed Thursday after weeks in Russian jail for illegally crossing the border from China in an attempt to beat the record for riding across Eurasia, said his adventure was over but he would try to have happy memories of Russia. Sofiane Sehili, who describes himself as an "ultra-endurance racer and adventure cyclist", was freed in Russia's Far Eastern district and let off from paying a 50,000-rouble (\$615) fine, a district court in Primorye said.

# EU vows to bankroll Ukraine

The EU summit takes place after a rollercoaster few days that saw President Donald Trump announce and then back away from plans to meet Russia's Vladimir Putin in Budapest

Brussels, Oct 23: The European Union will Thursday agree in principle to finance Ukraine for the next two years, EII Council chief Antonio Costa said, despite a Belgian threat to block its plan to use Russian frozen assets to aid Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, a guest at the EU summit in Brussels, said a quick passage of the plan to use the immobilised Russian assets to provide Ukraine with a 140 billion euro (\$163.27 billion) loan would save lives.

Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever, whose country holds the frozen assets that would be used in the scheme, via securities depository Euroclear, laid out three demands to guarantee his country would not shoulder all the risks.

"If demands are met, we can

**Intoxicated Indian-origin** 

trucker allegedly causes

New York, Oct 23: A 21-year-

cording to a media report.

reported Wednesday

jured in the crash.

pairment.

California Tuesday, Fox News

At least three people were

Quoting police, the report

killed and several others in-

said Singh never hit the brakes

of his truck before slamming

into the traffic. It also said that

toxicology tests confirmed im-

He has been arrested on suspicion of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

Singh, an illegal immigrant,

crossed the southern border of

the US in 2022 and was released

pending an immigration hear-

He was not in lawful im-

migration status, the report

said, quoting US Department

of Homeland Security (DHS)

sources, adding that the Unit-

ed States Immigration and

Customs Enforcement (ICE)

has lodged an immigration de-

tainer following his arrest.

ing, according to the report.

crash in US, killing 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



erything in my power at the European level, also at the national level, politically and legally to stop this decision," De Wever said on arrival at the summit.

### **BELGIUM DEMANDS SHARING OF RISK**

De Wever called on all EU members to share the costs of any legal action pursued by Russia and contribute financially if the money ever had to be paid back. He also said Russian frozen assets held by other countries should be part of the scheme.

"There must be transparency about the risk. There must be transparency about the legal basis for this decision," he said.

But Costa, arriving at the

Russian assets for

- EU sanctions package includes ban on Russian LNG from 2027
- spending of EU loan funds

summit with Zelenskiy, made clear he expected a deal in principle Thursday, with technical details to be decided later.

"We will take the political decision to ensure the financial needs of Ukraine for 2026 and 2027, including for the acquisition of military equipment," said Costa, who chairs summits of EU leaders.

The leaders are expected to task the European Commission to come up with a formal legal plan, with Zelenskiy urging them to do that fast.

"Anyone who delays the decision on the full use of frozen Russian assets is not only limiting our defense, but also slowing down the EU's own progress," he told the EU leaders, saving Kviv would use a significant part of the frozen as sets to buy European weapons.

The money could also be used right away to strengthen Ukraine's air defence, air fleet and frontline positions. he said, adding, "That means

### SANCTIONS PACKAGE **FORMALLY APPROVED**

The EU summit takes place after a rollercoaster few days that saw President Donald Trump announce and then back away from plans to meet Russia's Vladimir Putin in Buda pest. The planned summit was then put on hold and Wednesday, the US hit Russia's major oil companies with sanctions.

As he arrived at the EU gathering, Zelenskiy welcomed the US move and a new package of EU sanctions against Russia, which includes a ban on Russian liquefied natural gas from January 2027, as well as new measures on the so-called shadow tanker fleet and two independent Chinese oil refineries.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Islamabad, Oct 23: Pakistan

has resumed Afghan transit trade in a phased manner following a ceasefire agreement with the Afghan Taliban government, according to a media report Thursday. The trade activity was

Around 300 vehicles

stranded at various

locations are now being

cleared, beginning with

operations via the

southwestern Chaman

border crossing in the

Balochistan province

suspended October 13 due to clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan forces, and it remained suspended for ten days, leaving scores of vehicles stranded.

Around 300 vehicles stranded at various locations are now being cleared, beginning with operations via the southwestern Chaman border crossing in the Balochistan province.

Quoting the Directorate of Transit Trade (Customs), The Express Tribune newspaper reported that the cargo operations will be completed in three stages, adding that all regular transit trade activities will resume on a "first in, first out" basis once the existing backlog is cleared.

In the first phase, nine vehicles that were turned back when the Friendship Gate was closed will be reweighed and rescanned. Any discrepancies will lead to a full inspection.

The Friendship Gate connects Balochistan province to Afghan-

The second phase will cover 74 vehicles that were returned from the NLC Border Terminal Yard. These will also undergo reweighing and scanning, with complete checks if inconsisten

cies are found.

The third phase involves clearing 217 vehicles currently parked in the halting yard. which will then be allowed to cross the border into Afghan istan. The directive added that photographs of all returning or halted vehicles will be taken and archived at the Friendship Gate to ensure transparency and proper documentation.

Officials said the resumption of transit trade is expected to provide relief to traders, trans porters and cargo operators who suffered heavy losses during the border closure.

They added that security checks and inspection procedures have been further tightened to prevent smuggling and illegal trade.

