



## Unprejudiced Alia

Actor Alia Bhatt says she has no judgement towards people having cosmetic surgeries on their bodies

LEISURE | P2



## NK backs troop deployment

North Korea says any move to send its troops to assist Russia in its war in Ukraine would be in line with international law

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Declining trend

Falling for the fifth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex Friday plunges about 660 points to crash below the 80,000 level

BUSINESS | P11



## Kiwis in command

New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner claims 7 wickets as India are bowled out for 156 in their 1st innings in the 2nd Test

SPORTS | P12

## Prisoners attack jailer, 2 warders

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** In yet another instance of the dismal security arrangement inside the Jharpada Special Jail in Bhubaneswar, five prisoners attacked the jailer and two warders with a sharp-edged weapon, Friday.

The jail officials were admitted to a hospital and their condition is stated to be normal.

A senior jail official said that the five accused Ajay Naik, Naran Mohanty, Lingaraj Barik, Sanjay Mallick and Santosh attacked Jailer Prasanna Sahu and the two warders following a spar over shifting them to high security cell. The accused started a nuisance in the jail around 10:30 am. As Sahu and the two warders intervened, an altercation erupted which soon turned violent.

"A case has been registered at Laxmisagar police station. Soon they will be booked under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," said a jail official.

Meanwhile, DIG of Prisons and Correctional Services, Arun Ray, has ordered a probe.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Handling high office is easy. The public doesn't care what you do as long as you say the right things

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	79402.29	↓ 662.87
NIFTY	24180.80	↓ 218.60
DOLLAR	84.08	↑ ₹0.01
EURO	91.07	↑ ₹0.04
GOLD	₹78,385	↑ ₹58
SILVER	₹97,674	↑ ₹642

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	26.1°C	27.4°C
Min Temp	23.0°C	21.5°C
Humidity	97%	93%
Rainfall	20.4mm	20.8mm

**FORECAST**  
Generally cloudy sky with heavy rain



**STRIKE ON SCRIBES:** Destroyed vehicles used by mediapersons at the site where an Israeli airstrike hit a compound housing journalists, killing three of them, according to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency, in Hasbaya village, southeast Lebanon, Friday. The Israeli army did not issue a warning prior to the strike (Report on P10)

## Thaw after 4 years

The military standoff between India and China over their disputed Himalayan border is likely to get completed by the end of this month. This marks the biggest thaw between the nuclear-powered neighbours since the deadly clashes in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh four years ago. Troops who were eyeball-to-eyeball at two points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh have begun pulling back, heralding an end to the standoff. The disengagement at the two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh is expected to conclude by October 28-29. The countries struck a deal earlier this week on patrolling the frontier, which then paved the way for the first bilateral talks in five years between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit at Kazan in Russia. However, neither side has made public details of the new pact, which is expected to help improve political and business ties damaged by the Galwan clash.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** The troop disengagement of India and China at the two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh is likely to get completed by October 28-29,



Army sources said Friday.

The process follows an agreement firmed up between the two countries on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a major breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff.

Patrolling will begin at the two friction points once the disengagement is done and both sides will move their respective troops and dismantle temporary structures. Eventually, the sources said, the patrolling status is expected to move back to pre-April 2020 level.

The agreement framework was first agreed upon at the diplomatic level and then military-level talks took place, the Army sources said, adding the nitty-gritty of agreement was

worked in Corps Commander-level talks. Adhering to agreements between the two sides, Indian troops have begun to pull back equipment to rear locations in these areas.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri October 21 had said in Delhi that the agreement was finalised following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020.

October 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping endorsed the agreement on patrolling and disengagement along the LAC in eastern Ladakh during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan in Russia.

## Dana spares state of major damage

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Cyclone Dana spared Odisha of any severe damage to infrastructure after the cyclonic storm completed landfall Friday, triggering heavy rains and uprooting of trees and electric poles in coastal parts of the state.

The landfall was completed around 8.30 am Friday and the system took at least eight and a half hours to enter the landmass, the IMD said. The landfall started around 12.05 am Friday between Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara and Dhamra in Bhadrak district with wind speeds of around 110 kmph.

Heavy rain lashed several areas of coastal Odisha Friday under the impact of Dana. According to the regional meteorological centre, here, the

highest rainfall of 158.6 mm was recorded at Chandbali in Bhadrak district while Rajkanika area in Kendrapara district received 156 mm rainfall. Basudevpur in Bhadrak district, Oupada in Balasore district and Marsaghai and Rajnagar in Kendrapara district received rainfall of more than 100 mm during the period, according to the weather office.

Kendrapara district received 85.9 mm rainfall during the last 24 hours while Bhadrak district recorded a rainfall of 67.1 mm.

Balasore, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj districts recorded rainfall of 52.6 mm, 38.9 mm and 35 mm during the period, respectively.

Flight and train services resumed in Bhubaneswar Friday morning.

More P3



## Zero casualty: CM



**BHUBANESWAR:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday claimed that the state has achieved its 'Zero Casualty Mission' as there has been no report regarding any loss of human life or injury in the severe cyclonic storm Dana. Majhi who reviewed the cyclone situation here in the morning announced that there has been no human casualty in the cyclone. "There is no report of any death of any human life. Our Zero Casualty Mission has been successful with cooperation of everyone," Majhi announced. While thanking all the stake holders including ministers, MLAs, rescue teams of NDRF, ODRAF, Fire Service, Odisha Police, social activists, media and others, the CM said: "By the grace of Lord Jagannath and cooperation of all, the government has succeeded in saving human lives." A total of 2,201 pregnant women evacuated to maternity centres by the government ahead of Dana's landfall gave birth during the calamity. The Chief Minister congratulated the mothers and wished well for their newborns, which included 18 sets of twins. Of the 2,201 women who gave birth, 1,858 had normal deliveries and 343 underwent cesarean sections.

## Rishikesh's iconic Beatles ashram set for makeover

**THE BRITISH BAND'S FAB FOUR -- JOHN LENNON, PAUL MCCARTNEY, GEORGE HARRISON AND RINGO STARR -- HAD STAYED AT THE ASHRAM FOR THREE MONTHS IN 1968**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rishikesh, Oct 25:** The iconic Chaurasi Kutiya (84 huts) Ashram, where the British band 'The Beatles' practised yoga, wrote and composed songs, in Rishikesh, is all set for renovation.

The Beatles' fab four, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, stayed at the ashram inside Rajaji National Park near Rishikesh in 1968.

The Uttarakhand government



has awarded the contract to Gujarat-based architecture firm HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt Ltd to renovate the ashram, originally established by Maharishi Mahesh

Yogi in 1961 on 7.5 hectares of forest land as a meditation centre.

The firm led by architect Bimal Patel has undertaken some big-ticket projects in the recent past, including the Central Vista, the

new parliament complex and the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. It is presently working on the redevelopment of Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad.

The Chaurasi Kutiya Ashram gained popularity after the British band spent nearly three months practising yoga and meditation at the facility in 1968. The band's stay was said to be the most productive period for their songwriting, and they penned more than 30 songs.

Talking to PTI, Anand Patel, the project head, said, "This is a Uttarakhand government project. As far as we know, the Centre came up with this idea of redevelopment after several foreign delegates who attended a G20 meeting in Rishikesh last year inquired about this place and expressed their desire to visit it. The Centre then requested

the Uttarakhand government to see if it can be developed."

As the ashram is inside a forest, it will remain a "low-impact tourism spot" with minimal noise or other activities that can adversely impact the environment, he said.

The place is sought after by foreign and Indian tourists, mainly because of its connection with The Beatles, he said.

"The place is over 50 years old, and we will be repairing it without changing its original character so that visitors get an idea about its original form," Patel said.

He said the renovation will be done in such a way that tourists get an idea about its key features and characters through exhibitions on The Beatles, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, ecology, yoga and music.

## J&K terror attack toll rises to 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 25:** Two soldiers who were critically wounded in Thursday's terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Gulmarg succumbed to their injuries, raising the death toll in the ambush to four.

Two Army porters died Thursday while another porter and a soldier were injured. Terrorists attacked a vehicle of the force six kilometres from tourist hotspot Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said Thursday.

They had said the terrorists opened fire on the Army vehicle in the evening when it was headed for the Nagin post in the Arawat range.

The area is completely dominated by the Army and there were reports recently that a terrorist group had infiltrated during early summer and taken

shelter in the higher reaches of the Arawat range, they said.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the recent spate of attacks in the Valley was a matter of serious concern.

"Very unfortunate news about the attack on the Army vehicles in the Bota Pathri area of north Kashmir, which has resulted in some casualties and injuries. This recent spate of attacks in Kashmir is a matter of serious concern," he said in a post on X.

"I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms and send my condolences to the loved ones of the people who lost their lives. I also pray that the injured make a complete and swift recovery," he added.

Meanwhile, security forces Friday launched a massive search operation along the LoC, deploying drones and helicopters to trace the terrorists. **MORE P8**

# leisure



## GRAMMY-WINNING SINGER JACK JONES PASSES AWAY

Singing legend Jack Jones, best known for his theme song from the iconic TV show *The Love Boat*, has passed away on the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 23. He was 86 years old, and had been suffering from leukemia for two years.

## GRETA LEE TO TEAM UP WITH DAFOE IN LATE FAME

*Past Lives* star Greta Lee will feature alongside Oscar-nominated actor Willem Dafoe in the upcoming movie *Late Fame*. Lee boarded the project after the exit of *Anatomy of a Fall* star Sandra Huller over scheduling conflicts.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Ganesh says go ahead and indulge in your artistic self today. You can reorganise your home or work place. Expenses are on the cards. If you have been longing for that expensive dressing table or a study table, buy it. Indulgence is okay sometimes.

**TAURUS**  
Clarity will be a concentric circle today. You may feel trapped in a labyrinth, puzzled and perplexed, about a personal problem, predicts Ganesh. You may not be inclined to deal with unpleasant situations in the afternoon. You will exhibit your flair with words that may impress people around you, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you will be busy doing grocery shopping and other household chores. By noon, you will be pretty bored. In fact, you are likely to walk up to unknown people and chat with them to kill time. You are also likely to experiment and take a trip to the wild side. You know how to dress up, and today, you will be a real show stopper!

**CANCER**  
Love is not just in the air, it is everywhere. The love bug will bite you so hard that it may make you weep. If you are a part of a long-standing relationship, you will fall in love with your partner all over again.

**LEO**  
Your day will start off very ordinarily. The later half of the day too should prove to be uneventful. However, events occurring in the afternoon will win you the praise of your colleagues. You will try to improve your self today. You will be inspired to take on some challenging projects, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Your amazing ability to play with words will stand you in good stead today. So much so that with your silken talk you will be able to charm your way into the heart of a member of the opposite sex later today. Work that has been postponed too often will be finished. Ganesh says it will be a great day ahead for doctors and those in the public sector.

**LIBRA**  
Call it a proof of the old saying, 'Blood is thicker than water', but it is your family that will stand you in good stead today, foresees Ganesh. And in keeping with your grateful nature, you are likely to repay your dues later in the day. Don't be surprised if your rivals admit to your feats - it's all in the stars today.

**SCORPIO**  
Your day will gravitate to being constructive today, predicts Ganesh. At work, your dedication will keep others on their toes; and you miles ahead. Marital bliss will be at its best. All in all, a colourful day, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The positivity in you might well be clouded today. Quite probably, find yourself to be at your wits' end more often than not ere the day passes. Ganesh sees you sitting together with your better half and talking things out.

**CAPRICORN**  
Those meddlesome neighbours of yours may suddenly come across as more seemly, and even if you can see through their ulterior motives, you will find yourself developing a good rapport with them, says Ganesh. Later in the day, you will indulge in literary works, which will provide food for thought. Finances will be in good shape, and there won't be much that you would have to worry about. All in all, it will be a good day.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will plan your day well. Good, says Ganesh, as it does away with the clutter in your schedule. That way, you will also get more time to do stuff you never came around doing it. So, bring out your old Cliff Richard records, and wipe clean your dusty LP player.

**PISCES**  
A good day for investments and speculations, especially in the real estate markets. Your gains will outweigh the risks associated with your transactions. However, maintain some monetary reserves to invest in other opportunities, as even better times are round the corner.

# ALIA TAKES ON TROLLS

**Mumbai:** Bollywood star Alia Bhatt has lashed out at allegations stating that she has had "botox gone wrong" and that she is "paralysed on one side". The actress said these are serious claims and added that she has no judgement towards anyone who chooses cosmetic corrections.

Friday morning, Alia took to the Instagram story section, where she wrote a scathing note.

"Absolutely NO JUDGEMENT towards anyone who chooses cosmetic corrections or surgery your body, your choice But wow, this is beyond ridiculous!"

The actress added: "To the random video floating around literally claiming I've had Botox gone wrong (and to the numerous clickbait articles) I have a crooked smile and a weird way of speaking, according to YOU This is your hypercritical, microscopic judgment of a human face."

The claims seem to have angered Alia, who said that these claims are casually being thrown out with "zero proof and absolutely nothing to back it up."

"And now you're confidently tossing around scientific explanations, claiming I'm paralysed on one side? Are you kidding me? These are SERIOUS claims being casually thrown out there with zero proof, no confirmation, and absolutely nothing to back it up," lamented the *Raazi* actress.

Friday, the actress posted a series of photos and videos on Instagram, captioning it, "Mems that haven't made it to the gram." One standout photo shows Janhvi playing with her pet dog while her rumoured boyfriend, Shikhar Pahariya, affectionately places his hand on her head.

Another image captures a group photo where Janhvi and Shikhar are seen posing alongside Karan Johar, Isha Ambani, Radhika Merchant, and others. In this group shot, Janhvi is seen holding Shikhar's hand.

Although Janhvi and Shikhar have not made their relationship official, the two are often seen together. Recently they arrived together at Manish Malhotra's grand Diwali party in Mumbai. The *Bawaal* actress also posted stunning photos of herself in a shimmering saree on her Instagram.

On the work front, Janhvi was last seen in *Ulajh*, where she played the role of an IFS officer. The film was released August 2.



# Janhvi shares loved-up pics

**Mumbai:** Janhvi Kapoor recently took to social media to share a heartfelt image with her rumoured beau Shikhar Pahariya, in which he is seen lovingly placing his hand on her head.

