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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



New Delhi: Four wanted gangsters, allegedly involved in multiple cases of extortion-cum-murder 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, Birmlesh Mahto alias Birmlesh 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'.

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

REUTERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

PNN & AGENCIES

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.

AGENCIES

Over 150 cases were reported across Bhopal the day after Diwali, though many were discharged after first aid, an official said.

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 senior-most judge after the CJI and is next in line to become the head of the Indian judiciary.

Four Bihar gangsters gunned down in Delhi

New Delhi: Four wanted gangsters, allegedly involved in multiple cases of extortion-cum-murder 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, Birmlesh Mahto alias Birmlesh 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

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
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. Your 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.

GEMINI
You will become more emotional and sensitive today. Health, diet, career, job 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.

CANCER
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 if 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.

LEO
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
You will be really very tough 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.

LIBRA
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 promote and inspire you to give your best. 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 something 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.



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.

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.



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 Dancer*, admired 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 within.



Aneet gets career momentum

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 Loke-shverse — 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.

AGENCIES

MUMBAI: Actress Malaika Arora has often shared candid insights about her views on romance and relationships. 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 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 hard-core 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.

AGENCIES

Malaika on men she's drawn to



MUMBAI: Shubhangi Atre, best known for her role as Angoori Bhabhi in the show *Bhabhi 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 child. Shubhangi emphasised the importance of staying fully present both on set and at home despite the daily pressures and responsibilities. Speaking about how she manages to balance work and per-



sonal life as a single mother, the actress said, "It's not easy at all. I have to handle everything on my own whether it's finances, home, or my daughter. There are days when it feels overwhelming, but I try to take one day at a time. I make sure that wherever I am on set or at home I'm fully present in that moment."

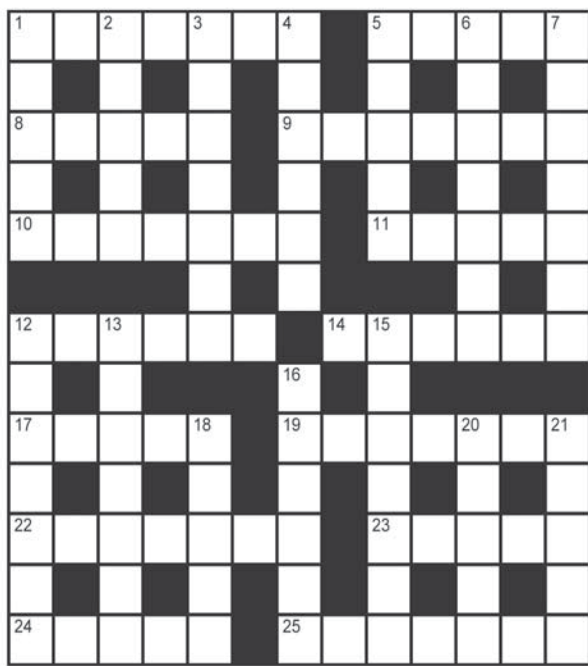
Shubhangi is a mother to one daughter, Ashi, from her marriage with ex-husband Peeyush Poorey.

Talking about the challenges of building a career in a competitive industry, she shared, "Competition is everywhere, but I choose to focus on improving myself instead of comparing. Opportunities will always come, but you have to be prepared to grab them when they do."

IANS

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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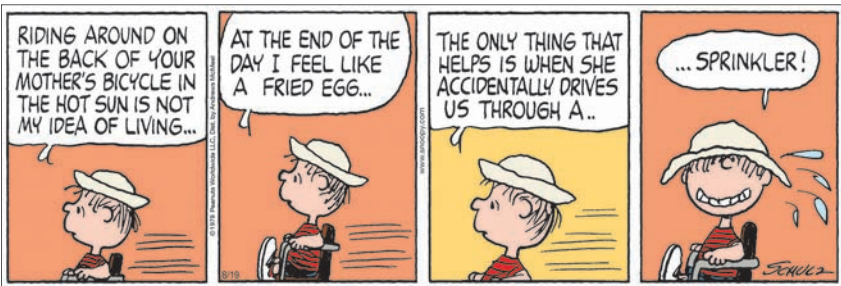
Across