The Chaman border remains Pakistan's most significant land trade route with Afghanistan handling dozens of trucks and consignments daily. Authorities hope that the phased reopening will restore smooth cross-border trade and strengthen economic ties between the two countries

according to the newspaper. Pakistan had closed cross ings along the 2,600-km border with Afghanistan, including the two main border crossings at Torkham and Chaman, and at least three minor crossings at Kharlachi, Angoor Adda and Ghulam Khan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire during talks in Qatar October 19. The two sides agreed to meet October 25 in Istanbul to discuss "detailed matters.

# China's ruling party backs Xi, new plan, military purge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 23: China's ruling old Indian-origin truck driver Communist Party Thursday rehas been accused of causing a affirmed the "core" leadership semi-truck crash while allegedof President Xi Jinping as the ly driving intoxicated, killing three people in the US state of head of the party and the pow-California earlier this week, acerful military, while backing a major purge of top military Jashanpreet Singh allegedofficials and endorsing a new ly rammed his truck into 5-year plan for a more resilient slow-moving traffic in Southern domestic market.

> The announcement came after the Chinese Communist Party's 370-member-strong key body, called the plenum, met from Monday to Thursday.

> It called on the party and country to unite behind Xi as it ended its four-day meeting. The 72-year-old leader is in his unprecedented third term in power, becoming the only Chinese leader after party founder Mao Zedong to do so.

The meeting also endorsed a new 5-year plan to build a more



achieve greater self-reliance to ward off the impact of US President Donald Trump's tariff war and resultant global trade tensions. At the session, a call was issued to the party, the entire military, and Chinese people of all ethnic groups to rally more closely around the Party Central Committee with Xi at its core, according to an official communique. "All of us in the Party must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and of establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era," it said. The plenum took place ahead of a likely meeting between Trump and Xi at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit scheduled to take place in South Korea from October 30 to November 1.

The two leaders reportedly plan on discussing the gridlock over China's move to halt the rare-earth metals needed by the US, and Washington's move to stop semiconductor chips needed by Beijing.

The plenum also approved the sacking of number two general of the Chinese military, He Weidong, along with eight other top officials who were expelled from the military and party for corruption, violation of discipline and work-related crimes in the latest crackdown,

## Vance slams Israel's WB annexation vote as 'insult'

Tel Aviv/Jerusalem, Oct 23: US Vice President JD Vance said Thursday President Donald Trump would oppose Israeli annexation of the occupied West Bank and it would not happen, suggesting a move by Israeli lawmakers toward that end looked like a stupid "political stunt".

A bill applying Israeli law to the West Bank, a move tantamount to annexation of a terri-

part of a future independent state, won preliminary approval from Israeli lawmakers Wednesday

Asked by reporters about the vote, Vance said, "If it was a political stunt, it is a very stupid one, and I personally take some insult to it?

Vance spoke after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned that steps toward annexing the territory, which Israel captured in the 1967

Middle East war, could endanger Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, which has yielded a shaky ceasefire so far.

The West Bank is not going to be annexed by Israel. The policy of President Trump is that the West Bank will not be annexed. This will always be our policy." Vance said at the end of a two-day visit to Israel.

### **FAR-RIGHT OPPOSITION** SPONSORED VOTE

The vote was sponsored by

a far-right opposition lawmaker who until recently was in the ruling right-wing coalition, and backed by ultranationalists National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich. The reading passed by a vote of 25-24 out of 120 lawmakers

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office later said that the vote was a "deliberate political provocation" that aimed to sow division

during Vance's visit

Netanyahu's Likud party did not vote for the bill, it said, adding that without its support, attempts to legislate the annexation of the West Bank were "unlikely to go anywhere"

The US has long been Israel's most powerful and staunch major power ally and the Trump administration is particularly close to Israel with considerable sway over its leadership

## King Charles, Pope Leo pray together in a 500-year first

REUTERS

Vatican City, Oct 23: Britain's King Charles and Pope Leo prayed together in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel Thursday, in the first joint worship including an English monarch and a Catholic pontiff since King Henry VIII broke away from Rome in 1534.

Latin chants and English prayers echoed through the chapel, where Leo was elected the first US pope by the world's Catholic cardinals six months ago in front of frescoes by Michelangelo depicting Christ delivering the Last Judgment.

Charles, supreme governor of the Church of England, was seated at the pope's left near the altar of the chapel as Leo and Anglican Archbishop Stephen Cottrell led a service that featured the Sistine Chapel Choir

and two roval choirs.

Although Charles has met the last three popes, and Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI travelled to Britain, their previous encounters never included joint prayers.

### **VISIT TO THE VATICAN IS 'A HEALING' OF TURBULENT HISTORY**

The King and Queen Camilla are on a state visit to the Vatican marking the closening ties between the Catholic Church and Anglican Communion, five centuries after their turbulent separation. 'There is a strong sense that

this moment in the extraordinary setting of the Sistine Chapel offers a kind of healing of history," Anglican Rev. James Hawkey, canon theologian of Westminster Abbey, told Reuters.



possible just a generation ago," he said. "It represents how far our churches have come over the last 60 years of dialogue."

Cottrell, the Anglican Archbishop of York, stood in at the Sistine Chapel service for Sarah Mullally. She was recently announced as the first woman to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion, but will not take the role until next year.