Another image captures a group photo where Janhvi and Shikhar are seen posing alongside Karan Johar, Isha Ambani, Radhika Merchant, and others. In this group shot, Janhvi is seen holding Shikhar's hand.

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## Sai's old interview sparks controversy

**Mumbai:** Actress Sai Pallavi, who is set to portray Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's *Ramayana*, has come under fire after an old video of her resurfaced online.

In the clip, she remarks that the Indian army genocide to cattle smuggling in Pakistan, highlighting a contentious perception that exists between the two nations. In a video that has gone viral, Pallavi can be heard saying, "People in Pakistan think our army is a terrorist group. But for us, it is them. So, the perspective changes. I don't understand violence." The viral clip originates from an interview conducted in January 2022. As the video re-emerged, netizens reacted with anger towards her remarks and condemned the actress for her comments.

One angry user wrote, "Historian Sai Pallavi is back! Comparing Kashmiri Hindu genocide to cattle smuggling—brilliant insight, right? And now, she's cast as Mata Sita? Bollywood's casting is on fire... but not in a good way! At this rate, they'll be left with an audience of one: their PR team!" Another said, "So sad this Communist Sai Pallavi is playing the role of Sita Ma in *Ramayana*." Meanwhile, in *Ramayana*, Sai Pallavi is set to share the screen with Ranbir Kapoor. The project marks both actors' first onscreen collaboration.



# Pankaj-Mridula's 'organic' love story

**Mumbai:** Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi's wife Mridula has recalled that she first saw the star in a photograph and how their love story began in 1993 and culminated into marriage in 2004.

In a chat with filmmaker Atul Taishete Mridula said that it was in 1993 when she first saw Pankaj.

"We saw each other a lot in the



tilak. I still tell Pankaj that I saw you when you had just started getting a beard and now I am seeing you when you have got glasses. It has been a long journey," she recalled.

Talking about the love story, she said that the "liking was mutual and that he started looking for reasons to meet."

Handkerchief played a major role in their love story.

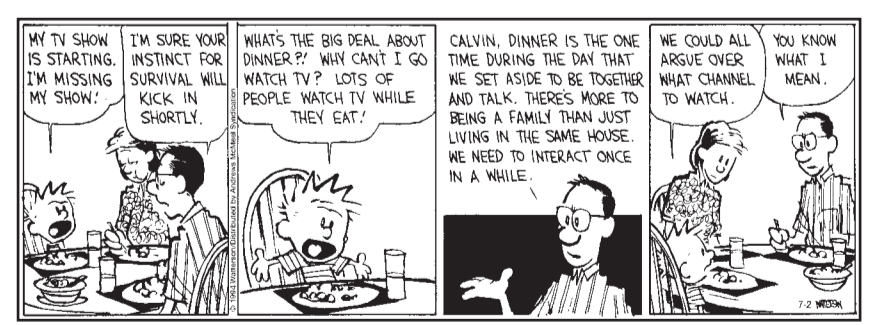
"The conversation started like 'haath dhoya to rumaal' chahiye'. So, I am the one to hand that over to him. 'Rumaal dene main hi haath touch hogaya' in that only you get butterflies," she said.

The two never formally confessed their love to each other as she said it was very 'organic'. However, she did say that it was her, who wrote a letter to him about getting married when he was in National School of Drama in New Delhi.

### PEANUTS



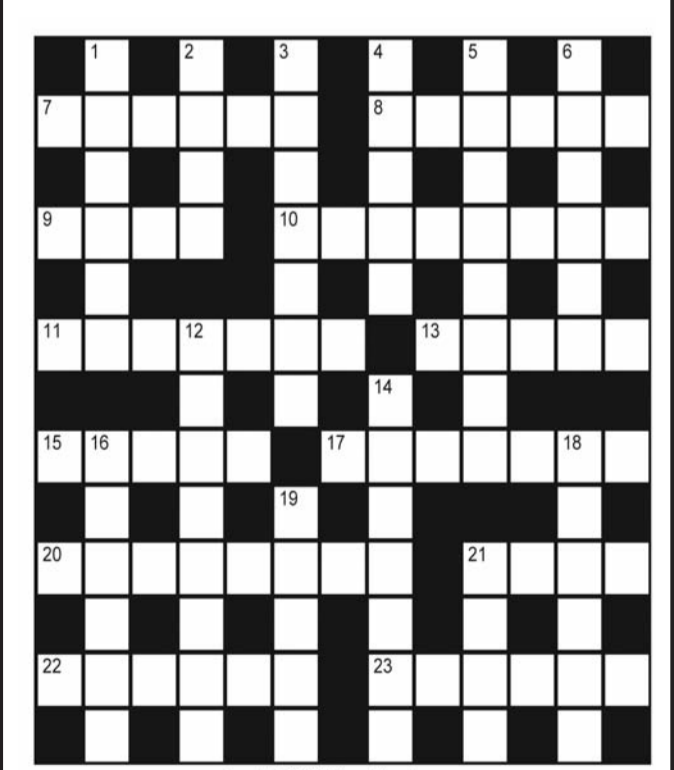
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



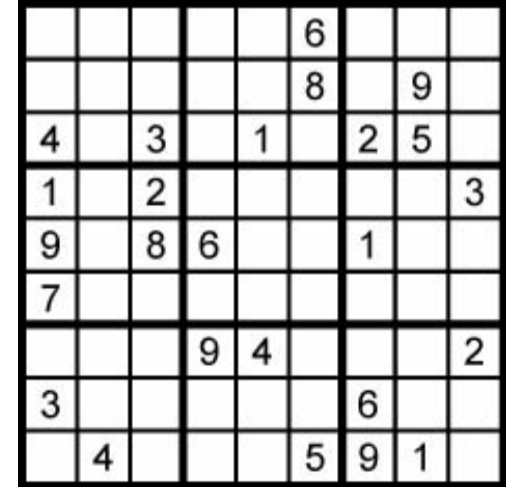
### FUN post CROSSWORD



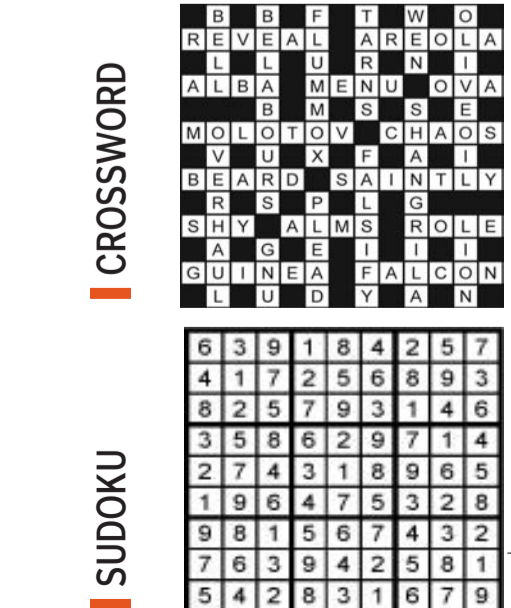
- Across**
- 7 Watch out!
  - 8 Hypothesis
  - 9 Lazy Susan
  - 10 Grammarian
  - 11 Green-eyed
  - 13 Monster
  - 15 Fleet
  - 17 Kitchen appliance
  - 20 Taboo
  - 21 Blemish
  - 22 Sleep
  - 23 Greek god of darkness
  - 24 Final transport
  - 25 Diversify
  - 26 Snitch (4,3)
  - 4 Acrobatic feat
  - 5 Italian volcano
  - 6 Bastille
  - 12 Flotation device (4,4)
  - 14 Gun dog
  - 16 Niobe, e.g.
  - 18 Uris novel
  - 19 Early anesthetic
  - 21 Hive dwellers

### 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



An artisan shapes a clay idol of Goddess Shyama Kali in Sheikh Bazaar area of Cuttack, Friday



## RULES BEING USED TO GAG VOICES OF DISSENT: PARANJOY

Senior journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta's career spanning over four and a half decades, cuts across different facets of mass media: The written word, the spoken word and the audio-visual medium — print publications and websites, radio and podcasts, television, music videos and documentary cinema. He is a writer, speaker, anchor, interviewer, teacher, analyst/commentator, publisher, producer, director and consultant, among many. Much of his works are in three languages: English, Bengali and Hindi. Guha is in the City to attend a session as a panelist of a discussion on 'Media Laws, New Criminal Laws and the Challenges for Independent Journalists' at a conclave organised by the Editors Guild of India (EGI), in association with the Press Club of Odisha. In an interaction with **Orissa POST**, Guha, who has written or co-authored eight books and has published over 30 books, talks about journalism in present times, and the changes, and others issues. Excerpts...

■ **What difference do you see in today's journalism?**  
■ In my 47 years of journalism career, I have been witness to many things like Emergency and growth of private television channels

as well as internet, which has changed the character and complexion of media in India and the world. There has been a sea change in the way people consume information. We are a country of 1.4 billion people, and an equal number has



internet access which is a major influencing factor. But, at the same time, the internet has also become a tool for spreading misinformation and hate speech. In fact, one each WhatsApp message has been attributed to the recent mob clashes and lynching.

■ **Do you think the line between true and fake journalism has been blurred?**

■ Yes, to a large extent. Many of the big industrialists of the country are controlling the media now. The job of the media is to question those in power, to hold a mirror to society and ask not goody goody question, but tough and hard ones. Instead, what we are seeing is the media criticising the Opposition. There is a very small section of media which is critical of the government.

■ **How much media freedom has been curtailed?**

■ The current laws and rules are being used to gag any voice of dissent. The RTI Act is no longer given the prominence it deserves. Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of speech and expression. The media derives its right to free speech from this provision. Laws are being misused by those in power to make journalists helpless which is very bad for democracy.

■ **What role do you think regional media plays?**

■ I believe non-English regional media is more vibrant and does more relevant work. It often reflects more about what is happening in the country better than the national media does in Delhi.

## Laws curtailing free speech biggest challenge: Anant Nath

In 2010, Anant Nath re-launched 'The Caravan', shaping it as a magazine dedicated to long-form narrative journalism. An MBA from IIM-Lucknow with a Master's degree in Politics from Columbia University, New York, Nath, the editor of one of the country's most respected publications, is in the City to attend a conclave — Opportunities and Challenges in Regional Media — organised by the Editors Guild of India (EGI), in association with the Press Club of Odisha. During a conversation with Arindam Ganguly of **Orissa POST**, Nath, also the president of EGI, talks about the challenges faced by journalists, print media and future of journalism. Excerpts...

■ **What is the conclave about?**

■ It is essentially an initiative by the EGI to stamp its presence across the country and dispel the notion that the body is Delhi centric. In fact, the organisation is

ing on expanding its activities with an objective to protect the rights of journalists and media freedom. The focus of the conclave is to understand the challenges faced by journalists, especially in regional media.

■ **What are the major challenges you see now in the media industry?**

■ The biggest challenge we come across these days is the widening of the scope of law in curtailing free speech. Lot of power has been given to agencies to take action against journalists and media houses in print, digital and broadcast space. The second challenge is the overwhelming dependence of media on government patronage that curtails the freedom of the organisations to question the government. Thirdly, there has been an increasing tendency of enforcement agencies to misuse laws concerning media.

■ **How conventional media should position itself in the current race of digital consumerism?**

■ Nowadays, so much content in different forms is available to readers that leave many wonder about its credibility. This pro-

vides an opportunity for reputable media houses to showcase true journalism by providing information through thorough fact checking. That will make us different from those who put anything on the internet and social media platforms for the sake of content generation.

■ **Do you see a threat of digital media, social media to the consumption of conventional media?**

■ Yes, in some way it is a threat as these days people believe in whatever they see on social media. It is not just a threat to media, but to the constitutional democracy too. This is because if people are not able to differentiate irresponsible content from those published with credibility, there is certainly a danger.

■ **Have print publications witnessed a dip in business and reach in the last five years?**

■ Well, of course. There has been a decline due to a host of reasons. Covid, demonetisation and emergence of digital space, among others. However, if I mention about 'The Caravan', we are increasing print circulation every year. This is because our target audience are those who value the content we are putting in. It is a matter of debate as to what figure is enough to sustain. Thankfully, we are still not in an era where credible news is not in demand. It is for the publications to make sure to use the model and strategy which is affordable and easily available to the readers.

■ **What is the role of regional media?**

■ Regional media best understands local politics and issues more than national media. So, they play an important role in terms of original reporting of the area and the state. People want to know what happens in their state and this is where regional media has an edge.

■ **Your advice for budding journalists?**

■ Independent journalism is possible only if one is financially independent. Journalists have to be enterprising and train themselves to understand market demands and create content that is sustainable.



OP TALKS

meant to represent editors from across the country. The EGI is focus-

## HEAVY RAIN LASHES COASTAL ODISHA



**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Heavy rain lashed several areas of coastal Odisha Friday under the impact of severe cyclonic storm Dana that made landfall between Dhamra in Bhadrak and Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara in the state. According to the regional meteorological centre, here, the highest rainfall of 158.6 mm was recorded at Chandbali in Bhadrak district during the last 24 hours (8.30 am Thursday to 8.30 am Friday), while Rajkanika area of Kendrapara district received 156 mm rainfall.

Basudevpur in Bhadrak district, Oupada in Balasore district and Marsaghai and Rajnagar in Kendrapara district received rainfall of more than 100 mm during the period, according to the weather office.

Kendrapara district received 85.9 mm rainfall during the last 24 hours while Bhadrak district recorded a rainfall of 67.1 mm.

Balasore, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj districts recorded rainfall of 52.6 mm, 38.9 mm and 35 mm, respectively, during the period.

Other districts which received heavy rainfall are Cuttack (26.5

mm), Khurda (23.7 mm), Nayagarh (23.1 mm), Angul (20.7 mm), Dhenkanal (17 mm), Puri (16.2 mm) and Jagatsinghpur (16 mm).

The IMD has forecast heavy downpour till Saturday morning and issued a red warning (take action) for Bhadrak, Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts.

An orange warning (be prepared to take action) has been issued for Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jajpur and Dhenkanal districts for the period, the weather office said.

Besides, heavy rainfall would occur in isolated places in

Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh and Angul districts, it said, putting these districts under yellow warning (be watchful).

Cyclone Dana made landfall between Dhamra and Bhitarkanika around midnight and the process continued till Friday morning.