- Old square-rigger
- Kind of energy
- Express
- Epicurean
- Music hall
- Banish
- Capers
- Chess piece
- Fancy home
- Sumptuous

Down

- Treeless plain
- Hotel posting
- "Bolero"
- composer
- Overspend
- Short-tailed furry-footed rodent
- Draw back
- Financial guru
- Israeli city (3,4)
- On the fence
- Kings and queens
- Invalidate
- Banana oil, e.g.
- Discernment

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

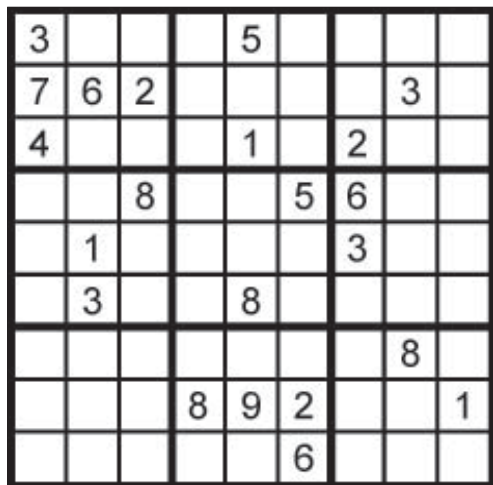


BREVITY



SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

14 in fray for Nuapada bypoll



AGENCIES

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 Parivartan Dal's Sitaram Behera and three Independents — Kamal Kumar Chhatra, 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 Bagh, Bhaktabandhu Dharua, Nita Bagh and Laxmikanta Tandi — were found valid.

The bypoll is likely

to witness a triangular 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 over 40,814 votes.

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

OP PHOTOS

"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 self-help 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 panchayat of Astaranga

block for plantation of 'Spinifex' grass. This area has been facing massive coastal erosion and villagers have been facing loss of land & livelihoods over the years." Appreciating the efforts by the female community members, she said women's leadership ensures both continuity and care in restoration efforts.

Women participants, already involved in maintaining local mangrove patches, pledged to care for the newly planted dune vegetation. Three forest guardians — Bengalata Raut, Chhabilata Kalia, and Rabi Bhuyan — were honoured for their contributions to forest protection.

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 investigation, four individuals, 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.



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 ⌚ 11:00 AM



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



Special benefits for women, divyangjan and candidates from aspirational districts



Strengthening 'Citizen-First' approach through increasing participation of youth in nation-building



Recruitment exams being conducted in 13 regional languages to promote equal opportunities



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



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CBC 0630T/13/000T/2526

Law min backs CBI probe into SI recruitment scam

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

AGENCIES

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 involvement

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

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 multi-crore 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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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, Mohapatra 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 Principal Secretary Usha Padhee high-

lighted the state’s comprehensive 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 urban challenges and emerging opportunities, including: urban governance & infrastructure development, urban planning & mobility, e-governance & SAHAJOG, financial management in ULBs, PM SVANidhi & urban livelihoods, urban housing, sanitation & water supply.

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

Amaresh Jena walks out of jail

Bhubaneswar: BMC ward number 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 the media persons.

44 Loyola students became scribes for visually impaired



POST NEWS NETWORK

Initiative is a part of ‘Be My Scribe’ programme by WE4YOU trust promoting inclusive education and volunteerism

School headmaster, who sought volunteers to assist visually 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 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 assistance 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



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: The Global Energy Leaders Summit, 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 Kumar Dev, OPTCL CMD Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma, Gridco MD Satya Priya Rath, TBI’s Vivek Agrawal, Ninad Sagar and Pierre Walsh (virtual).

2 held for assaulting cops

Bhubaneswar: Chandrasekharpur Police Thursday arrested two persons for allegedly abusing and assaulting police personnel under the influence of alcohol late Wednesday night. The arrested were identified as Subhansu 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 vehicles in inebriated condition. When ASI Sukul Charan Hembram, who was on duty at Chandrasekharpur PS, started conducting a breath analyzer test on Subhanshu, the accused duo allegedly started verbally abusing him and other police personnel. They also threatened to kill the officers and physically assaulted them, said the police. They allegedly misbehaved with a woman police officer at the PS. A case has been registered under several Sections of BNS. Their vehicles have been seized.