The split between the Catholic Church and the Church of England was formalized in 1534. after Pope Clement VII refused ■ King Charles and Queen Camilla make state visit to Vatican

■ First joint prayer between a pope and British monarch since 1534

■ Moment seen as 'healing of

■ King given special wooden seat

at Catholic basilica

to annul King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Henry's desire for a male

heir -- and a new wife who might provide one -- was the immediate catalyst, but other factors were also at play, involving the English crown's seizure of church assets and the growth of Protestant ideas in England.

As England swung between Catholicism and Protestantism during the reigns of Henry's daughters Mary I and Elizabeth I. hundreds of Catholics and Protestants were executed for their faith, often burned at

### **CHARLES TO RECEIVE SPECIAL** TITLE, SEAT AT BASILICA

Charles and Camilla, who visited the Vatican earlier this year to see Pope Francis, also had a private meeting with Leo Thursday morning. At home in Brit ain, Charles' disgraced brother Prince Andrew is engulfed in a deepening crisis over abuse allegations and his ties with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The King will travel in the af ternoon to Rome's Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, one of Catholicism's four most vener ated churches, where Leo has approved giving him a new title of "Royal Confrater", or broth er, at the connected abbey.

heart problems. French cyclist freed by Russian court

# business



The big opportunity for India lies in the fact that we have a technology force, which can actually create and deploy applications, not just in India, but elsewhere in the world, to ensure that the benefits of Al. in terms of enhanced productivity, efficiency, and so on, are

### **DPIIT, KOTAK BANK INK PACT** TO SUPPORT STARTUPS

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Thursday said it has inked separate pacts with Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Primus Partners to support startups. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kotak Mahindra Bank aims to enhance financial and non-financial support for startups across the country, it said in a statement. Under the MoU, Kotak Mahindra Bank will extend a range of dedicated offerings for DPIIT-recognised startups, including zerobalance current accounts, and specialised startup cards.





anticipation that India will strike a deal with the US and the EU by the end of the year, which is

expected to elevate overall investment sentiments. Strong growth in the first and third quarters is likely to drive overall annual growth

RUMKI MAJUMDAR ECONOMIST, DELOITTE INDIA

The rationalisation of goods and services tax rates created anticipation of new stock with lower prices,



goods (FMCG) PUSHAN SHARMA DIRECTOR, CRISIL INTELLIGENCE

The Jimny has over half a century of heritage, globally. Jimny 5-door crossing the 1 lakh export mark is a proud achievement for Maruti Suzuki



### SHORT **TAKES**

### HUL profit rises

New Delhi: FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) Thursday reported an increase of 3.8 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,694 crore for the second quarter ending September 2025. The company had logged a net profit of Rs 2,595 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, the company said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue was up 2.1 per cent at Rs 16,034 crore in the September quarter.

### Colgate-Palmolive **India profit down**

New Delhi: Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd Thursday reported a 17 per cent decline in profit at Rs 327.51 crore in the September quarter on account of tough quarter on a high growth base, impacted by GST-led disruptions. It had posted a net profit of Rs 395.05 crore in the year-ago period. according to a regulatory filing from the oral hygiene product maker Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd (CPIL). Its sales were down 6.33 per cent to Rs 1.507.24 crore during the guarter from Rs 1,609.21 crore a year ago. Total expenses of CPIL in the September quarter were down 6.21 per cent to Rs

### India Inc profit dips

1,049.72 crore.

Mumbai: India Inc's revenue is likely to have grown by up to 6 per cent in the September quarter, a report said Thursday. However, the operating profit margins compressed by up to 0.60 per cent during the July-September period as compared to a year ago, the report by an arm of domestic rating agency Crisil said. The agency, which analysed performance of 600 companies, said companies in the sectors posting slower growth account for a third of the overall revenue. From a profitability perspective, it said companies struggled to fully pass on incremental costs in the automobile, pharmaceuticals and aluminium sectors, and the operating profit margin likely fell 0.50-1 per cent in Q2.

### SBI's recognition

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) has received two prestigious awards from New Yorkbased Global Finance at an event held during the World Bank/IMF annual meetings. The country's largest lender bagged two titles - World's Best Consumer Bank 2025 and Best Bank in India 2025, This dual recognition reinforces SBI's position as a global banking leader committed to innovation, financial inclusion, and customer excellence.

# Market ends 52-week high

Mumbai, Oct 23: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally higher Thursday, helped by robust buying in IT and tech stocks amid growing optimism on the US-India trade deal front. After hitting a 52-week high,

indices reversed most of their intra-day gains on fag-end profit-taking after sentiment turned cautious amid concerns over US sanctions against Russia's two largest oil companies. Besides, an over one per cent

decline in heavyweight Reliance Industries also pulled the markets lower. Rising for the sixth straight

session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 130.06 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 84,556.40. During the day, it jumped 863.72 points or 1.02 per cent to 85,290.06. The 50-share NSE Nifty end-

ed 22.80 points or 0.09 per cent higher at 25,891.40. Domestic equities started on a positive note; however, they pared early gains as investors booked profits following sanctions on Russian oil and the possible postponement of India-US trade negotiations.

FIIs are gradually returning to Indian markets, encouraged by expectations of earnings BSE SENSEX

**OCTOBER 23, 2025** 



-1.75 %

-1.63 %



LOSERS

Ltd, said.