The severe cyclonic storm which hit the landmass at a wind speed of 110 kmph weakened and became a cyclonic storm. The cyclone moved northwestwards across north Odisha and gradually weakened into a deep depression, the IMD said.

## CM lauds ASHA for selfless service

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday praised health worker Sibani Mandal for her selfless service during severe cyclone Dana that made landfall in the state earlier during the day.

Majhi praised ASHA worker Mandal for carrying multiple people on her back to a cyclone shelter amid heavy



rains, including a paralytic woman whom she carried for one-and-a-half kilometres from her village in Rajnagar.

A video of Mandal's heroic actions went viral, prompting the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of Odisha to share it on social media, highlighting her dedication. Hats off to our #Narishakti! ASHA worker Sibani Mandal from Khamunda village of Rajnagar Block in #Kendrapara, #Odisha evacuated an elderly woman, carrying on her shoulder to a #Cyclone shelter [sic], PIB's post said.

Mandal, who works at the Rajnagar Community Health Centre, took it upon herself to ensure the safety of Khamunda residents before the cyclone hit. Chief Minister Majhi expressed his admiration, stating, "She has performed this responsibility beautifully... Sibani Didi became an inspiration to all in the field of duty." According to the Chief Minister's Office, Mandal carried a total of seven adults and two pregnant women to safety. Majhi conveyed his gratitude to her over the phone, saying,

"This is how you help everyone in times of danger. May Lord Sri Jagannath bless you always."

## Flight, train services resume

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Flight and train services resumed in Bhubaneswar Friday morning even though cyclone Dana continued to tear through the Odisha coast since midnight.

Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here resumed its operation with the first flight landing around 9 am, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told reporters. The airport operation was suspended from 5pm October 24 in view of cyclone Dana which made landfall between Dhamra and Bhitarkanika

around midnight.

Though the airport authorities had decided to suspend services till 9am Friday, the operations resumed a bit early as the weather conditions improved. Airport Director Prasanna Pradhan said.

The East Coast Railway (ECoR), in a statement, said trains started running as per schedule, barring those cancelled earlier in its jurisdiction.

The ECoR cancelled around 203 trains as a precautionary measure for the cyclone Dana. Trains coming from Visakhapatnam, Howrah and Kharagpur to Bhubaneswar have started running, an ECoR official said.

## Dana aftermath: Relief work underway on war footing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Relief and restoration work by the personnel of Odisha Police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Odisha Disaster Response Action Force (ODRAF), Fire Services, Energy and other departments is underway on a war footing after cyclone Dana made landfall on the state's coast, an official said Friday.

The severe cyclonic storm-induced wind speed and heavy rainfall caused maximum damage in coastal districts of Kendrapara, Bhadrak and



Balasore. Hundreds of trees and electricity poles were uprooted, electric wires snapped, and thatched houses damaged at

many places in the affected coastal districts.

The police, Fire Services, ODRAF and NDRF teams have

been engaged in clearing of road blockades by removing uprooted trees that fell on roads.

It is pertinent to mention here that as many as 19 NDRF, 51 ODRAF and 220 Odisha Fire Services teams have been deployed in the affected districts. This apart, 157 platoons of state police force have also been stationed in these districts.

Speaking to mediapersons, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari Friday said that the roads have been cleared at several places in the cyclone affected

districts within four hours of the completion of landfall process Friday. He said that no disruptions in the telecommunications sector have been reported due to the cyclone. Pujari also said that the Energy department has assured to restore the power supply by Friday sunset.

Pujari noted the District Collectors have already been directed to take steps for the cleaning of the water bodies in low-lying villages before people returned to their residences from cyclone shelters and relief centres.

# Boost to urban mobility as state plans for 'Odisha Yatri'



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** In a major step towards fostering seamless and sustainable urban mobility, the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department has initiated preparations for the launch of 'Odisha Yatri', a transformative mobility app. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Moving Tech, and Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) in this regard recently.

The landmark initiative aligns with the state's broader vision of 'Vikshit Odisha', aiming at social upliftment of drivers and enhancement of customer experience. The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The initiative is aimed at democratising digital commerce by establishing an interoperable open network and enabling digital transactions in goods

and services. This integrated mobility platform will also empower drivers while providing a seamless and convenient travel experience for passengers across the state.

A preparatory meeting was held recently under the chairmanship of principal secretary of Commerce and Transport department Usha Padhee outlining the strategic roadmap for successful implementation of the plan. 'Odisha Yatri', based on the principles of transparency and community-driven innovation, is set to revolutionise urban transport with extended last-mile connectivity. Powered by an open network for digital commerce, it will operate on a subscription model for drivers, thereby ensuring 100 per cent of their ride earnings.

Through forward-looking policies that prioritise sustainable development, 'Odisha Yatri' will enhance the livelihoods of thousands of drivers while offering citizens affordable, eco-friendly transport solutions. One of the primary objectives of the app is to create a balanced ecosystem

where "drivers can earn more while customers pay less".

'Odisha Yatri' will operate on a 'Zero Commission Model', eliminating middlemen. This structure guarantees direct payment to drivers, enhancing transparency and significantly increasing earnings for them. For customers, the platform is to offer affordable pricing, providing fair and transparent rates.

'Odisha Yatri' is expected to promote integrated mobility by uniting various transportation options on a single, user-friendly platform. Safety is also a top priority as the initiative collaborates with local police and transport departments.

The mobile app will introduce services such as non-AC and AC mini cabs, sedans, XL cabs, and will soon expand to offer inter-city rides, rentals, and scheduled services. The app will also accommodate special needs like disability-friendly vehicles, pet-friendly trips, and extra luggage, making it inclusive for all.

Drivers can join 'Odisha Yatri' platform at no cost after completing a simple verification process. Over 4,000 drivers have already signed up.

Going forward, 'Odisha Yatri' would facilitate the onboarding of all the ticketing facilities to promote tourism and increase the footfall in the iconic sites including state museum. The platform is expected to help the dignitaries visiting Odisha during "Prabasi Bharatiya Divas" to be held in January.

Among others, Transport Commissioner Amitav Thakur and senior officers from H&UD and Commerce and Transport departments were present during the meeting.



STORM AFTERMATH: Badambadi in Cuttack wears a deserted look as rough weather conditions prevails due to cyclonic storm 'Dana' Friday

OP PHOTO

## ₹19cr infra push for Talcher Road Station

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Talcher/Angul, Oct 25:** Talcher Road Station, designated as a non-suburban group (NSG)-5 category station under Khurda Road Division of the East Coast Railway (ECoR), is set to get a major facelift with a proposed investment of ₹19 crore.

The project aims at enhancing passenger facilities and accommodating the increasing traffic generated by the nearby coalfields, power plants and other industries.

As one of the 57 Amrit Stations announced by the Ministry of Railways, Talcher Road Station is poised to become a vital trans-



port hub, meeting the needs of the growing population in the region. Currently, managing 22 trains, the station's passenger traffic is expected to rise steadily due to ongoing industrial de-

velopments in the vicinity.

The proposed development plan includes a range of new facilities aimed at improving passenger experience that include a new station building (G+1) covering 300 sqm, improvement in traffic circulation and beautification of the circulating area (2,055 sqm), featuring unidirectional traffic flow with separate entry and exit gates, upgradation of front facade of the existing station building (990 sqm), a well-planned parking area designed for two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and auto-rickshaws (1,854 sqm), additional platform shelters across the station, totaling 35 bays and a spacious

waiting hall of 140 sqm.

These apart, premium modular toilets (70 sqm), provision for a 12m-wide foot over-bridge (FOB), enhanced platform surfaces finished with flamed granite and heavy-duty mosaic tiles and installation of comprehensive signage for improved navigation are in progress.

As of now, the project has achieved 51 per cent physical progress, said the ECoR sources.

This development underscores Indian Railways' commitment to enhancing infrastructure and passenger services at key stations, reflecting the growing demands of both local communities and industries.

## Deputy CM reviews power restoration

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** As per instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, power discoms have deployed the required manpower and started restoration work after the cyclonic storm 'Dana' made a landfall in the late hours of Thursday.

'Dana' has affected the electrical infrastructure in Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur, according to sources.

Till Friday afternoon, around half of the restoration work has been completed. More than 90 per cent restoration is expected to be completed by Friday midnight, a release from the Deputy CM's office said.

Out of 106 affected 33kv feeders, 72 have been restored. Out of affected 201 primary sub-stations, 116 have been restored. Out of 909 affected 11kv feeders, 504 have been restored. Out of 80,135 distribution transformers, 39,903 have been restored. Power supply to more than 11.4 lakh consumers has been restored. The works are being done on a war footing, stated the release.

## Media roundtable to combat malnutrition

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir/Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** In order to combat malnutrition, Unicef, in collaboration with the district social welfare department (DSW), hosted a media round table Friday. The roundtable focused on addressing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in the region and highlighted the critical role of multi-sectoral collaboration and media engagement in raising awareness and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations.

District social welfare officer (DSWO) of Bolangir Sushama Mahapatra emphasised the critical need for effective SAM management, acknowledging the district's ongoing struggle with malnutrition. She highlighted the vital role of Anganwadi workers and local health centres in delivering essential nutrition services to children and mothers. "Malnutrition remains



a pressing concern, but with the support of local organisations, health workers, and other stakeholders, we are confident in our ability to make significant strides. Community involvement has been a key to the success of these interventions, and we are committed to strengthening these grassroots efforts," she said.

Unicef's nutrition specialist Sourav Bhattacharjee led a session about the overview of malnutrition and SAM management. He highlighted that 40 per cent of children in Bolangir are stunted while 15 per cent suffer from wasting. He further said

that SAM management requires a holistic approach involving health services, sanitation, and education and said, "Effective SAM management not only saves lives but also enhances children's long-term well-being and cognitive development." Bhattacharjee also stressed the crucial role of media in raising awareness, noting that responsible media coverage can amplify efforts to combat malnutrition. "The media has the power to shift the narrative and bring focus to the silent crisis affecting so many children," he remarked.

An engaging open discussion and Q&A session allowed participants to exchange insights and address the challenges surrounding malnutrition and child health. Media representatives pledged their support in raising awareness and maintaining the focus on SAM as a priority in public discourse.

## Govt must extend support to cyclone-hit states: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** With the cyclonic storm 'Dana' hitting Odisha and West Bengal, the Congress Friday urged the government to extend comprehensive support to affected states and deploy all preventive and emergency measures to ensure public safety.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the storm's landfall in Odisha and its impact on West Bengal and other eastern coastal regions necessitates utmost preparedness and swift action.

"The Union government must extend comprehensive support to affected states, deploying all necessary preventive and emergency measures to ensure public safety," he said in a post on X.

"I appeal to all Congress workers to provide assistance to those in need," Kharge said.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also urged the central government to provide full assistance to the affected states in this hour of crisis.

In a Facebook post in Hindi, he said the landfall of 'Dana' on the coast of Odisha, its impact on West Bengal and other eastern coastal states and the warning issued by the IMD, indicate the possibility of a serious natural disaster.

Citizens of the affected areas are requested to keep themselves in a safe zone by following the guidelines of the administration, he said.

"The Union government is expected to provide full assistance to the affected states in this hour of crisis. Every possible effort should be made to protect the lives and property of the citizens and to prevent any kind of loss," Gandhi said.

### LOCAL DIYA SELLERS' BUSINESS MAY TAKE A BEATING

## 'DANA' POURS COLD WATER ON DIWALI PREPARATIONS

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Heavy rains and winds triggered by cyclone 'Dana' has played a spoilsport on the vibrant preparations for Diwali in the Capital city, even as roadside diya sellers are staring at a dip in sales.

For ages, local porters and artisans set up their stalls ahead of the festival of lights in and around the City. The earthen lamps are considered to be an essential part of the festive decor, but with the adverse weather conditions, many of these vendors are struggling to keep their businesses afloat.

"For the traditional diya makers, Diwali is a big opportunity



for their source of income," said Priyabarat Sahoo, a trained artisan in pottery. "But with the rains, many of the diyas are getting damaged. People aren't coming out to buy because of the weather and its affecting the sales terribly." Ashok Kumar Sahoo, a diya

seller at Maa Kochilei Haat here, with over two decades in the trade, said, "I usually sell a few thousand diyas every season. I'm not even sure if I'll be able to sell half of it this year. We're constantly covering our shops to prevent water damage, but profits seem uncertain."

Many local artisans and sellers, like Sahoo are concerned not only with the weather but with the long-term decline in demand for traditional earthen diyas, which now face a fierce competition from decorative lights and battery-operated lamps. "The festive season is when we make a little extra, but the forecast for this cyclone has dampened business. I've been selling earthen lamps for many years, and now they seem to be losing their craze. People nowadays prefer fancy lights over hand-crafted lamps," he added.

With India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing warnings for heavy rains and possible flooding in coastal areas and

parts of twin city, customers are increasingly turning to online options, impacting local vendors further. Concerns have also

emerged about a possible shortage of traditional diya sellers in the City, which could affect the cultural essence of the festival.



PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

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**CYCLONE DANA**

# Kendrapara escapes largely unscathed

## MAOIST KILLED IN ENCOUNTER WITH SECURITY FORCES

**Kendrapara, Oct 25:** People in Kendrapara district, which was on the path of cyclone Dana, heaved a sigh of relief Friday as the severe cyclonic storm largely spared the coastal district.

While there is no report of loss of life and property, tidal surges made inroads into some of the villages and agriculture fields, officials said.

"No loss of life has been reported so far. The loss of property has been minimal. We are hopeful of restoring normalcy shortly," said Kendrapara Collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan.

The Bhitarkanika National Park, which was home to the landfall spot, has largely been spared from the devastating aftermath of the cyclone though details from the park are yet to emerge, said an official.

The settlement colony at Bagapatia, housing the people displaced from their native land in Satabhaya due to sea erosion, has come under water inundation as tidal surge entered into the colony, he said.



The severe cyclonic storm made landfall near Habelikhati nature camp in Bhitarkanika National Park as it had been forecast in advance by IMD.

"With adequate precautionary measures and timely evacuation, we have successfully withstood nature's fury with

zero human casualty. The damage has been minimal with the cave-in of some kutch houses. The uprooting of standing trees in several places of coastal

Rajnagar block has disrupted the road communication, said Nishant Mishra, Block Development Officer of Rajnagar

block in Kendrapara district. However, road communication has largely been restored by ODRAF teams which cleared the uprooted trees, he said.