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 OPTCL 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.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

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.

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 cautioning people—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 24x7 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 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 illegal bullet silencers Friday.”

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.89 ▼ 0.16	SENSEX	84556.40 ▲ 130.06	GOLD	₹124,443 ▲ ₹2,586
EURO	101.82 ▼ 0.74	NIFTY	25891.40 ▲ 22.80	SILVER	₹148,900 ▲ ₹3,342

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.6°	32.0°	Partly cloudy sky with Haze
Min Temp	23.9°	21.4°	
Humidity	76%	80%	
Rainfall	NIL	NIL	

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Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C. S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438842501, 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.

Landslide disrupts train services again

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
तृतिर काँपोरेट समायन प्रसक्करण केन्द्र (सी-पेसे),
आइ.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वां मजिल,
प्लॉट P-6, 7, 8, से.-5,
आइ.एम.टी. मानेसर,
गुडगाय, हरियाणा - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in


समकालीन जगत

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
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 **Date: 14/10/2025**

Reference: In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (5) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AB7514305	U55101OR2023PTC041701	JAYMEERA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS & RESORTS PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AB6363165	U15130OR2022PTC040924	SHANAR DAIRY PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AB6413018	U51109OR2011PTC014476	JGTL TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AB6315837	U28112OR2011PTC013347	J G INFRATECH & ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AB7629715	U13100OR2004PTC007642	CENTURY RESOURCES (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 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 any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10(A) 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 have, 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.

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

Raunak Agrawal
Deputy Registrar

CBC 07123/11/0436/2526 **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**





The New China Shock

China'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 developing 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 China's own claim to global leadership.

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 that China continues to dominate.

Today, China's manufacturing trade surplus stands at roughly \$2 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 low- and 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 low-skill exports among LMICs to its share of the global workforce. China still accounts 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 steeper, given its shrinking labour force. The wedge between China's export share and 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.

What makes this persistence even more 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 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 hegemony 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 the development ladder.

History underscores how unfair China's strategy is. Charles Kindleberger famously argued that hegemony 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 that critical global public good.

The pressure on LMICs is already evident in their growing trade 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: hegemony 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.

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WISDOM CORNER

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

HELEN KELLER

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

ISAAC NEWTON

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

CARL JUNG

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.

BREATHLESS IN DIWALI

FOCUS POLLUTION



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

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 senior journalist and author.



Rajdeep Sardesai

A VIKSIT BHARAT CANNOT BE BUILT WITH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE CHOKING ON POOR AIR

On Diwali night, as 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 respiratory 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 surrendering 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-

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

SPECTRUM BANKING

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

Imagine 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

2023-24, the figure was ₹11,794.17 crore, illustrating a persistent, severe issue that demands urgent attention. Public sector banks account for the lion's share of this total.

The reasons behind this substantial 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 UDGM (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 streamlined further, particularly the claim settlement process, making it simpler for legal heirs to retrieve funds with minimal documentation and without unnecessary delays, perhaps through a standardised, common online application platform linked to UDGM. Crucially, a mandatory and simple nomination process 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.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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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



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 every employee will be entitled to double pay for overtime and a maximum of 48 hours of week-

ly 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-



bour department added two entries pertaining to employing women and the conditions of their employment under the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act, 1954.

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 transportation 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. Shift working, if any, will be in such a way that no employee is forced to work in night shift

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 bonus.

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 corporations 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 officer said. 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 liquor," he said. 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.

DIWALI AFTERMATH

Air, noise pollution fuels Kolkata health woes



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 firecrackers. 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

increase in hospital admissions for respiratory illnesses and a 20 per cent rise in OPD visits during the festive period. "Most patients came in with aggravated 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. "Toxic gases like sulphur dioxide and ethyl-benzene from firecrackers severely compromise air quality. Throat irritation, sneezing, and shortness of breath were common symptoms," he said. At Manipal Hospitals, OPD cases rose by nearly 25 per cent, while inpatient admissions increased by around 5-10 per cent, Dr Debraj Jash, Head of Pulmonology Department, told PTL. "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

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 Sourav Bhui, consultant at Abha Surg 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 Bhui 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.