INFOSYS	+3.86 %	
HCL TECH	+2.43 %	TOP
TCS	+2.24 %	GAINERS
AXIS BANK KOTAK BANK	+1.90 %	
	+1.24 %	

rebound in H2 FY26 supported by festive demand, tax benefits and GST reductions, he added. From the Sensex firms, Info-

sys climbed 3.86 per cent. HCL Tech. Tata Consultancy Services, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan and Tech Mahindra were also among the gainers. However, Eternal, UltraT

ech Cement, Bharti Airtel and Adani Ports were among the laggards. 'Markets traded volatile

on the weekly expiry day and ended nearly unchanged. The session began on a positive note, followed by range-

The key provisions relat-

ing to Nomination under the

Banking Laws (Amendment)

Act, 2025 will come into effect

from November 1, 2025, a fi-

nance ministry statement said

The Banking Laws (Amend-

system.

Thursday.

bound movement in the first half; however, profit-taking in heavyweight stocks across sectors erased all the early gains. Sector-wise, technology stocks led the advance, with Infosys. HCL Tech, and TCS among the top gainers," Ajit Mishra - SVP,

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.42 per cent, and the midcap index dipped 0.15 per BSE Focused IT jumped 2.36

Research, Religare Broking

per cent, IT (2.26 per cent), teck (1.17 per cent), bankex (0.36 per cent), metal (0.16 per cent) and FMCG (0.14 per cent).

In contrast services dropped 1.19 per cent, telecommuni cation (0.72 per cent), energy (0.54 per cent), oil & gas (0.48 per cent), commodities (0.41 per cent) and capital goods (0.28 per

In Asian markets, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled high er, while South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended lower. Markets in Europe were trad-

ing on a mixed note in mid-ses-

US markets ended in negative territory Wednesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 96.72 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data. The US Department of the

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has imposed further sanctions on Open Joint Stock Company Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft) and Lukoil OAO (Lukoil) - Russia's two largest oil companies that the Trump administration ac cuses of helping fund the Krem lin's "war machine" in Ukraine.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 5.43 per cent to \$65.99 a barrel. Equity markets were closed

Wednesday on account of Diwali Balipratipada.

### Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 87.88 against US dollar

Mumbai, Oct 23: The rupee appreciated by 5 paise to close at 87.88 against the US dollar Thursday, supported by a positive trend in domestic equities and risk-on sentiments amid optimism about the US-India trade deal. Forex traders said the ru-

pee closed on a positive note as there is a growing buzz that India and the US are inching closer to finalizing a long-awaited trade deal.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 87.80 and touched an intraday low of 87.96 before settling at 87.88, registering a rise of 5 paise from its previous close.

Monday, the rupee had settled nine paise higher at 87.93 against the greenback. Foreign exchange markets

were closed Tuesday and Wednesday due to Diwali and Diwali Balipratipada, respectively. According to forex traders,

investors will watch global cues, US economic data and RBI monetary signals for further directions. Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head

of Treasury and Executive Di rector, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said, "On Thursday, rupee opened with a gap and remained range-bound be tween 87.83 and 87.97 for the entire day... It would have gained towards 87.60 had it not been for the risk-aversion taking dollar index higher and Asian currencies lower. The premiums moved higher on payment by importers due to lower spot.

The range for Friday is ex pected between 87.50 and 88.00 he said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and US Presi dent Donald Trump discussed trade issues during a phone conversation amid efforts by the two sides to repair bilateral ties that remain under strain after Washington slapped a whopping 50 per cent tariff or Indian goods.

On the other hand, dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.14 per cent higher at 99.04. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 5.32 per cent at \$65.92 per barrel in futures trade.

### **RBI to mandate UTI for** OTC derivative transactions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 23: The Reserve Bank has proposed to mandate a Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) for all transactions in OTC markets for rupee interest rate and foreign currency derivatives from the next financial year, beginning April 1. In this regard, the central

bank Thursday released a draft circular on 'UTI for OTC Derivative Transactions in India'. Over-the-Counter (OTC) deriv-

atives are financial derivative contracts that are traded directly between two parties rather than on a regulated exchange. The LEI is a 20-character

unique identity code assigned to entities that are parties to a financial transaction.

UTI will have a maximum of 52 characters consisting of LEI of the generating entity, followed by a unique identifier and shall be unique to a derivative trans action throughout its lifecycle, according to the proposals.

"It has been decided to implement UTI for all transactions in OTC markets for Rupee interest rate derivatives, forward contracts in Government securities, foreign currency derivatives, foreign currency interest rate derivatives, and credit derivatives in India. A framework for the implementation of UTI for OTC derivative transactions. the draft said.

The UTI has been conceived as one of the key data elements identified globally for reporting over-the-counter (OTC) derivative transactions with a view to enabling policymakers to obtain a comprehensive view of the OTC derivatives market.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ment) Act, 2025 was notified on April 15, 2025. It contains a New Delhi, Oct 23: Begintotal of 19 amendments across ning next month, a bank cusfive legislations, the Reserve tomer can opt for up to four Bank of India Act, 1934, Banknominees in her or his account ing Regulation Act, 1949, State with a view to ensure unifor-Bank of India Act, 1955 and mity, and efficiency in claim Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undersettlement across the banking

As per the amendments, it said, customers may nominate up to four persons, either simultaneously or successively, thereby simplifying claim settlement for depositors and their nominees.