Kendrapara and neighbouring Bhadrak were on the path of 'Dana'. The government agencies had sounded alert well in ad-

vance evacuating people from vulnerable pockets. The cyclone, of course, impacted the district with strong wind and heavy downpour; uprooting trees, damaging power infrastructures in some parts and blowing away scores of kutch houses.

The villages that bore the

brunt of the cyclonic storm are Talchua, Rangani, Keruapala, Baghamari, Dangamal, Iswarpur, Gupti and Satabhaya, said an official.

"By the grace of God, we are saved from nature's fury. The wind speed was less. Besides, we experienced heavy rain," said Ramakant Sahu, a local in a seaside Ramnagar village in Kendrapara district.

"Cyclones are a recurring phenomenon here. We have taken nature's fury in our stride and have withstood the ups and downs of life with tenacity. Now with the worst fear over, we look forward to normal life," said Krutibash Pradhan, a local from Rajnagar in Kendrapara district.

"Heavy rain accompanied by gusty wind caused considerable damage to the crops. Though nature has been kind towards us this time in sparing us from cyclonic devastation, damage to agriculture is on a large scale. The crop fields are flooded. Only after the rain subsides, we can assess the extent of damage," said Priyanath Pradhan, a farmer from Talchua village.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** A Maoist was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Budanai reserve forest area of Kandhamal district Friday, police said.

On receipt of an intelligence input, an operation was launched in the forest area October 23 and it continued till Friday.

During the operation, an exchange of fire between the Special Operation Group (SOG) and Naxals erupted Friday morning at around 9am.

Following the encounter by elite SOG, the security personnel searched the area and recovered the body of a Maoist cadre along with one AK-47 rifle, police said.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the deceased was a senior ranked cadre of CPI(Maoist) belonging to the Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) Division of the outfit.

Further search of the area and operation is under progress, they said. Since January, five Maoists have been killed by security forces in Odisha.

## 2 die, another critical after SUV turns turtle



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Oct 25:** In a tragic accident, two persons lost their lives and another sustained critical injuries after the SUV in which they were travelling lost control and overturned near Tamanda ghati on Bhapur-Kandabinda road under Bhapur outpost of Sadar police limits in this district, Friday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as the vehicle owner Sagar Chandra Parida, 29, who was driving the car, and Silu Behera, 20. The critically injured was identified as Anil Pradhan, 32. All are residents of Kandabinda village.

The accident occurred when the driver reportedly lost control

of the vehicle while approaching an uphill section of the road. The staff of a 'Laccmi' bus passing through the road rescued the critically injured trio and rushed them to Dhenkanal District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) where the doctors pronounced Sagar and Silu brought dead.

A critically injured Anil was later transferred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as his condition worsened. On being informed, cops from Sadar police station and Bhapur police outpost rushed to the spot, seized the mangled vehicle and initiated an investigation into the incident. Meanwhile, the post mortem of the deceased duo has been completed and the bodies handed over to their families.

## Minor's body fished out of Subarnarekha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jaleswar, Oct 25:** The body of a 15-year old boy, who was missing since Thursday after being swept away in the Subarnarekha river, was recovered Friday under this block in Balasore district.

The deceased has been identified as Sahil Das, son of Manoranjan Das, a resident of Gadasahi village under Baliapal panchayat. According to sources, Sahil along with two of his friends had gone to a river that of Subarnarekha river to take bath Thursday.

While bathing Sahil was swept away in the river. His two friends launched a frantic search but were unable to trace Sahil. Later they returned and informed the villagers about the incident.



Though the local sarpanch immediately called the fire brigade, it took a long time to arrive. Owing to the delay, the villagers tried to rescue Sahil by using speed boats in the river but even after a frantic search they were unable to trace him.

The fire brigade team which arrived at the spot late had to stop the rescue operation after sunset. The fire brigade team resumed the rescue operation Friday morning and fished out Sahil's body from the river. A pall of gloom descended in the village after the tragic death of the boy.

## STF rescues live pangolin, nabs 4

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** The STF of Odisha Police Friday arrested four wildlife criminals and recovered a live pangolin from their possession.



They were

ation, an STF team, with assistance from Bolangir Forest Division officials, conducted a raid on the Bolangir-Sonepur road (SH-57) near Tapovan Ashram Chhaka under the jurisdiction of Puintala police station.

The four individuals, identified as Dhableswar Bag, Pratap Deep, Brindaban Danta, and Surendra Kumar Bag, were

apprehended during the operation. A live pangolin, along with other incriminating materials, was recovered from their possession.

STF sources reported that the accused were unable to produce any authorisation to possess the pangolin, leading to their arrest.

The live pangolin has been handed over to the forest range officer of Bolangir range for safe-keeping. The investigation is ongoing.

## RSP gets new ambulances for health care

**Rourkela:** In a move to enhance healthcare and emergency transportation facilities, two new Mahindra NEO model ambulances were inaugurated by Alok Verma, ED (Mines) with additional charge of ED (Works) and handed over to Dr Jayant Acharya, CMO In-Charge, (M&HS) in a ceremony organised at the Field Machinery & Maintenance (FMM) Department of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). Other senior officials of the steel major were present on the occasion.

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER**  
**ATHMALLIK FOREST DIVISION** No.MM-208  
 AT/P.O.: ATHMALLIK, DIST.- ANGUL -759125  
 E-mail: dfoathmallik@gmail.com, Tel.: 9437004236  
**Tender Notice No. 5385/IF/2024** Date: 24.10.2024  
 Short Tender Notice for Construction of F.G. Quarter at Madhapur Beat under Madhapur Range and Himritra Beat under Bamur Range, Athmallik Forest Division. Sealed tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Government of Odisha, invites tender for following works from the eligible contractor as detail below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender Notice No.	Estimated Cost
1	Construction of Forest Guard Quarter at Madhapur Beat under Madhapur Range	5385/IF-2024 Dt.24.10.24	16.98
2	Construction of Forest Guard Quarter at Himritra Beat under Bamur Range	5385(A)/ IF-2024 Dt.24.10.24	16.98

2. Place of work: Athmallik Forest Division.  
 3. Period of completion: 90 days.  
 4. Commencement of download RFP document on website: www.odishaforest.in, Dt.24.10.2024, Time: 11.00 A.M.  
 5. Last date of bid submission (by messenger / courier / post): Dt.08.11.2024 01.00 P.M. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, P.O./P.S.-Athmallik, Pin-759125, Dist.-Angul.  
 6. Date of General & Technical and Financial Bid opening: Dt.08.11.2024, Time:04.00 P.M. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, P.O./P.S.-Athmallik, Pin-759125, Dist.-Angul.  
 7. RFP document cost (Non-refundable): Rs.6,000/- for each building by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, payable at Athmallik for each work.  
 8. Address for bid submission: Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, At: Athmallik, Angul, Pin-759125.  
 9. EMD (Refundable): Rs.20,000/- for each building by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, payable at Athmallik for each work.  
 10. Bid validity period : 3 months from the last date of submission of bid.  
 11. Latest tender document and addendum / corrigendum, if any, will be published at the websites www.odishaforest.in  
 12. Disclaimer: Notwithstanding anything else contained to the contrary in this tender document, DFO Athmallik reserves the right to cancel / withdraw / modify fully or partially the "Invitation of Bids" or to reject one or more of the bids without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.  
 OIPR-08125/11/0008/2425 Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I, Surendranath Sahoo, S/o. Late Dinabandhu Sahoo, Director of M/s. Eastern Foods Pvt. Ltd. (M/s. Eastern Roller Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd.), New Industrial Estate, Jagatpur, Cuttack hereby declare that the Original Registered Sale Deed (RSD) No. 1013 of M/s. Eastern Foods Pvt. Ltd. (M/s. Eastern Roller Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd.), Khata No. 620/206, Plot No. 2271/2496, Mouza: Tarol, Jagatpur, Cuttack has been lost from my custody. The lost report has been registered bearing Dairy No. 005 with the Jagatpur Police Station on 29.12.2022. The said property is mortgaged with State Bank of India, SME Branch I.E. Madhupatna, Cuttack on 01.10.2022 by depositing the certified copies of the above title deed as for advances granted to M/s. Eastern Foods Pvt. Ltd. If any Individual/Bank/Financial Institution is holding the said document (Original RSD) in original as security for any advance/loan granted, they are requested to inform the State Bank of India, SME Branch, I.E. Madhupatna, Cuttack, within one month from the date of publication of the notice/advertisement relating to the property as security for the advance. If no objection received within one month from the date of publication of this notice, it will be deemed that said property is free from any encumbrances.

**Jayadev Vihar Branch**  
 1/D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 One Sri Ayush Sahu, S/o: Deepak Sahu, At: Raghunath Para, Tiltagarh, Bolangir-767033, Odisha intends to avail loan by mortgaging his property pertaining to Plot No.: 40 & 40/2056, measuring Area: Ac.1.90 Dec., under Khata No.: 2/1879 & 2/1889 of Mouza: Chekkaguda under Rayagada Tahasil in the District of Rayagada. According to the owner the property is absolutely free from any encumbrances whatsoever. If anyone other than the above named owner has any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, then he/she may contact the undersigned with all relevant documents within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication hereof at the above mentioned address, failing which it shall be strictly presumed that said property is absolutely free from any encumbrances whatsoever and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.  
 Date: 26.10.2024, Place: Bhubaneswar Sd/- Asst. General Manager

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**"e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
 Bid Identification No. E.E. GTN (R&B)-12/2024-25  
 E-mail address: eeghatgaon2015@gmail.com

**Letter No. 7657** Dt.18.10.24

1. The Executive Engineer, Ghatagaon (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate Bids in Single Cover System in Online Mode from the eligible contractor for Building works as mentioned below:

2. Nature of the Work	: Building Work (Compound Wall)
3. Number of Work	: 1 (One) No.
4. Estimated Cost	: Rs.25.09 lakhs (Approx.)
5. Period of Completion	: 01 (One Calendar Month)
6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.30 A.M. of Dt.28.10.2024 to 05.00 P.M. of Dt.05.11.2024
7. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 05.00 P.M. of Dt.05.11.2024
8. Date of Opening of Bid	: 11.00 A.M. of Dt.06.11.2024

9. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the same website only.  
 Sd./- Executive Engineer Ghatagaon (R&B) Division  
 OIPR-34140/11/0005/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (CAD)**  
**OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR,**  
**SURVEY AND PLANNING, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR**  
 OFMRDC CAMPUS, SATYANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-751007  
 E-mail: jointdirectorspbbsr@gmail.com, Phone:0674-2570357  
**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
 Bid Identification No. JDSP-03/2024-25

No.A-476:The Deputy Director, O/o. the Joint Director, Survey and Planning, CAD, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE from eligible class of Contractors/Registered Organisation or Firm having similar experience as detailed below.

1 Name of the Work	Survey & Planning for CADWM
2 No. of Works	07 (Seven) Nos.
3 Bid Identification No.	JDSP-03/2024-25
4 Estimated Cost (Tender Amount)	5.22 Lakh to 11.98 Lakh
5 Earnest Money Deposit	As per DTGN (online payment mode)
6 Cost of Tender Paper	As per DTGN (online payment mode)
7 Period of Completion	Referred to DTGN
8 Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the portal	28/10/2024 (11.00 AM) to 07.11.2024 (5.00 P.M.)
9 Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	07.11.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
10 Date & Time of opening of Bid	08.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
11 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Deputy Director, O/o. The Joint Director, Survey & Planning, OFMRDC Campus, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, E-mail: jointdirectorspbbsr@gmail.com, Phone:0674-2570357

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Sd./- Deputy Director, O/o. the Joint Director, Survey & Planning, Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
 OIPR-32369/11/0007/2425

**REGIONAL OFFICE (SAMBALPUR REGION),**  
 1st Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob.: 7682829040

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) and 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 13.11.2024 (For Sl. No. 1 & 2) & 27.11.2024 (For Sl. No. 3) from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co-Borrowers, Mortgagees and Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "PHYSICAL POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

**PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME : 08.11.2024 time 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM.**  
**Contact persons - Nuapada Branch Manager, Mob: 7752050854, Bhawanipatana Branch Manager, Mob: 7752050828**  
**Status of Possession of Properties: Physical, Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL**  
**Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD : 13.11.2024 latest by 6.00 P.M.**  
**The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 13.11.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.**

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Properties & the Owner	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues (Type of Possession)
1.	<b>NUAPADA BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/s Kamini Masala Udyog, Proprietor: Mrs. Kamini Joseph, At: Khariar Road, Ward No.: 7, Dist.: Nuapada, Odisha-766105 Khata No.: 110/2, Plot No.: 705/734, Area: Ac.0.05 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, Bounded by North: Self, South: Munda Gaon Sarhad, East: Sejaou Keuta, West: Karnal.	Equitable Mortgage Land and Residential Building in the name Mrs. Kamini Joseph, At Mouza: Khariar Road, Town UN-1, Kurumunda, P.S.: Jonk, Dist.: Nuapada, Odisha - 766001 / Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Suresh Chandra Paramanandapur, Kessing Road, Bhawanipatna, Odisha - 766001 / Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Mr. Suresh Chandra Pradhan, P.O.: Mahadevpalli, PS/Tahasil: Binika, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha, PIN-767019	₹13,16,700/- / ₹1,31,670/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 19,34,119/- plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 21.10.2024 till full payment (Physical)
2.	<b>BHAWANIPATANA BRANCH /</b> Borrowers: M/s. Swaraj Automobiles, Prop.: Pradeep Kumar Sahu, At: NH-201 Paramanandapur, Kessing Road, Bhawanipatna, Odisha - 766001 / Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Mr. Suresh Chandra Pradhan, P.O.: Mahadevpalli, PS/Tahasil: Binika, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha, PIN-767019	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land and Building in the name of Sri Sunil Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Suresh Chandra Pradhan, At Mouza: Bhawanipatna, over Khata No.: 189/3287, Plot No.: 178/5732, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, P.S.: Bhawanipatna, Dist: Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 766001	₹46,75,000/- / ₹4,67,500/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 63,05,879.69 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 21.10.2024 till full payment (Physical)
3.	<b>SONEPUR BRANCH /</b> Borrowers: 1) M/s Gouri Shankar General Store, Prop.: Mr. Muralidhar Sahu, S/o: Late Gouri Shankar Sahu, 2) Mr. Muralidhar Sahu, S/o.: Late Gouri Shankar Sahu / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Namita Sahu, W/o: Mr. Muralidhar Sahu, All are At: Kartang, P.O.: Mahadevpalli, PS/Tahasil: Binika, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha, PIN-767019	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Khata No.: 424/199, Plot No.: 273/2051, Area: Ac.0.100Dec., Plot No.: 273/2062, Area: Ac.0.120Dec., Total Area: Ac.0.220Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Kartang, PS/Tahasil: Binika, Dist.: Sonepur, Owner Name: Mr. Muralidhar Sahu, S/o: Late Gaurishankar Sahu, Bounded by East: Road, West: Gopinath Pradhan, North: Najjar Sahu, West: Ballabha Khamari	₹1,35,75,000/- / ₹13,57,500/- / ₹20,000/-	₹ 59,30,021.08 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 21.10.2024 till full payment (Symbolic)