Army defuses WWII bomb; tremors rattle villages

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 nearby 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 Bol-

pur police station, about a month ago. However, initially, they did not give much importance, and finally, the matter was brought to the notice of the police. 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 neu-

tralised 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 tenders 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 Govt. of Odisha.

Sl	Name of the Work	Estimated Amt	EMD	Cost of Tender document	Completion period	Amount in Rs. Eligibility class 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

The details of location of work, estimated amount regarding construction work alongwith cost of Tender 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**
Sd./- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd., BBSR
OIPR-01045/11/0111/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, SUNDARGARH
"e"- Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.07 of 2025-26
Letter No.1903, Dated 15.10.25

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.

Nature of Work	Construction of Additional Office Room for JE(II) at RWS&S Section, Rajgangpur under Office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Sundargarh
No. of Tender	: 01 No.
Tender Paper Cost	: 6,000/-
Class of Contractor	: 'C' & 'D'
Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: Dt.24.10.2025 at 11.00 AM to 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 details and any type of corrigendum can be seen from the Govt. website <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

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: eeppwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eeppwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No.: 06652-232374

BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/19/2025-26
No. 6593
Dtd.: 22.10.25

1. The Superintending Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf 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

2. Nature of Work	: Civil and Electrical Work
3. No of Tender	: 8 Nos. of Civil work and 2 Nos. Electrical work
4. Tender Cost	: Rs.2000/-, Rs.4000/-, Rs.6000/- (Tender Paper Cost)
5. Class of Contractor	: "B" Class, "C" Class, "D" Class (Registered with CDMS) (For Civil Work) MV/HT/ "Specialized agency having MOU with associate electrical contractor (MV/HT or Above) having valid licence from ELBO associate electrical contractor (MV/HT or Above) having valid license from ELBO
6. Date & time of sale & receipt of Bids	: From Dt.24.10.25, 11.00 A.M. Dt.03.11.25 upto 5.00 P.M.
7. Date of Opening Bid	: Dt.04.11.25 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website:	: http://tendersodisha.gov.in .

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Bolangir (R&B) Division
OIPR-34028/11/0038/2526

Delhi preps for first-ever artificial rain

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 in the Burari area, Gupta said in a post on X. "For the first time in Delhi, preparations have been completed to induce artificial rain through cloud seeding, marking a significant technological milestone in the capital's fight against air pollution. Experts on Thursday successfully conducted a trial test in the Burari 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 artificial rain on October 29," her post read. Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa thanked



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

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, Khehra, Burari, Sadakpur, Bhojpur, Aligarh, and back to IIT Kanpur. Cloud seeding flares were fired between Khehra and Burari and over the Badli area using pyro techniques," Sirsa said in a post on X. He added that the flight served as a proving mission to assess the cloud-seeding system's capabilities, aircraft endurance and coordination among all participating

agencies. 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 postponed. 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.

Bank of India
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 8985368533

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice Under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

(E-Auction) Sale of secured movable / immovable Assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002
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 PROVISION 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 hereunder, 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.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	NAYAGARH BRANCH, PH.: 9439781834 / Borrower: Mr. Gunanidhi Dakua, S/o- Sri Narayan Dakua/ Co-Borrower: Mr. Rakesh Kumar Dakua, S/o- Gunanidhi Dakua / Guarantor: Mr. Purna Chandra Mohapatra, S/o- Rakesh Mohapatra, All are At: Balikudia, PO: Barapalli, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752070 / Total Dues: ₹11,44,188.72 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	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 (No. 420), Dist.: Nayagarh, Odisha, standing in the name of Mr. Gunanidhi Dakua, S/o- Mr. Narayan Dakua . Bounded by- East: Kirtan Muduli, West: Akura Pradhan, North: Road, South: Own.	₹18,19,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,81,900/- / ₹50,000/-
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.	All that part and parcel of Land and Building, Plant and Machinery situated over Mouza: Suarini, PS: Tangi, SRO: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Plot No.: 205/602, Khata No.: 116/41, Area: Ac.0.500dec., Kissan: Gharabari, standing in the name of Mr. Pradipta Kumar Rout . Bounded by- East: Govt. Land, West: Bimal Kumar Rath, North: Tangi Haripur Road, South: Bimal Kumar Rath.	₹99,36,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹9,93,600/- / ₹50,000/-

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.