Depositors may opt for ei-

takings) Act, 1970 and 1980.



ther simultaneous or successive nominations, as per their preference, it said. With regard to nomination

for articles in safe custody and safety lockers, it said, only successive nominations are

"Depositors may nominate up to four persons and specify the share or percentage of entitlement for each nominee, ensuring that the total equals 100 per cent and enabling transparent distribution amongst all nominees," it said. Individuals maintaining

deposits, articles in safe custody, or lockers may specify up to four nominees, where the next nominee becomes operative only upon the death of the nominee placed higher. ensuring continuity in settlement and clarity of succession, it said.

The Banking Companies (Nomination) Rules, 2025, detailing the procedure and pre scribed forms for making, can celling, or specifying multiple nominations, will be published in due course to operationalise these provisions uniformly across all banks. "The central government

had earlier appointed August 1, 2025 as the date on which certain provisions of the said Amendment Act, namely Sections 3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. came into force vide Ga zette Notification S.O. 3494(E) dated 29th July 2025," it said.

### TPCODL affordable solar drive shines Kurujanga village



Bhubaneswar: In a major step toward promoting renewable energy in rural Odisha, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has facilitated the installation of rooftop solar systems in Kurujanga village under Salipur Division through the Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Eighteen households in the village have adopted affordable rooftop solar systems at a cost of Rs 8,764 each, which includes a 1 kW connection at Rs 5,000 and Rs 3,764 for solar meter installation, while the net meter is provided free of cost. Each 1 kWp solar unit is expected to generate around 100 units of electricity per month, enabling households to save nearly Rs 5,000 annually. "Through the Utility-Led Aggregation model, we are enabling rural households to embrace sustainable and cost-effective solar power solutions," said Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL.

### Vedanta's clean energy initiatives

Lanjigarh: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has launched two major clean energy initiatives Project Jyoti, to power rural Kalahandi with solar based lighting solutions. The initiatives aim to improve safety, mobility,



and quality of life across Lanjigarh's peripheral villages through renewable energy. Under Project Roshan, Vedanta's Lanjigarh unit is installing 310 solar-powered streetlights, including 60 high-mast units, benefiting over 15,000 residents. In its first phase, 91 units have already been installed across 25 community locations, lighting up the lives of more than 5,000 villagers. Complementing this effort, Project Jyoti provides solar home lighting to areas with unreliable electricity. So far, 398 households across eight villages have received solar lights, with plans to extend the project to 1,500 homes. Speaking about the initiative, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "At Vedanta Lanjigarh, we believe the transition to clean energy must begin at the community level. By illuminating villages with solar energy, we are improving safety, encouraging social participation, and supporting the region's clean energy goals." The solar installations have enhanced safety, supported extended community activities, and reduced reliance on conventional power. Aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 7, 11, and 13), Vedanta Lanjigarh's initiatives mark a major stride in building sustainable, resilient rural infrastructure in Odisha.

### **NPCI** addresses teething issue in cheque clearing sys

New Delhi: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Thursday said that some teething issues persist system. October 4, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India introduced a continu ous cheque clearing system with the objective of clearing cheques in a few hours rather than in batches. This transition has replaced the cheque clearing cycle of up to two working days with a new and faster process, wherein cheques will be cleared within a few hours of presentation. As of date, every instrument that was presented for clearing by banks has been cleared and positive/negative confirmation provided, it said, adding that banks have been advised to credit the customers' accounts for the positively confirmed cheques. "While most issues have been resolved, some teething issues continue to be observed in the systems and processes at the central system as well as at some banks. Efforts are ongoing to address the remaining challenges and to ensure that all cheques presented are paid on the same day," it said. Some customers faced delays in the initial days due to delays in the clear

## Sustainable mobility a rapidly emerging reality: IESA report

New Delhi, Oct 23: Environmentally sustainable mobility is no longer a distant goal, but a rapidly emerging reality, and there is a growing consensus among equipment manufacturers, governments and consumers on the issue, IESA said in a report. India Energy Storage Alli-

ance (IESA), in its Automotive Electrification in India Market Report, highlighted key electrification trends in the country's automotive industry.

As the world's fourth-largest automobile producer. India possesses the scale and potential to become a global leader across the automotive value chain.

The Indian automotive sector stands at a pivotal juncture, with electrification and a

renewed focus on sustainable

mobility reshaping not only

vehicle power trains but the entire ecosystem, the report said.

'While petrol and diesel power trains continue to dominate, the increasing prevalence of sustainable mobility fuels, driven by enabling policies and growing awareness, underscores a growing consensus among OEMs, governments, and consumers that environmentally sustainable mobility is no longer a distant goal, but a rapidly emerging reality, IESA said.

States are actively supporting a transition from conventional to alternative fuels by encouraging local EV manufacturing, investing in charging ecosystems, it added.

infrastructure, and developing dedicated mobility clusters and These efforts highlight the importance of a well-coordinated policy approach that

aligns central and state-level

strategies to facilitate greater adoption of electric vehicles.

unique due to its multi-fuel and multi-path approach. While there is a clear fo-

cus on e-mobility, significant

traction is also visible in com-

pressed natural gas (CNG),

hybrid, flex-fuel, and even hy-

The report further emphasises that India's transition is

drogen-powered mobility, each driven by specific use cases, it pointed out. IESA president Debmalya Sen said, "Enabling policy

plays a crucial role in navigating the shift towards environmentally friendly mobility and influencing consumer awareness and demand. Interestingly, while the overall adoption

story is clearly defined, regional trends at the state level are highly uneven. States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu dominate electric vehicle sales, accounting for over half of national volumes'

This shift towards sustainable mobility, however, is not uniform across the country, he noted. Some regions are advancing directly to Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) adoption, propelled by proactive EV policies, robust manufacturing ecosystems, and investments in infrastructure, he said. Other states are progressing through a phased approach, relying more on alternative fuel vehicles to bridge the gap.