**For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://ebkray.in>**

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS NOTICE FOR SL. NO.-1 AND 2 & 30 DAYS NOTICE FOR SL. NO.-3 NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/ MORTGAGOR FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 6(2), 8(6) AND 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002**

This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2), 8(6) of security interest (Enforcements) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 25.10.2024  
 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

**Bank of India**  
 ZONAL OFFICE: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

**AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLE**

Branch Name	Name of the Borrower	Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / Bid increment Amount
Market Nagar Branch	Mr. Bibhabari Mohapatra, Mr. Adarsha Mohapatra	Maruti Suzuki Dzire VDI, Regd No.: OD-05-AU1634 Date of Purchase-09.11.2019	₹ 3,15,000/- / ₹ 5,000/-

**Date of Auction: 11.11.2024 from 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM, Auction Venue: M/s. City Investigation & Detective, Santoshi Maa Mandir Backside, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar, Contact: 8908502936**  
**Parking Yard Address: M/s. City Investigation & Detective, Santoshi Maa Mandir Backside, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar**

**Terms and Conditions:** Interested bidders can inspect the vehicle after obtaining prior appointment from the Concerned Authority at the parking yard as mentioned above. The bidders are informed to be present at the venue positively. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount as upfront amount and the balance amount within 7 days from the date of auction, failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership and statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the successful purchaser. Vehicle will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS" basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. Auction will be done through offline mode. For further information regarding Inspection & Details of the Vehicle contact at Market Nagar Branch- 9178824169, ZO- 8337911737, Parking Yard- 8908502936.  
 Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 25.10.2024  
 Zonal Manager, Bank of India

Consciousness, to be sure, is more effective than packets of medicines.  
THE MOTHER



## EC's Mixed Signals

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has taken two very different stands in handling police appointments in the poll-bound states of Jharkhand and Maharashtra, reflecting its distinct approaches to maintaining election integrity.

In Jharkhand, the ECI has directed the removal of Acting Director General of Police (DGP) Anurag Gupta, appointed in July 2024. This decision follows a history of complaints lodged against him during previous elections, which raised concerns about his ability to remain impartial. The Jharkhand government has been asked to submit a panel of senior IPS officers, and Ajay Kumar Singh is expected to be reappointed as DGP. The move is seen as an effort by the ECI to ensure neutrality and fairness in the state's electoral process.

In contrast, the ECI rejected calls from the Maharashtra Congress to remove DGP Rashmi Shukla. Opposition leader Nana Patole had claimed that Shukla's extension beyond her retirement date violated the Maharashtra Police Act and would unfairly benefit the ruling alliance. However, the ECI clarified that her appointment had been cleared by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) through the standard procedure, emphasizing that her position would remain unchanged during the election period.

The ECI's differing decisions in these two states highlight a perplexing inconsistency in handling what is essentially the same issue, fuelling speculation and allegations of favouritism from the opposition. In Jharkhand, the leadership change aims to sidestep potential controversies, while Maharashtra remains steadfast in its procedural approach, leaving its top police post unchanged. This stark contrast raises questions about the ECI's commitment to electoral integrity and feeds the rumour mill, suggesting that political biases may influence administrative fairness across different states.

### Haryana's babu appointments spark intrigue

Rajesh Khullar's recent appointment as Chief Principal Secretary to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini seemed like a routine move, but it took an unexpected turn when the decision was abruptly put on hold just hours later. While Khullar's initial appointment didn't raise eyebrows, the sudden reversal certainly did, and it left many wondering what was going on behind the scenes.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

Khullar, who had previously represented India and its neighbours at the World Bank, was recalled to Haryana ahead of his term's completion and seemed a natural choice for the top administrative post. However, political insiders hint that internal groups within the ruling party may have played a role in delaying the finalization of his appointment.

The timing couldn't be more interesting, as Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad is set to retire at the end of the month. Naturally, there's been speculation over who will replace him.

There is talk that the Centre might follow a familiar pattern, where top Union secretaries are repatriated to their home cadres to take over as state Chief Secretaries. We've seen this happen in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan recently. As Prasad's retirement looms, DoPT Secretary Vivek Joshi, who still has a fair amount of service left, is being tipped as a potential successor.

With uncertainty lingering over key appointments, all eyes are on Haryana's leadership to see how these administrative decisions unfold in the coming days.

### A phone policy divide

There's a notable rift among IAS and IPS officers in Gujarat regarding mobile phone policies during meetings, as revealed by a recent survey from Gujarat Samachar Digital. On the one hand, we have the IAS officers, who generally allow visitors to keep their phones. They champion transparency and accessibility, which is fantastic. On the other hand, some IPS officers insist that visitors surrender their devices, fearing unauthorized recordings of sensitive information.

This clash of perspectives became particularly evident during an encounter between Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani and ADG Rajkumar Pandian. During a meeting intended to discuss issues facing the Dalit community, Pandian asked Mevani to leave his phone outside. Unsurprisingly, this didn't go over well, and it sparked a bigger conversation about how different branches of government handle such situations.

Every single IAS collector surveyed was on the same page: they don't make visitors leave their phones outside. One collector even stated, "We're government officials. If someone records in our office, so be it! We'll take calls at odd hours for public concerns." It's encouraging to see such an openness to dialogue and accountability.

Conversely, some IPS officers voiced concerns about the potential misuse of recordings. They highlighted the importance of preventing misinformation and protecting sensitive discussions, particularly in serious situations. One SP pointed out that while they don't have a strict rule about phones, they might request them to be left outside based on the circumstances. It's a mixed bag, and that lack of uniformity raises eyebrows.

SD Sharma, the Joint Secretary of the Central government's Personnel and Training Department, added that there's no central order about mobile phone policies in government offices, allowing IAS and IPS officers to adapt their rules as needed.

The survey also revealed a rising trend of officials using WhatsApp calls for both government and personal matters, likely driven by concerns over call recordings. Balancing transparency with security is essential. It's time for IAS and IPS to align on this issue for everyone's benefit. Surely, there are more substantive issues to deal with.

**Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect**

## WISDOM CORNER

- “Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.” **JAWAHARLAL NEHRU**
- “Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.” **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**
- “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” **WINSTON CHURCHILL**

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1813:** British and U.S. troops clashed in the Battle of Chateaugay during the War of 1812.
- 1825:** After some eight years of construction, the Erie Canal, which connects the Great Lakes with New York City via the Hudson River at Albany, officially opened; its success propelled New York City into a major commercial centre and encouraged canal construction throughout the United States.
- 1970:** Following an absence of more than three years, American boxer Muhammad Ali returned to the ring, defeating Jerry Quarry; Ali had been barred from fighting after he refused to be inducted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.
- 1979:** South Korean President Park Chung Hee was assassinated by his lifelong friend Kim Jae Kyu, head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, who was sentenced to death for his actions.

## FOCUS INDIAN ECONOMY

# PERPLEXING PERCEPTIONS



### Those economists residing in cities and engaged in research at academic institutions in the metros have no feel of the grassroots situation in villages, specially the backward ones or those ravaged by floods and other natural calamities



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**THERE IS NEED FOR REFORMS BUT SUCH THAT BENEFIT ALL CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, NOT JUST BUSINESS HOUSES**

The trend in the Indian economy speaks more of what it's set to achieve in coming years—a rosy picture of possible achievements. Cleverly, however, the data does not segregate incomes of the urban and rural segments or organised and unorganised sectors. At same time, volatility in crude oil prices, declining value of the rupee as also escalating food prices, which affect the common man can't be wished away.

Reacting to IMF putting India's current per capita income as \$2739, Union Finance Minister Sitharaman recently said that took 75 years, but it will take us just five years to add another \$2000. However, in calculating the data, there's no classification of the rich, middle-income sections, low-income groups or the EWS. However, the Minister claims the upcoming decades will see the steepest rise in living standards for the common man, truly making it a period-defining era for an Indian to live in! She further said: India's young population, strong growth in consumption, the innovation boom and a strong financial system will help India grow faster.

Expectedly, the claim is rejected by Opposition Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who observed that Modinomics has been 'a curse to the country's economy.' Dishing out hard core data, he stated that household liabilities/indebtedness had grown by 241% from 2013-14 to 2022-23 in actual terms.

The above realism is reflected in government's official data just released which found that retail inflation surged to a 9-month high in September on the back of a price in food prices. In fact, food prices index jumped to 9.2%. Retain inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, rose an annual 5.5% in September, higher than 3.7% in

August and above 5% recorded in September last year.

Meanwhile, real incomes of the poor and marginalised sections are steadily eroding with inflationary tendencies in the economy.

While there are claims of high growth, grass-root development and welfare of masses has been clearly amiss in the economy. There is need for reforms but such that benefit all categories of people, not just business/industrial houses. Latest reports indicate that output in the country's infrastructure sector contracted for the first time in over three years, led by a decline in six of the eight segments as excess monsoon impacted performance.

On the consumption side, while it is claimed of picking up, there is need to understand the scales viz metro/city population and that of rural India. As regards investment acceleration this has happened mostly in the public sector.

Agriculture incomes again may have remained steady due to lowered costs of farm inputs, but non-farm incomes have not shown the same trend. Manufacturing growth has been

moderating. Durable white goods and electronics, which are consumed by the middle and lower-income sections, continue to record brisk growth with strong support extended by banks and non-banking financial institutions.

On the investment front, private sector is lagging despite bumper profits in past three years. There is reasonable uncertainty about stronger private consumption and business demand on the domestic front with a visible slowdown abroad. Overall, the customary outlook does have a few positive aspects. The interest rates may not soften soon as the RBI kept rates unchanged for the 10th consecutive time in a recent meeting of monetary policy committee as inflation remains upwards. However, the apex bank changed its stance to neutral that opens the possibility of an interest rate cut in December. The consumer demand is expected to be stable while the GDP growth may be around 7% in the first half of the year. But as has been pointed out repeatedly the strength of the economy can't be judged by just GDP growth rates.

Meanwhile, high unemployment and underemployment rates – not government projections – but the actual situation remain an area of serious concern. Moreover, what is most striking is the decline in wages of professionally skilled manpower as also lack of employment opportunities for skilled personnel. The recent hike in the rates of minimum wages have little value for those working in the unorganised sector and in micro sectors, where wages are much lower, unregulated working hours with food inflation eating into their meagre earnings.

Those economists residing in cities and engaged in research in academic institutions in the metros have no feel of the grassroots situation in villages, specially the backward ones or those ravaged by floods and other natural calamities. The sufferings of a major section of population, the marginalised communities together constituting 40% of the total labour force, have not been highlighted and State-sponsored terrorism is out to finish the ultra-Left because they stand out in protest for tribals and economically backward castes.

There is a lot of fanfare about various schemes and the political leadership seeks to show particular concern for tribal population/adivasis. The big question is whether an independent survey by experts would confirm the benefits received by this section of population from central flagship schemes in tribal districts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha etc? This as a nagging uncertainty persists whether those in power would go that extra mile to improve living conditions for the weak and marginalised. Strategies may have been evolved but implementation is missing.

INFA

## SPECTRUM NEIGHBOURHOOD CRISIS

# Sri Lanka's long road to recovery



RM Manivanan

**REDUCING INEQUALITY IS CRITICAL FOR SRI LANKA'S LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY**

The economic and political upheavals Sri Lanka has faced in recent years, including its 2022 debt default and the mass protests that ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, serve as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by poor governance and rampant inequality. A 2023 report by the International Monetary Fund attributes the country's ongoing crisis to widespread corruption and fiscal mismanagement.

At the heart of Sri Lanka's ongoing crisis is a deeply flawed institutional framework, plagued by inefficiencies and susceptible to political interference. The IMF report highlights the erosion of independent institutions which led to the mismanagement of public resources and a chronic lack of transparency. Unless and until these fundamental governance issues are addressed, economic recovery will remain out of reach.

To revive Sri Lanka's economy, Dissanayake, the leader of the left-wing National People's Power alliance, should pursue three major reforms. First, he must strengthen institutions like the CIABOC and improve oversight of public appointments. Second, improving fiscal transparency and procurement policies could reduce inefficiencies and increase trust in public spending. Lastly, lim-

iting government officials' discretionary power over tax incentives would curb corruption, boost revenue, and promote fiscal responsibility.

Dissanayake must also confront the deeply entrenched structural inequalities that have long impeded Sri Lanka's GDP growth. In his 2012 book *The Price of Inequality*, economist Joseph E. Stiglitz argues that inequality is "not just a moral issue, but an economic one," with the potential to stifle growth and trigger social unrest. Sri Lanka, where rising income inequality has been a major cause of socioeconomic instability, is a prime example of this dynamic.

As the IMF report suggests, corruption-fueled financial mismanagement and opaque tax policies have deepened Sri Lanka's income disparities.

Reducing inequality is critical for Sri Lanka's long-term economic and political stability. Building on Stiglitz's insights, the new administration must pursue progressive tax reforms to ensure that the burden does not fall disproportionately on lower-income households. This approach also aligns with the IMF's call for greater transparency in tax incentives and exemptions.