Inspection 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 before 15th day of confirmation of sale.

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, Date: 23.10.2025

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

of the day

quote

It is important that Europe not only watches but plays an active role. Gaza is not over; peace is not yet permanent

LUC FRIEDEN | PRIME MINISTER, LUXEMBOURG



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

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

BART DE WEVER | PRIME MINISTER, BELGIUM



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 heart problems.

French cyclist freed by Russian court

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-ruble (\$615) fine, a district court in Primorye said.



Lebanon negotiated in the past with Israel with mediation by the United States and the United 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



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



REUTERS

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

- EU discusses using frozen Russian assets for Ukraine loan
- EU sanctions package includes ban on Russian LNG from 2027
- Kyiv seeks autonomy over spending of EU loan funds

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

summit with Zelenskyy, 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

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 23: China's ruling Communist Party Thursday reaffirmed the "core" leadership of President Xi Jinping as the head of the party and the powerful military, while backing a major purge of top military officials and endorsing a new 5-year plan for a more resilient 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



resilient domestic market and 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

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

REUTERS

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-

tory that Palestinians seek for 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 royal 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 closing 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.



"This would have been impossible 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 an-

nounced 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 history'
- 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 Eliza-

beth I, hundreds of Catholics and Protestants were executed for their faith, often burned at the stake. **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 Britain, 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 afternoon to Rome's Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, one of Catholicism's four most venerated churches, where Leo has approved giving him a new title of "Royal Confrater", or brother, at the connected abbey.

of the day

quote

There is also 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, causing a temporary disruption in segments such as passenger vehicles and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG)

PUSHAN SHARMA | DIRECTOR, CRISIL INTELLIGENCE

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

CEO HISASHI TAKEUCHI | 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 quarter 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 1,049.72 crore.

India Inc profit dips

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 York-based 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.

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 AI, in terms of enhanced productivity, efficiency, and so on, are achieved

S KRISHNAN | SECRETARY, ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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 zero-balance current accounts, and specialised startup cards.



Market ends 52-week high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



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

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, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.42 per cent, and the midcap index dipped 0.15 per cent. BSE Focused IT jumped 2.36 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).

RBI to mandate UTI for OTC derivative transactions

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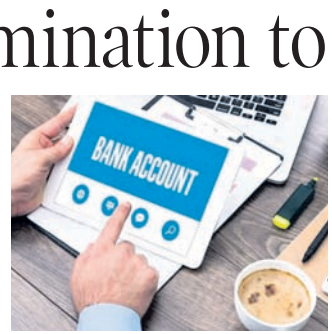
Mumbai, Oct 23: The Reserve Bank has proposed to mandate a Unique Transaction Identifier (UTI) for all transactions in OTC markets for rupee interest rate and foreign currency derivatives from the next financial year, beginning April 1. In this regard, the central bank Thursday released a draft circular on 'UTI for OTC Derivative Transactions in India'. Over-the-Counter (OTC) derivatives 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 transaction 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.

New rules for bank nomination to take effect November 1

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New Delhi, Oct 23: Beginning next month, a bank customer can opt for up to four nominees in her or his account with a view to ensure uniformity, and efficiency in claim settlement across the banking system. The key provisions relating to Nomination under the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 will come into effect from November 1, 2025, a finance ministry statement said Thursday. The Banking Laws (Amend-

ment) Act, 2025 was notified on April 15, 2025. It contains a total of 19 amendments across five legislations, the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, State Bank of India Act, 1955 and Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980. 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-



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 permitted.

Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 87.88 against US dollar

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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 rupee 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 Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said, "On Thursday rupee opened with a gap and remained range-bound between 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 expected between 87.50 and 88.00, he said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President 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 on 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.

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 Roshan and 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.



Sustainable mobility a rapidly emerging reality: IESA report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Alliance (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 infrastructure, and developing dedicated mobility clusters and ecosystems, it added. 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. The report further emphasises that India's transition is unique due to its multi-fuel and multi-path approach. While there is a clear focus on e-mobility, significant traction is also visible in compressed natural gas (CNG), hybrid, flex-fuel, and even hy-

drogen-powered mobility, each driven by specific use cases, it pointed out. IESA president Debmalaya 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 suggested. As India advances toward its Net Zero goals, it is crucial to facilitate a level playing field for environmentally friendly technologies, keeping the principle of technology neutrality in mind and encouraging the adoption of all technologies that align with the nation's decarbonization 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.