This multi-adoption approach reflects the varied levels of market maturity, readiness, and local priorities across states, Sen stated.

As the market continues to evolve, a balanced emphasis on both demand- and supply-side interventions is required, IESA

As India advances toward its Net Zero goals, it is crucial to facilitate a level playing field for environmentally friendly technologies, keeping the prin ciple of technology neutrality in mind and encouraging the adoption of all technologies that align with the nation's de carbonization objectives.

IESA is a premier industry body dedicated to promoting energy storage, e-mobility, and green hydrogen adoption in India.

It works with policymakers industry stakeholders, and research institutions to accelerate market development through policy advocacy, business networking, and thought leadership.

# ndia tactics backfire EVES SEAL SEMIS SPOT

Australia seal ODI series against tactically errant India despite Rohit's 73



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Oct 23: Rohit Sharma's defiant 73 went in vain as India surrendered the threematch ODI series against Australia after losing the second game by two wickets here on Thursday, a setback that will reignite the debate on proven match-winner Kuldeep Yadav's omission from the playing XI.

Under pressure, Rohit mixed grit with grace in a 97-ball knock on a spicy track that formed the cornerstone of India's total of 264 for 9 which was at least 25 short of what should have been a par-score.

In reply, Australia struggled against Indian spinners but with Nitish Reddy being shoehorned as a multi-skilled player instead of a genuine match-winner in Kuldeep, the visitors paid the price in a close situation.

Cooper Connolly (61 not out off 53 balls) and Mitchell Owen (36 off 23 balls), two cricketers, who are also appearing for IPL auditions, flayed the pacers and spinners alike as Australia survived a late collapse to canter home in 46.2 overs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three

The duo added 59 in just 6.3 overs to end Australia's three-series losing streak in the format. The ongoing rubber will end in Sydney with the inconsequential third ODI October 25.

In the process Connolly also exposed how difficult it could get for India in the 2027 World Cup if the obsession with all-rounders is not reconsidered.

Reddy, coming in at No 8, scored 8 off 10 balls and gave 24

**WFI suspends Sanjeev** 

suspended Greco Roman wrestler

Sanjeev after discrepancies were

found in his domicile and identity

documents, according to a notice

issued by the federation Thursday.

The WFI said the documents it had

conflicting information regarding

received from Sanjeev showed

his place of birth and residence

Sanjeev had competed in senior

Olympic weight categories, last

world championship, held in non-

year. He had lost his opening round

in 55kg competition. According to

the notice, a birth certificate for

the wrestler was issued by the

Municipal Corporation of Delhi

(MCD), Rohini Zone, in August

date of birth on November 20,

2000. Within weeks, a Haryana

Resident Certificate was issued

September 2022.

to him by the state government in

**Messi's new contract** 

Fort Lauderdale (USA): Lionel Messi has finally agreed to a new contract with Inter Miami, a deal that required several months

to complete and ensures that

the sport's biggest icon will be

with the Major League Soccer

club for its planned move into a

new stadium next year. The deal

was announced Thursday, one

opener against Nashville. The

team announced the move in a

social media post, one showing Messi signing the contract inside

the new stadium that remains

under construction. "HE'S HOME."

the team said in the post, Messi's

decision to stay in Miami is big for

both the club and for MLS. He was

the league's MVP last season and

is the overwhelming choice to win

the award again this year, which

would make him only the second

two-time winner in league history

and the first to win it in back-to-

back years.

day before Inter Miami's playoff

2022 -- 22 years after his recorded

between Delhi and Haryana.

SHORT **TAKES** 

New Delhi: The Wrestling

Federation of India (WFI) has

This is India's first defeat at the **Adelaide Oval in** 

the last 17 years

in three overs although in his defence, Axar Patel dropped a sitter offered by Matthew Short (74), who laid the foundation for Australia's victory.

However, the absence of Kuldeep was felt more than ever when the Australian batters struggled against the two finger spinners. Axar Patel (1/52 in 10 overs) just slowed the pace and shortened the length as Matt Renshaw (30) gave the charge to be bowled.

**Never easy to defend** those total when you drop a couple of catches

At the other end, Washington Sundar (2/37) had an impatient Alex Carey (9) trying to sweep and getting bowled in the process. However, once the burly Mitchell Owen came into the scene, he smashed the daylights out of Harshit Rana (2/59 in 8 overs) to tilt the game decisively in favour of Australia.

### **VINTAGE HITMAN**

Earlier, the Indian innings was about Rohit's determination and he had to survive a lot of anxious moments in the Powerplay when Josh Hazlewood (0/29 in 10 overs, including two maidens) made the ball talk.