Another way to reduce inequality is to invest in public goods such as education, health care, and infrastructure. Sri

Lanka must redirect resources from the inefficient capital investments favored by the Rajapakas toward projects that directly benefit underserved communities. Establishing a transparent and competitive investment process could help direct resources to where they are most needed, in line with the IMF's recommendations.

Labor-market reforms are equally important. Sri Lanka's economic recovery hinges on creating equitable job opportunities by guaranteeing fair wages and safe working conditions, particularly in sectors like manufacturing and services, where inequality is most pronounced.

Weak, poorly designed institutions often allow wealth to be concentrated in the hands of a few. As the IMF report reveals, the lack of independent governance structures in Sri Lanka has caused corruption and inefficiency to flourish. To reverse this trend, Dissanayake's administration must bolster regulatory frameworks, protect independent agencies and the judiciary from political interference, and create a level playing field that provides equal opportunities to everyone.

Civil society can play a pivotal role in this transformation. As Stiglitz notes, inclusive governance holds the key to reducing inequality. The IMF report

criticizes the absence of platforms for public participation, emphasizing the importance of citizen engagement in holding institutions accountable.

A vibrant civil society and a free press are crucial to restoring trust in the country's institutions. But reforming Sri Lanka's draconian and outdated security and anti-terrorism laws – remnants of the decades-long war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam – Dissanayake could encourage greater public participation and promote accountability.

In sum, to accelerate its economic recovery, Sri Lanka must revitalize its institutions and tackle the systemic inequities that have fueled much of its recent turmoil. Implementing the IMF's technical recommendations would help stabilize the country's finances, while drawing on Stiglitz's insights could help reduce income and wealth gaps.

But long-term growth will require bold leadership. Fostering transparency, accountability, and meritocracy would help Sri Lanka build a stronger, more resilient economy, laying the groundwork for a more just, prosperous, and sustainable future for all its citizens.

*The writer is Chairman of Supreme Global Holdings.*  
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## Road not easy for Priyanka

Sir, Priyanka Gandhi's debut at Wayanad by-poll has become the talk of the town as she already has filed her nomination with a grand road show. The seat, as we all know, got vacant when Rahul Gandhi's victory at Rae Bareilly and came handy for her sister. While this opened the door for Priyanka, the opposition candidate, Navya Haridas, is a mechanical engineer and former software professional. She is also the State General Secretary of BJP Kerala Mahila Morcha, serving as a councillor in Kozhikode Corporation, and there are no criminal cases against her name. While Navya has got her roots from Kerala and is thorough about the topography and culture, Priyanka may have plans to oversee the constituency by remote control if she gets elected. But considering Kerala's high literacy rate, will the people think hard to elect a member from their own nativity to do justice to serve the people with dedication by favouring Navya? If that happens, Navya would certainly script history. We have seen that the Keralites create the bond of love and affection and support each other across the globe. If they replicate the same in the case of Navya, one can expect a change in dynastic politics. People in democracy after all need value for their votes and not to exchange the same with freebies.

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI

## Sino-Indian ties

Sir, Temporary or not, troop disengagement in Ladakh is a welcome step as various storms are brewing in the neighbourhood. The Chinese President came to Chennai in 2019. The next year we saw the clash in Galwan. I hope this time they are a bit more sincere in keeping their word. Both India and China maintain a significant military presence along the border, which has never been clearly defined and has remained a source of friction since a bloody war between the two countries in 1962. While an agreement on further disengagement on the border appears poised to be a significant step in what has been a sore point among other frictions in the China-India relationship, observers said more details were needed to understand the scope of the arrangement and what concessions may have been made.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgandhi Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



### DELHI'S POLLUTION FIGHT

# LG deploys bus marshals for mitigation efforts

**LG VK SAXENA THURSDAY DIRECTED THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER TO CALL CIVIL DEFENCE VOLUNTEERS FOR FOUR MONTHS TO MITIGATE AIR POLLUTION IN THE CAPITAL, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Civil Defence Volunteers (CDV) who were terminated as bus marshals last year will be deployed on pollution mitigation-related duties for four months following an order by Delhi Lt Governor (LG) VK Saxena, officials said Thursday. The lieutenant governor, who is also the chairman of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), has further advised the city government and the chief minister to come up with a concrete scheme based on due process for their future engagement after the four-month employment period, a Raj Niwas official said. The services of around 10,000 Civil Defence Volunteers deployed in public buses as marshals were terminated last year over objections raised by the Finance and Revenue departments that they could only be engaged for duties related to natural disasters. In a letter to Chief Minister

Atishi, the lieutenant governor said the Civil Defence Volunteers' services were terminated November 1, 2023, on the recommendation of his predecessor Arvind Kejriwal. Atishi responded to Saxena, saying it was he who got the bus marshals terminated at the behest of the BJP. "I am happy that the BJP bowed down before the bus marshals. Arvind Kejriwal provided jobs to boys and girls from poor families as bus marshals for giving security to the women. But you removed these 10,000 bus marshals at the behest of the BJP's Central government," she wrote in a letter. In view of the livelihood concerns of the terminated Civil Defence Volunteers, Saxena suggested that the Delhi government address the issue of their future engagement in a legal manner and in accordance with reservation norms. "Even after the passage of one year, the Delhi government has neither undertaken any exercise for their engagement nor

In view of the livelihood concerns of the terminated Civil Defence Volunteers, Saxena suggested that the Delhi government address the issue of their future engagement in a legal manner and in accordance with reservation norms. The government may take a call regarding their deployment for appropriate duties at pollution under control certificate (PUCC) centres, pollution hotspots, DPCC, and other departments and agencies concerned with the enforcement of anti-air pollution measures. come up with a scheme for their re-engagement as per law," Saxena said and added that Atishi herself, in a meeting with him, had assured to set up a committee to prepare a roadmap for addressing the issue. "I have not been informed of any follow-up action taken so far," he noted in the letter. The lieutenant governor advocated a "humanitarian view" of the hardships faced by the

terminated volunteers. Since no proposal was forthcoming from the government, Saxena said he was being "forced" to step in. Citing the "grim" air pollution situation in Delhi discussed in the DDMA meeting on the day, Saxena said the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) had flagged a lack of adequate enforcement of various anti-pollution measures. "I would, therefore, suggest that the divisional commissioner be advised to call out services of Civil Defence Volunteers, specifically those who were engaged as of October 31, 2023, for a duration of say four months and engage them for air pollution mitigation activities," the lieutenant governor wrote to the chief minister. This should be done on an engagement basis from November 1 till February-end, he stated. The government may take a call regarding their deployment for appropriate duties at pollution under control certificate (PUCC) centres, pollution hotspots, DPCC, and other departments and agencies concerned with the enforcement of anti-air pollution measures. Saxena also said that the Delhi government, during the four months, must take concrete steps to formulate a scheme for future employment of these volunteers. He said the issue of deployment of these volunteers as bus marshals required the Council of Ministers to deliberate on their required number, roles, eligibility criteria, and, most importantly, whether the posts were temporary or permanent.

# Telangana CM accuses Centre of discrimination towards South India

**The chief minister alleged that Telangana and other southern states are not getting their due share proportionate to their contribution to the Central exchequer**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 25: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Friday accused the BJP-led NDA government of discrimination against the southern states in the allotment of funds and developmental projects. Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he asked what has the Centre done for the country and also alleged that the BJP raises emotional issues to win elections and tries to split other parties. Taking a jibe, he said the NDA government's contribution was that it brought the three black farm laws, since repealed, and caused unemployment in the country. "You are trying to bring a south-north division in the country. Whenever Congress was in power, whenever Congress leaders were prime ministers, there was a practice to give the President post to south India when a leader from the north is the prime minister," he said at an event organised by a media organisation.

From Neelam Sanjiva Reddy to APJ Abdul Kalam, several leaders from the south became Presidents as per a "gentleman's agreement between north and south," he claimed. "But, you have refused to give anything to the south. You want our votes, our money. But, you are trying to give hatred in return," he said. The previous UPA regime under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh took revolutionary decisions, including right to education act, right to information act, and food security act, he said. He said the BJP and Modi are only focused on winning elections. The chief minister alleged that Telangana and other southern states are not getting their due share proportionate to their

contribution to the Central exchequer. Referring to the delimitation of constituencies, he claimed that the southern states have implemented the policy of family planning but the Centre is not ready to appreciate the south. He alleged that the GIFT City and bullet train were given to Gujarat which happened to be the native state of PM Modi. He wondered whether Modi's goal of making India a five trillion dollar economy would be accomplished by developing Gujarat alone. Modi has developed the Sabaramati riverfront in Ahmedabad, but BJP in Telangana is opposing Musi riverfront development in Hyderabad as the southern state would compete with Gujarat, he claimed. He also accused the BJP and BRS of trying to stall the progress of Telangana. How come G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar are opposing the government's policies on a day-to-day basis despite being union ministers, he asked.

**You are trying to bring a south-north division in the country. Whenever Congress was in power, whenever Congress leaders were prime ministers, there was a practice to give the President post to south India when a leader from the north is the prime minister**  
A REVANTH REDDY | CM, TELANGANA

# T'gana forms Cabinet panel on employees' problems

**The Cabinet Sub-Committee will hold department-wise meetings after Diwali**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 25: The Telangana government on constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, to address the problems of state government employees. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy constituted the Sub-Committee after a meeting with the representatives of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of state government employees. Vikramarka, who holds the finance portfolio, will be Chairman of the three-member panel, which will also comprise Industry and Information Technology Minister D. Sridhar Babu and Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar. Advisor to the state government, K. Keshava Rao will be the special invitee.



The Cabinet Sub-Committee will hold department-wise meetings after Diwali. The Chief Minister told the JAC representatives that the government is ready to solve the problems of the employees. He said this meeting was the first step to address the grievances of the employees. He assured the JAC that a decision on the release of pending dues of Dearness Allowance (DA) will be made by Friday (October 25) evening. The Chief Minister's meeting with the JAC came following

the decision of employees' unions to announce their course of action in November's first week if the government failed to respond to their demands. Revanth Reddy also said that the government will take a decision on the Cabinet Sub-Committee report on Government Order (GO) 317 related to the allocation of jobs and transfers in the Cabinet meeting. The Sub-Committee headed by Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha submitted its report to the Chief Minister October 20.

# T'gana set to achieve 150 LMTs paddy yield

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 25: Telangana is poised to achieve its highest-ever paddy yield this year, with an estimated production of 150 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs), state Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said Thursday. Speaking in Suryapet during Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma's interaction with district officials, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the state government has made elaborate arrangements for paddy procurement this season, with an initial allocation of ₹20,000 crore, a release said. He said more money would be spent on paddy procurement if required. The Minister instructed officials to ensure that all procurement centres are well-equipped and staffed to handle the expected volumes, including adequate training for workers, proper storage facilities. From January next year, the government will distribute six kg of fine rice to every ration card holder, enhancing the quality of grains provided to beneficiaries, he said.

# Whatsapp group initiative drives down bus breakdowns

**With 70 officials on board, the Whatsapp group attempts to ensure smooth traffic on any road stretch where a bus breaks down**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: To deal with frequent bus breakdowns that choke traffic, the Delhi Traffic Police and the Transport Department have created a WhatsApp group for swift removal of the stranded vehicles. With 70 officials on board, the group attempts to ensure smooth traffic on any road stretch where a bus breaks down. Set up in September, the group -- Break Down Management -- is already delivering results with officials noticing that the average time for attending breakdowns declined since its formation. According to a senior traffic police officer who is a member of this group, if a bus broke down earlier, the process of locating it and sending a mechanic



for repairs would take hours. It was mandatory that the mechanics were from the same depot as the bus. This caused delays in the mechanic reaching the breakdown spot if it was far from the depot. After the WhatsApp group was formed, the Transport department changed its strategy and started sending help from the depot nearest to the breakdown spot. Once the repair work is done, the official concerned updates the status of breakdown in the group. "With this group, it becomes easier for us to identify and locate the place of breakdown. Our ground staff immediately alerts us and we put a photo of the bus with the driver's con-

tact on the group," a traffic assistant commissioner of police who is also a member of this group said. The depot managers who are members of the group get to know about the breakdown and the one closest to the spot immediately sends help. The traffic personnel concerned regulate traffic till the bus gets repaired or removed by the transport department. Once the work is done, it is also updated on the group, the traffic police officer said. Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary said the cooperation between the two departments led to fruitful results, with the average time for locating the bus and reaching the spot coming down. "We are committed to streamline the system and provide hassle-free transportation," he said. The group includes all depot managers, service providers, traffic police assistant commissioners, deputy commissioners, transport commissioner and other senior Transport department members.

# Delhi zoo unveils winter management plan for animals

**IN VIEW OF THE RISING POLLUTION LEVELS, THE ZOO OFFICIALS ARE FOCUSING ON CONTINUOUS HEALTH MONITORING OF THE ANIMALS, BESIDES PUTTING IN EFFORTS TO MINIMISE LOCAL POLLUTION WITHIN THE ZOO PREMISES**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Specially-designed shelters, wooden planks, mats, bamboo screens, thatch covers to block winds, room heaters and dehumidifiers will be installed in the Delhi Zoo to shield its animals from the harsh winter cold. In view of the rising pollution levels, the zoo officials are focussing on continuous health monitoring of the animals, besides putting in efforts to minimise local pollution within the zoo premises. A detailed winter management plan to ensure the well-being of its resident animals has been prepared by the Delhi Zoo. Species-wise and age-specific strategies have been implemented, focussing on protecting the animals from the harsh cold while maintaining their health and comfort throughout the season, a zoo official told PTI.



To safeguard vulnerable animals, the zoo will segregate dominant males in species such as the Manipuri deer, where the young ones are born during the winter months, preventing conflicts and ensuring the newborns' safety, he said.

Herbivores and birds will receive paddy-straw bedding and specially-designed shelters to keep them warm, while carnivores and primates will be provided with wooden planks and mats to insulate them from the cold surface. Temperature-control measures are also a priority, with room heaters and dehumidifiers being installed in the enclosures to maintain a stable environment. Special attention will be given to the reptile house, where thermoregulation and humidity levels are monitored closely to suit the needs of its inhabitants. In terms of diet, the zoo has introduced winter-specific changes to help the animals stay warm and energised.