India tactics backfire

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 three-match 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 shoe-horned 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, played 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 match series.

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

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
SHUBMAN GILL | INDIA SKIPPER

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 daylight 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 50-over 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 wrote in an X post. "Our misery is turning 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-year-old after he recorded 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 another user.

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

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 in sharply after pitching

and the maestro was caught plumb in front. While leaving

the ground, he acknowledged the fans at Adelaide, a venue where he has scored multiple Test hundreds and a World Cup century against Pakistan.

The 2027 World Cup is still far but what Rohit intended to prove was that there is still some fuel left in the tank.

While Rohit got much-needed breathing space, Kohli continued to be under pressure and left the ground raising his fist for the Adelaide spectators who probably saw the last of him.

BRIEF SCORES

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, Harshit Rana 2/59) by two wickets.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

EVES SEAL SEMIS SPOT



PURPLE PATCH: Mandhana's 14th ODI ton is also her fifth in this calendar year as she also moved closer to breaking Australian great Meg Lanning's 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 affected 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 conventional manner, while forging

two big partnerships -- a record 212 runs with Mandhana for the first wicket and 76 runs with Rodrigues for the second.

Rodrigues, who was dropped from the last match as India favoured a sixth bowler, unleashed a flurry of fours to make the fastest fifty of this World Cup from 39 balls, eventually finishing with a 55-ball 76 with 11 fours.

Mandhana (109 off 95 balls, 10x4s, 4x6s) looked to be peaking at the right time with her third World Cup ton, first of this edition, with a spectacular six over cover off spinner Eden Carson, giving early indications of her prime form.

BRIEF SCORES

India 340/3 in 49 overs (Smriti Mandhana 109, Pratika Rawal 122, Jemimah Rodrigues 76 not out; Suzie Bates 1-40, Rosemary Mair 1-52) beat **New Zealand** (revised target 325 in 44 ovs) (Brooke Halliday 81, Isabella Gaze 65 not out, Amelia Kerr 45; Renuka Singh 2-25, Kranti Gaud 2-48) by 53 runs via DLS method

EL CLASICO

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 losing 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.

SHORT TAKES

WFI suspends Sanjeev

New Delhi: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has 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 received from Sanjeev showed conflicting information regarding his place of birth and residence between Delhi and Haryana. Sanjeev had competed in senior world championship, held in non-Olympic weight categories, last 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 2022 -- 22 years after his recorded date of birth on November 20, 2000. Within weeks, a Haryana Resident Certificate was issued to him by the state government in September 2022.

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 day before Inter Miami's playoff 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.

The South Asian Senior Athletics Championships are set to make a grand return on Friday at the Birsra 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.

BOYCOTT CALLS

Indonesia defends decision to ban Israel gymnasts after IOC statement

Jakarta: Indonesia understands the consequences of its decision to prevent Israeli gymnasts from participating in a world championship 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, which had already expressed interest in hosting the 2036 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 a month to go for the opening match, Pakistan have withdrawn from the FIH Men's Junior World Cup hockey tournament to be played from November 28 to December 10 in Chennai and Madurai, citing the political tensions with India as the reason. According to a report in Telecom 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 withdrawn 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," Mujahid 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 Naqvi, which was shameful," he added. The Pakistan junior team recently played India in the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia, 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.



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 Birsra 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 Birsra 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. "We sent invitations to all the member countries of the South Asian Athletics Federation. Pakistan is a member country, but they have not given any re-

sponse to our invite," an official in the organising committee told PTI.

In fact, the fourth edition has been postponed twice. It was to be held in 2024 but got

postponed to May 2025 and then to October 24-26.

For India, the three-day event, being held when most of the top athletes have wound up their season, is an opportunity for giving exposure to junior and upcoming athletes. The 73-strong Indian team has no big 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 Pathirage. Nehra recently joined the country's growing 80m club with 80.12m effort at the National Open Championships here in September.