There was a point when Rohit had

### 'Please retire': Kohli's twin ducks spark criticism

Silence fell across the Adelaide Oval Thursday as Virat Kohli registered his second consecutive duck in the ongoing ODI series against Australia - the first instance of back-to-back ducks in his illustrious 50over career. After recording an eight-ball duck in the ODI series opener against Australia in Perth on Sunday, Kohli walked into the Adelaide Oval, one of his favourite venues, aiming to change his luck and take control of the game. Kohli has a brilliant record at the famous ground, averaging 52.70 in Tests and before the second ODI, he was averaging 61 in the white-ball format. Fans could not hold back their emotions and were quick to share their reactions on social media. While some were disappointed with Kohli's fortunes, a few criticised him. "Watching Virat Kohli walk back for a duck feels like a punch to the heart. The man who once carried India with pride now walks off too soon - cricket can be so cruel," a user

funny because who the hell thought that there will be a possibility that Kohli can go through this series scoring 0 runs," stated a fan. A user anticipated Kohli's exit from international cricket and wrote, "Retirement loading... But yeah enjoying every moment of him playing cricket.' Some criticised the 36-yearrecorded consecutive ducks in the ongoing series and made harsh comments about the senior cricketer. "Virat Kohli... cricket is not for you anymore. please retire.. go spend time with your family. let youngsters take your spot.. and also stop crying about not getting time with your family," a user wrote. 'Kohli is completely finished. Age and eyesight issues have caught up with him," mentioned

wrote in an X post. "Our misery is turning

played 17 consecutive dot balls off Hazlewood and both him and Iyer looked overtly cautious due to the underlying moisture and lateral movement.

another user.

While Rohit fought, Virat Kohli was dismissed without scoring for a second consecutive game. He was shaping

for an outswinger but Xavier Bartlett got one to move sharply

India: 264/9; 50 overs (Rohit Sharma 73, Shreyas Iyer 61, Axar Patel 44; Adam Zampa 4/60, Xavier Bartlett 3/39) lost to Australia 265/8; 46.2 overs (Matthew Short 74, Cooper Connolly Washington Sundar 2/37, Arshdeep Singh 2/41,

the ground, he acknowledged

the fans at Adelaide, a venue

where he has scored multiple

Test hundreds and a World Cup

far but what Rohit intended

to prove was that there is still

While Rohit got much-needed

breathing space, Kohli contin-

ued to be under pressure and

left the ground raising his fist

for the Adelaide spectators who

**BRIEF SCORES** 

probably saw the last of him.

The 2027 World Cup is still

century against Pakistan.

some fuel left in the tank.

Rana 2/59)

### **BOYCOTT CALLS**

the maestro

plumb in front.

caught

### Indonesia defends decision to ban Israel gymnasts after IOC statement

consequence to prevent Israeli gymnasts from in a world



event held in Jakarta, its sports minister said Thursday. adding that the move was also designed to maintain public order. Erick Thohir was responding to an International Olympic Committee statement urging all international sporting federations not to host sporting events in Indonesia. The committee said it was also cutting off all discussions about any potential Olympic bid by Indonesia summer games. "We adhere to the principle of maintaining security, public order, and the public interest in hosting every international event." Thohir said on his social media account, adding that the principle was part of Indonesia's constitution and based on its obligation to maintain world order. The world's largest Muslim-majority country denied visas to Israeli athletes due to objections from the government as well as its council of Islamic clerics. Jakarta said the move was in line with Indonesia's policy of cutting ties with Israel until it recognises the independence of the state of Palestine.

### Amid tensions, Pak pull out of men's Junior World Cup hockey in India

Mumbai: With just over ing match. Pakistan have Men's Junior World Cup played from November 28 nai and Madurai, citing



Asia Sport (www.telecomasia.net), the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), after consulting their government, has sent an official intimation to FIH, which in turn will inform Hockey India. This is the second event in India that Pakistan has with drawn from after the Men's Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar. Pakistan Hockey Federation secretary Rana Mujahid confirmed the decision. "Yes, we feel the situation is not conducive under the current situation," Muiahid said, "The recent Asia Cup cricket event has proved that India has extreme emotions against Pakistan. Their players did not shake hands with our players, and then they refused to receive the trophy from Mohsin Nagyi, which was shameful," he added. The Pakistan junior team recently played India in the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malavsia. where both teams shared high-fives before taking their positions in the field. The match ended in a 3-3 draw. The relations between the two nations have further soured after India attacked the terror infrastructure in Pakistan in cross-border airstrikes called Operation Sindoor, following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were killed.



record for most ODI centuries for any player (15)



### Mandhana, Rawal help India outgun NZ by 53 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Oct 23: Smriti Mandhana (105) and Pratika Rawal (122) struck regal hundreds as a reinvigorated India outclassed New Zealand by a sumptuous 53-run margin to power-walk into the Women's World Cup semi-finals here Thursday.

Under pressure after losing three successive games, India regained its batting mojo at the perfect juncture to join reigning champions Australia, England and South Africa in the last four.

Centurions Mandhana and Rawal received splendid support from Jemimah Rodrigues' brisk 76 not out, as the hosts piled up 340 for three in 49 overs during a rain-affected contest.

New Zealand was asked to chase 325 in 44 overs under the DLS method, but they could only make 271 for eight. Brooke Halliday top-scored for them with 81 (84 balls, 9x4s, 1x6s).

Chasing the mammoth target, New Zealand needed their off-colour opening pair of Suzie Bates (1) and Georgia Plimmer (30) to come good but another forgettable outing for the former gave India an early breakthrough. Earlier, imperious hundreds

by Mandhana and Rawal along with Rodrigues' rapid knock fired India to a daunting total. India's progression was af-

fected by a rain break which

caused a 90 minutes delay, and the contest was truncated to 49 overs per side. But this time India set aside their iffy batting form, and

cashed in on a benign track to register the highest score of the tournament. Rawal made it count with her first World Cup hundred,

which was made in a conven-

tional manner, while forging

Mandhana (109 off 95 balls,

76 with 11 fours.