Species-wise and age-specific strategies have been implemented, focussing on protecting the animals from the harsh cold while maintaining their health and comfort throughout the season. "We have included nuts, jagery and sugarcane in their diet, along with nutrient supplements and immunoboozers to support their health," he added. Speaking about the sensitive species and birds, the official said, "They will also receive extra shelter enhancements, including bamboo screens and thatch covers to block cold winds, while young primates will be given blankets for warmth." Meanwhile, veterinary protocols will be strictly followed to promptly address any health issues arising during the winter season, ensuring that all animals receive timely medical attention if needed, he added. As the mornings and evenings have turned slightly chilly, experts have predicted that the temperatures will start declining in the capital in about a week to 10 days. The night temperature settled at 19.2 degrees Celsius Friday, two notches above normal.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RENGALI LEFT BANK CANAL DIVISION,**  
At/P.O. Kamakhyanager  
Dist- Dhenkanal, Odisha, PIN-759018  
Ph:06769-270771, Email Id:eerlbcdivision@gmail.com  
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE No.RLBCD-P1-09/2024-25

1	Category of Work	"Civil Construction Works"
2	Total No. of Works	01 (One) No.
3	Estimated Cost	Rs.17.44 Lakh
4	Period of Completion	60 Days
5	Class of Contractor	"D" & "C" or equivalent grade/class
6	Cost of Bid Document/ Mode of Payment	Rs.6000/- (Non-Refundable)/ On-line through Electronic Payment mode (Internet Banking/ NEFT/ RTGS of Designated Banks and their Aggregator Banks)
7	EMD/Bid Security Amount/ Mode of Payment	Rs.17,440/- / Online through Electronic Payment Mode (Internet Banking/NEFT/RTGS/ of Designated Banks and their Aggregator Banks)
8	Other details:	
(i)	Procurement Officer	Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanager
(ii)	Availability of Bid documents for Online Bidding	29.10.2024 from 10.00 Hours to 07.11.2024 upto 17.00 Hours
(iii)	Date, Time & Venue of Bid Opening (Online)	On 08.11.2024 at 11.00 Hours in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanager (through online)
(iv)	Date, Time & Venue of transparent lottery for finalization of bids, if required	On 20.11.2024 at 11.00 Hours in the O/o Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanager

\*\* Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
R.L.B. Canal Division, Kamakhyanager  
OIPR-32298/11/0012/2425

## of the day quote

Trudeau has ruined the relationship (between India and Canada). Trudeau is interested in only one thing and that is getting the Sikh votes for his own election

We will return to power with a thumping majority on the basis of our development work and welfare initiatives

I have already announced some names. Discussions are on for 11 seats. We can't make everyone happy

## SHORT TAKES

### Two held for killing woman

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested two men for allegedly killing a 19-year-old woman and burying her body in a pit in an abandoned area in Haryana, officials said Friday. The accused were identified as Sanju alias Saleem (victim's boyfriend), Pankaj and Ritik, police said. The police received a complaint from the victim's brother October 22 stating that his sister had gone missing. He suspected that a man, whom his sister recently befriended, might have been involved in her disappearance, they said.

### Sessions court grants bail to Sanjay Raut

Mumbai: A sessions court here Friday granted bail to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut and suspended the prison sentence awarded to him by a lower court in a defamation case filed by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife Medha Somaiya. Judge Sanjiv Pingle admitted the revision application filed by the Rajya Sabha member against the trial court's verdict. Raut appeared before the sessions court in person Friday and sought bail.

### Champai files nomination

Sarakela (Jharkhand): Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren Friday filed his nomination papers as BJP nominee from Sarakela Assembly constituency. Sarakela is among 43 Assembly constituencies that will go to polls in the first phase November 13. The nomination process for the first phase, which started October 18, is set to conclude Friday.

### Explosives seized

Gondia: The police have recovered gelatin sticks, detonators and Naxalite literature were recovered from a hideout in a forest in Maharashtra's Gondia district, an official said Friday. In light of the upcoming state Assembly elections, the police's C-60 team, bomb detection and dog squads have increased patrolling along the state's border with Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the official said.

### AAP moves Delhi HC

New Delhi: The AAP approached the Delhi High Court Friday, seeking a direction to the Centre to allot a residence in the capital to the party's national convener, Arvind Kejriwal. The senior counsel appearing in the court on behalf of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said according to the guidelines issued in this regard, the president of a national political party is entitled to a residential accommodation in Delhi and therefore, former Chief Minister Kejriwal should be allotted a residence.

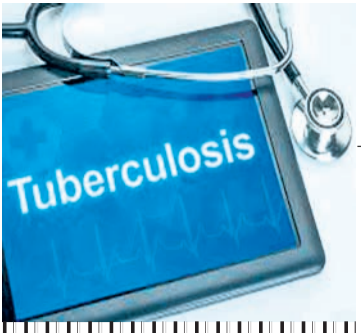


We have been passing through such an era wherein modern technologies greatly impact the life of humans rapidly. For the welfare of people living in remote areas, such technologies can be used

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

### 69 PANCHAYATS IN UNA DECLARED TB FREE

The Una district administration Friday declared 69 out of 234 gram panchayats free from tuberculosis under the NTEP Programme 2023. Felicitating the panchayats, Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal urged the Panchayat representatives to continue their active cooperation in eradicating tuberculosis, a statement said



# Intense search ops launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/Udhampur, Oct 25: Security forces Friday launched a massive search operation along the Line of Control, deploying drones and helicopters to trace terrorists who killed two soldiers and as many porters in the Gulmarg sector of Jammu and Kashmir, with Army emphasising the focus in dismantling the terror ecosystem.

The combing and search operation began along the LoC and the area near the attack site, but widened to cover the hinterland by the evening, the officials said. Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar said the Unified Headquarters discussed the spate of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir at a meeting in Srinagar and formulated a strategy, with focus on dismantling the entire terror ecosystem.

The routes around the site of the attack was closed and the Gondola ropeway service at the resort town was also shut for a few hours as a precautionary measure, even though tourist movement towards the ski-resort was going on smoothly. Ruling National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said attacks like these would continue until India and Pakistan found a way to be friends.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps and paid floral tributes to the slain soldiers and porters who were killed in the attack Thursday. The terrorists had ambushed a vehicle of the force six km from the tourist hotspot Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla

## GULMARG ATTACK



Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha pays tribute to the mortal remains of an Army officer, who was killed in a terror attack in J&K's Gulmarg Thursday, at BB Cant Army Headquarters in Srinagar

district. They opened fire on the Army vehicle in the Bota Pathri area when it was headed for the Nagin post in Affarwat range.

In his media briefing in Udhampur, Lieutenant General Kumar Friday said the Unified Headquarters has formulated a strategy to deal with such attacks. "The core of this strategy is to strengthen the relationship between citizens and soldiers while encouraging nationalist and mainstream narratives, particularly among youths," he told the press conference.

The focus is on breaking the cycle of violence, dismantling the terror ecosystem, empowering the youth and women, facilitating education, promoting sports, and reviving the region's rich historical and cultural heritage, he said. "I must assure you that situation is under con-

trol," the Army Commander told reporters here.

Senior Army and police officials are overseeing the search operation, with officials saying helicopters and drones have been deployed to help the forces who are also using human and technical intelligence to aid the search operation. The area is completely dominated by the Army and there were reports

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps and paid floral tributes to the slain soldiers and porters who were killed in the attack Thursday

The terrorists had ambushed a vehicle of the force six km from the tourist hotspot Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district

They opened fire on the Army vehicle in the Bota Pathri area when it was headed for the Nagin post in Affarwat range

recently that a terrorist group had infiltrated during early summer and taken shelter in the higher reaches of the Afrawat range, they said. The Bota Pathri area was recently opened to tourists. The prestigious High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS), where army personnel are equipped with special training before their deployment in Siachen Glacier, is just a few km from the site of the attack.

Baramulla Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa visited the two families and handed over the cheques to them on the directions of the LG, an official spokesman said.

## Farooq urges Pak to stop violence

Srinagar: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah Friday said attacks like the one in Gulmarg would continue to occur until India and Pakistan found a way to be friends and that would end Jammu and Kashmir's troubles. Two soldiers and two Army porters were killed Thursday after terrorists ambushed a force vehicle near Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Another soldier and a porter were injured in the attack. "Such attacks will continue to take place in this state. You know where they come from and it will not stop until some way is found to get out of this trouble. I have been witnessing it for the last 30 years, innocent people are getting killed," Abdullah told reporters. "We are not going to become a part of Pakistan. So, why are they doing this? To disrupt our future? To make us poorer?" he asked.

## COURT CORNER

### Top court dismisses Madhu Koda's plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday dismissed former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a coal scam case to enable him to contest the upcoming state Assembly polls. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar refused to interfere with an October 18 order of the Delhi High Court dismissing Koda's plea for a stay of the conviction order passed in 2017. During the hearing, the counsel appearing in the court for Koda submitted that an irreversible wrong will be done to him if his conviction is not stayed and he is not allowed to contest the election next month. The counsel submitted that Koda was convicted in 2017 and handed a three-year sentence that he has completed.

### Expedite bail hearing of Imam, SC to Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain the bail plea of Delhi riots accused Sharjeel Imam in a terror case but told the Delhi High Court to expeditiously hear it. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and S C Sharma said it was not inclined to entertain the plea, which sought bail under Article 32 of the Constitution. Imam's counsel, senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, said the bail plea had been pending since 2022 while clarifying he was not pressing for bail at the present stage. The top court noted the high court would be hearing the case November 25. "This being the writ petition filed under Article 32 of the constitution, we are not inclined to entertain the same. However, petitioner shall be at liberty to request the high court to hear the bail application as expeditiously as possible preferably November 25, as fixed by the high court. The high court shall consider the said request," held the bench.

### Anti-Dalit violence: 101 get life sentence

Koppal (Karnataka): As many as 101 people were sentenced to life imprisonment by a court in Koppal district for setting on fire the hutments of the Dalit community. The accused were found guilty recently and the quantum of punishment was pronounced by the court Thursday. The case is related to caste based violence in Marakumbi village in Gangavathi Taluk August 28, 2014. The accused had set on fire the dwellings belonging to the downtrodden community. The clash broke out over Dalits being denied entry into the barber shop and eateries.



Vehicles move on a waterlogged road during rain in the aftermath of Cyclone 'Dana' in Kolkata, West Bengal

## Nomination process ends for bypolls to 47 Assembly seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Jaipur, Oct 25: With the filing of nominations for bypolls to 47 seats spread across 13 states ending Friday, a big test awaits the Opposition INDIA bloc in this crucial showdown with the BJP. Voting will be held November 13 in nine seats of Uttar Pradesh, seven seats in Rajasthan, six seats in West Bengal, five seats in Assam, four seats each in Bihar and Punjab, three seats in

Karnataka, two seats each in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim, and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Meghalaya. Bypoll will also be conducted in the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat that day. Most of the seats fell vacant after the sitting MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha as MPs while in some constituencies, the bypolls are being held due to death of the representatives. The INDIA bloc, which failed to put up a united fight in the re-

cently-held Haryana Assembly polls resulting in the BJP winning comfortably, could not agree on a seat-sharing arrangement in Uttar Pradesh for the bypolls. The Samajwadi Party is finally contesting on all the nine seats with the Congress deciding to opt out though it announced it will hold "joint campaigns" with its ally. In Uttar Pradesh, bypolls are being held in Katehari, Karhal, Meerapur, Kundarki, Phulpur, Sisamau, Ghaziabad, Majhawan and Kahir.

## Top court rejects CBI plea on LOCs against Rhea Chakraborty, kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Calling it "frivolous", the Supreme Court Friday dismissed a plea of the CBI challenging a Bombay High Court order that quashed the look out circulars (LOC) issued against actor Rhea Chakraborty and her family in the death case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

A bench comprising Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan warned the probe agency and remarked it had moved a "frivolous petition" only because one of the accused was a high-profile person. The bench further warned to impose costs on the probe agency for filing such a plea.



"If you want cost and some compliments to the CBI, we will pass-over," the bench said.

When the matter was first called out for hearing, a lawyer sought it to be passed over as the main CBI counsel was in another court. When the matter came up later, the counsel for the CBI appeared in court.

"Don't come tomorrow, otherwise costs and compliments to the CBI," the bench reiterated. The Bombay High Court had February 22 quashed the LOCs issued against Chakraborty and her brother Showik and their parents - Indrajit and Sandhya.

The high court held the LOCs -- issued against them in 2020 -- could not be sent out on the mere registration of an FIR while allowing the pleas of the Chakrabortys. The actor and her family members were observed to have cooperated with the investigation of the CBI by appearing before the agency whenever summoned without attempting to evade it.

"An LOC is a coercive measure to make the person surrender and as such interferes with the person's right of personal liberty and free movement and curtails the fundamental right of an individual to travel, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," the high court had said.

# What was India-China military clash in 2020 about?

INDIA AND CHINA HAVE BEGUN TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AT THE TWO FRICTION POINTS AT DEMCHOK AND DEPSANG PLAINS IN EASTERN LADAKH AND THIS PROCESS IS LIKELY TO GET COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 28-29

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 25: Troops from India and China have begun stepping back from two final stand-off positions along their disputed Himalayan frontier, paving the way to end a four-year military face-off. Here is how the latest conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours began and how it hurt their ties. THE BORDER India and China share a roughly 4,000-km (2,500-mile) border, a large part of which is

undemarcated and disputed. Much of it also runs high along the Himalayas, through glaciers, snow deserts and rivers in the west to densely forested mountains in the east. THE CONFRONTATION The conflict broke out between Indian and Chinese troops in June 2020 in Galwan valley in the Indian territory of Ladakh - considered important because it leads to Aksai Chin, a disputed plateau claimed by India but controlled by China.

At least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed in the neighbours' first deadly military confrontation since 1975. THE TRIGGER The clash broke out over two tents and observation towers that India said were built on its side of the de-facto border, and which its troops set on fire after they



were discovered by a patrol. CHINESE TROOPS' RESPONSE In response, a large group of Chinese soldiers, lightly armed because of the rules of engagement in the region, arrived and confronted the Indian troops. About 900 soldiers of both

sides were involved in the hand-to-hand combat that followed, when they beat each other with rocks and wooden sticks embedded with nails.

GOVERNMENTS' RESPONSES After the skirmish, New Delhi heightened scrutiny of investments from China, banned popular Chinese mobile apps, and cut direct passenger air routes to China.