10x4s, 4x6s) looked to be peaking at the right time with her third World Cup ton, first of this edition, with a spectacu lar six over cover off spinner Eden Carson, giving early in-

two big partnerships -- a re

cord 212 runs with Mandhana

for the first wicket and 76 runs

with Rodrigues for the second

from the last match as India

favoured a sixth bowler, un-

leashed a flurry of fours to

make the fastest fifty of this

World Cup from 39 balls, even-

tually finishing with a 55-ball

Rodrigues, who was dropped

dications of her prime form.

India 340/3 in 49 overs (Smriti Mandhana 109, Pratika Rawal 122, Jemimah Rodrigues 76 not out; Mair 1-52) beat New Zealand Brooke Halliday 81, Isabella Gaze 5 not out, Amelia Kerr 45; Renuka ingh 2-25, Kranti Gaud 2-48) by 53 runs via DLS method

**ASIAN YOUTH GAMES** 

Twin Kabaddi golds

push medal position

## Madrid out to end Barca curse

**Real Madrid lost** all 4 clasicos last season and now it is looking for payback against Barcelona

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, Oct 23: Real Madrid and a red-hot Kylian Mbappé host Barcelona Sunday aiming to hit back at their rivals after los ing all four clasicos last season.

Mbappé has scored a La Liga-leading 10 goals in nine rounds - four more than his nearest chaser - and another five goals in the Champions League over the first two months of the campaign.

Barcelona arrives at the Santiago Bernabeu with injury concerns in attack and coach Hansi Flick heading for a seat in a stadium box, after he saw a red card for protesting in the last round.

Lamine Yamal will start for the visitors after having played two games since returning from a nagging groin injury. But Robert Lewandowski is



ruled out for Barcelona with a hamstring injury and forward Raphinha is doubtful.

All eyes will be on the first clasico of the season to see whether new coach Xabi Alonso can get Madrid out of its rut against Barcelona.

Barcelona swept the quarter of clasicos in all competitions last season by a combined score of 16-7. Barcelona won the Liga fixture in Madrid 4-0 to kick off that run. It then won 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup, 3-2 in the Copa del Rey final, and again 4-3 in La Liga

"Last year they showed some great finishing, and we have to try to stop that firepower while being crisper up front ourselves," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said.

Riffa (Bahrain), Oct 23: India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

capped off a memorable day at the Asian Youth Games with twin gold medals in kabaddi. emerging champions in both the boys' and girls' events to surge to fifth place in the overall standings here Thursday. The dominant show on the

mat lifted India's tally to two gold, three silver and five bronze medals (2-3-5), marking their best day yet at the continental event that will conclude October 27.

At the Isa Sports City, the Indian kabaddi teams produced contrasting wins in their respective finals.

The girls' team was ruthless crushing Iran 75-21 to clinch the gold medal. India led 33-12 at half-time and never looked back, adding 42 points in the second half while restricting their opponents to just nine.

In athletics, India added two silver and one bronze to their tally. Ranjana Yadav opened India's account with a silver medal in the girls' 5000m walk, clocking 23 minutes 25.88 sec onds to finish behind China's Liu Shivi (24:15.27). Korea's Jeong Chaeyeon took bronze in 25:26.93.

## Revival of South Asian Athletics: India look to continue dominance

The South Asian Senior Athletics Championships are set to make a grand return on Friday at the Birsa Munda Stadium, marking the fourth edition after a 15-year break

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 23: A second string Indian team, made up of several junior players, will look to continue the country's dominance in the South Asian Senior Athletics Championships which will make a return after 15 years here Friday.

The fourth edition of the championships to be held at the Birsa Munda Stadium under the aegis of South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) will mark the revival of the regional event after Kochi in Kerala hosted the last one in 2008.

In fact, the championships is being held in India for the third time, with the country having hosted the inaugural edition in 1997. Sri Lanka hosted the second edition in 1998.

This time, 206 athletes from six South Asian nations -- India. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives -- will compete across 37 medal events over three days.

Pakistan is not taking part in the championships despite



invitation from the organisers. sponse to our invite," an official "We sent invitations to all the member countries of the South

in the organising committee In fact, the fourth edition has been postponed twice. It

was to be held in 2024 but got

the top athletes have wound up

postponed to May 2025 and then

to October 24-26.

For India, the three-day event, being held when most of their season, is an opportunity for giving exposure to junior and upcoming athletes. The 73-strong Indian team has no hig name with the exception of M R Poovamma who has been named in the women's 4x400m relay team.

Other Indian medal contenders include Seema, Pranav Gaurav and Samardeep Gill..

The Indians will face tough competition from Sri Lanka in some events, including the men's javelin throw. The island nation has sent 63 athletes led by their top men's javelin

thrower Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage, who is the favourite to win gold in the event.

Pathirage holds the Sri Lankan national record of 86.50m, which he had produced while winning gold in the World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level meet in Bhubaneswar in August. He had also finished seventh in the World Championships in Tokyo earlier this year. India has fielded National

Open Championships gold and silver winners Rishab Nehra and Uttam Patil against Pathi rage. Nehra recently joined the country's growing 80m club with 80.12m effort at the National Open Championships here in September.

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Asian Athletics Federation.

Pakistan is a member country,

but they have not given any re-