Later, India's defence minister said the incident showed China had disregarded a two-way pact between the countries. China said there had been a serious violation of a consensus reached by the neighbours.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION NOW? In the past four years, both sides have pulled back troops from five locations on the border where they were in face-off positions and, following this week's agreement, will pull back personnel from the final two points.



# national



**The element of scrutiny gets into our work. Nothing misses this scrutiny. This element of scrutiny guides the work of our court. But what sustains us as judges is our sense of compassion for the society to which we render our justice**

**D Y CHANDRACHUD | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA**

## MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES TO BE SUSPENDED ACROSS ASSAM SUNDAY

Mobile internet services will remain suspended across Assam from 8.30 am to 4 pm Sunday for the conduct of a government recruitment exam, an official notification said Friday. This would be the third such instance in two months



### of the day quote

The Northeast plays a vital role in our billion-dollar market

**GIRIRAJ SINGH | UNION MINISTER**

Congress bit dust in Haryana and is set to lose in Maharashtra and Jharkhand as well. The party is not going to win anywhere now

**SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | SENIOR BJP LEADER**

There is a raging controversy over the new statute. While some people are saying it was an unilateral decision, I would call it all interpretation

**MEENAKSHI LEKHI | FORMER UNION MINISTER**

## X POST OF THE DAY

Sabir Malik, who was suspected of consuming beef, was beaten to death in Haryana. The forensic lab's analysis now clearly shows that it wasn't beef. Those who were attempting to kill him will their houses be bulldozed now?

**@ShirinKhan0**

### SHORT TAKES

#### Masked men open fire on school van

**Amroha (UP):** Masked men opened fire on a private school van carrying 28 children in Uttar Pradesh's Amroha Friday, police said. One suspect has been taken into custody in connection with the incident in which no one was reported injured, they added. According to the police, the incident took place under the Gajraula police station area when unidentified masked individuals fired indiscriminately at the van carrying students from the S R S International School. SIT to investigate

#### SIT to investigate Kannur ADM's death

**Kannur (Kerala):** The Kerala police Friday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe into the alleged suicide of former Kannur Additional District Magistrate Naveen Babu, whose death has sparked a political uproar in the southern state. Amidst widespread accusations, including from the Opposition Congress-led UDF, against the state government and the ruling CPI(M) of protecting those behind Babu's suicide, the police constituted the SIT headed by Ajit Kumar, District Police Chief, Kannur City to probe the matter.

#### Varanasi court rejects Hindu side's plea

**Varanasi (UP):** A court in Varanasi Friday rejected a petition by the Hindu side seeking a survey through excavation in the entire Gyanvapi complex. The lawyer representing the Hindu side, Madan Mohan Yadav, said Civil Judge Senior Division Jugal Kishore Shambhu rejected the petition. Following a July 2023 order of the district court, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) carried out a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises, located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple here, to determine whether the mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

# PM Modi: Ukraine, West Asia conflicts matter of concern

At the 7th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC), German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described India as an anchor of stability and requested Modi to work jointly to bring about political solutions to the twin conflicts that have been raging for long

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** India and Germany voiced concern on the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that New Delhi is ready to make every possible contribution for the restoration of peace.

At the 7th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC), German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described India as an anchor of stability and requested Modi to work jointly to bring about political solutions to the twin conflicts that have been raging for long.

"The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of concern for both countries. India has always been of the view that war cannot be a solution to problems. India is ready to make every possible contribution for the restoration of peace," Modi said, with the visiting German chancellor by his side.

At the IGC, the two sides signed 18 agreements and documents, including a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters and an agreement on exchange and mutual protection of classified information.

"The growing cooperation in the defence and security sectors reflects our deep mutual trust. The agreement on the exchange of classified information is a new step in this direction. The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty signed today will further bolster our joint efforts to combat terrorism and separatist elements," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said India



and Germany are constantly working on their shared commitment to green and sustainable growth.

"Today, taking our Green and Sustainable Development Partnership forward, we have agreed on the second phase of the Green Urban Mobility Partnership. Additionally, the Green Hydrogen Roadmap has also been launched," he said.

Modi said he and Scholz agree that the global forums established in the 20th century are inadequate to address the challenges of the 21st century.

"There is a need for reforms in multilateral institutions, including the UN Security Council," the Prime Minister said. The German chancellor is scheduled to visit Goa Saturday. German naval ships are making port calls in the coastal state after participating in the Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Indian Ocean.

The bilateral talks also touched upon India's ambitious plans to build six advanced submarines equipped with air-independent propulsion systems. Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems

is vying for the submarine deal with the Indian Navy, with Spanish company Navantia also being a competitor. Scholz asserted that Germany wants more skilled Indians.

Modi said people-to-people connections are an important pillar of the India-Germany relationship.

The Prime Minister said India's young talent pool is contributing to the progress and prosperity of Germany.

Earlier, initiating the IGC, Modi said the strategic partnership between India and Germany has emerged as a strong anchor at a time when the world is facing tensions, conflicts and uncertainty.

The Prime Minister said the India-Germany ties are a transformational partnership of two capable and strong democracies and not a transactional relationship.

He recalled that this is Scholz's third visit to India, which marks the "triple celebration" of the friendship between India and Germany. Modi also welcomed the "Focus on India" strategy announced by Germany.

## Eight shooters of Bishnoi gang held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** In a crackdown on the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, the Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested at least seven shooters who were planning to target nephew of a former MLA from Rajasthan, officials here said Friday.

In a separate but related incident, the Delhi Police arrested a member of Lawrence Bishnoi and Kala Jathedi gang, and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession, officials here said.

The arrest of seven shooters comes days after the sensational murder of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique in Mumbai October 12. The Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility for the murder.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pratiksha Godara said the seven accused have been identified as Ritesh, Sukhram, Sahil, Amar, Badal, Parmod and Sandeep.

Though the police have not found their links in Siddique's murder case as of now, the accused were being further interrogated, she said.

Godara said the shooters were planning to target Sunil Pahalwan, a resident of Ganganagar in Rajasthan; and Raj Kumar Gaur, the nephew of a former MLA from Rajasthan, on the direction of Arzoo Bishnoi, who is a close confidant of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his brother Anmol Bishnoi.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Police Friday arrested a person in the murder case of NCP leader Baba Siddique from Ludhiana in Punjab. Sujit Sushil Singh (32), a resident of Ghatkopar in Mumbai and the 15th person to be held in the high-profile case, was linked to absconding accused Zeeshan Akhtar, one of the alleged masterminds of the killing, a crime branch official said.

# Over 25 flights receive bomb threats Friday

In 12 days, more than 275 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/ Mumbai, Oct 25:** More than 25 domestic and international flights operated by Indian carriers received bomb threats Friday, according to sources.

In 12 days, more than 275 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media. Over 70 flights received bomb threat Thursday. An IndiGo spokesperson said 7 of its flights, including 6E 87 from Kozhikode to Dammam, got security-related alerts.

The sources in the know said around 7 flights each of IndiGo, Vistara and SpiceJet got the threats while 6 flights of Air India received the threats.

IndiGo's six other flights -- 6E 2099 (Udaipur to Delhi), 6E 11 (Delhi to Istanbul), 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E 17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E 108 (Hyderabad to Chandigarh) and 6E 133 (Pune to Jodhpur) -- received the threats.

"Flight 6E 2099, operating from Udaipur to Delhi, received a bomb threat. Following security agency guidelines, the air-

craft was redirected to the isolation bay before take-off and standard operating procedures were followed. All passengers were safely disembarked," the airline spokesperson said in a statement.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu Friday assured the government is committed to taking strict action against those behind hoax bomb threats.

"We are deeply concerned. In the wake of recent hoax bomb threats disrupting air travel. I assure you that safety and security are our highest priorities, and we are committed to taking strict action against those behind these malicious acts."

"Let's work together to ensure safe skies for all," he said in a post on X. The government has asked social media platforms Meta and X to share data about hoax bomb threat messages to airlines and has started identifying those behind such activities. Earlier this week, Naidu said the government plans to take legislative actions to deal with instances of bomb threats to airlines, including placing perpetrators of such threats on the no-fly list.

## Cyclone 'Dana' spares WB from major destruction



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Oct 25:** While Severe Cyclone Dana spared West Bengal from large-scale destruction unlike previous storms like Amphan and Bulbul, it breached embankments and brought torrential rains, causing considerable property damage in the southern areas, keeping the administration on high alert even after the storm passed Friday morning.

At an administrative review meeting after the cyclone, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said two died in the aftermath of the storm, even though the administration had evacuated around 2.16 lakh people from low-lying areas in advance.

Banerjee, who spent the night at the state secretariat to mon-

itor the cyclone's impact, directed officials to ensure that relief materials reached all those affected by the calamity.

Referring to a survey by the agricultural department following the recent floods in the state, she directed officials to initiate another survey of farmlands to find out the degree of damage caused by cyclone Dana.

The CM asked them to prepare a list of the damaged agricultural land to help farmers get money from crop insurance.

She also said NDRF and SDRF teams should remain at their respective areas of deployment for 48 hours.

The Union Home Ministry released a total of Rs 5,858.6 crore to 14 states hit by floods. Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, alleged that Banerjee was making false claims about the Centre not giving the state any funds to deal with the floods and the cyclone.



Devotees participate in Goddess Dyamavva and Durgadevi Bhandara Puja in Hubballi, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

# 10 Indians tried entering US illegally each hour last yr

AGENCIES

**Ahmedabad, Oct 25:** Despite fatal risks and multiple deaths of illegal Indian immigrants attempting to cross borders, the desire for a new life in the United States, particularly among Gujaratis, remains unyielding.

During US FY 2024 - October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 - 29 lakh illegal immigrants were caught trying to enter the country through Mexico and Canada.

Of these, Indians constituted 90,415, US Customs and Border Protection (US-CBP) data shows. Of this total, roughly 50% were from Gujarat, sources in the Indian agencies tracking illegal immigration said. It could



**IN FY 2023, THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL INDIAN IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT WAS 96,917**

**IN 2024, FEWER INDIANS (25,616) WERE CAUGHT AT THE US-MEXICO BORDER;**

**THIS NUMBER IN US FY 2023 WAS 41,770**

also be said that 10 Indians were arrested every hour, the sources said. Also, 43,764 were arrested at the US border with Canada, in the north, making it the highest number of Indians caught at

this border till now. The data reveals a slight decline from the previous year's total of 32 lakh people, and in the number of Indians caught on the Mexico route. In FY 2023, the number of illegal Indian immigrants caught was 96,917. In 2024, fewer Indians (25,616) were caught at the US-

Mexico border; this number in US FY 2023 was 41,770.

Canadian donkey route preferred over Mexico People have largely abandoned the "donkey route" via Mexico for two main reasons. First, the route requires them to stay in Dubai or Turkey temporarily before being trans-

ported to Mexico. However, in recent years, US agencies have closely monitored illegal immigrants in these countries and have disrupted key links in the human smuggling chain, according to the report.

Taking a cue from this, Gujaratis also started using the Canadian route as they could simply hire a taxi and enter the US due to open borders between the two nations.

Although such people are caught by US authorities and sent back to Canada due to heightened vigil but try to cross over through the same border after some time. It is also believed that the number of Indians illegally entering the US could be higher given that those who get caught might be much less than those who manage to crossover into the US.

## School students fall ill due to suspected chemical gas leak

**CHENNAI:** A few students of a matriculation higher secondary school, Tiruvottiyur, here, became ill due to a suspected chemical leak on the premises, and at least three of them were admitted to a hospital, police said Friday. A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team deployed to ascertain the cause of the incident, said the exact cause was not known. Preliminary inquiries by the police revealed that no gas emanated from the school lab. Some students complained of difficulty in breathing and eye irritation while others felt a sudden nausea, triggering panic in the school. "Some of us had to rush out of the classroom to get fresh air. Even our teachers had experienced difficulty in breathing. A few students even fainted and our teachers revived them," a student later said, and added that she felt nausea.

# international

## of the day quote

Even when miracles happen, even when the bombs go off and the homes collapse and the casualties mount but the child survives, they are then prevented from leaving Gaza for the urgent medical care that can save their lives

JAMES ELDER | UNICEF SPOKESPERSON

We treasure a democratic and free way of life, and we cannot, and will not, allow any external force to change the future of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu

LAI CHING-TE | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

You got to play by the rules we have in order to change the rules to what they should be. So I'm asking you, as Republicans, we may not like early voting. Get out there and do it anyway because we have an election to win and a country to save

VIVEK RAMASWAMY | AMERICAN ENTREPRENEUR

## SHORT TAKES

### UK denies visa to Mandela's grandson

Johannesburg: The grandson of South Africa's first Black President, Nelson Mandela, said Friday the UK government denied him an entry visa because of his support for Hamas and his stance on the Israel-Hamas war. Mandela could not travel to the UK earlier this month to address pro-Palestinian gatherings in Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow after he was informed that he would need a visa, despite holding a South African government passport that would ordinarily allow him visa-free entry. This week, however, the UK Home Office sent Mandela a letter informing him that his visa application had been denied because of his "support for Hamas."

### Pakistan militant attack kills 10

Dera Ismail Khan: At least 10 Pakistani frontier police were killed in a militant attack on an outpost near the northwestern city of Dera Ismail Khan, the interior ministry said. Thursday's attack, claimed by Islamist militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, comes as Pakistan battles a resurgence of militant attacks in its rugged northwest. Three senior police sources said a large group of militants stormed the outpost, killing personnel of the frontier constabulary security force.

## US plans Patriot missiles on ships amid China's fear

Integrating the Lockheed Martin-made missiles with ships' air defenses comes amid simmering tension in the Indo-Pacific region as China rapidly modernises its military

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 25: Fearing China will deploy hypersonic weapons to sink ships in the Pacific, the US Navy is moving forward with a plan to arm some of its vessels with Patriot interceptors, two senior defense officials said.

One industry official said putting the highly agile Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (PAC-3 MSE) interceptors, used primarily in the US by the Army, aboard Navy ships anticipates advances in Chinese missile technology, including the use of highly maneuverable hypersonic weapons.

Integrating the Lockheed Martin-made missiles with ships' air defenses comes amid sim-

## Israeli strike kills 3 scribes

THE JOURNALISTS KILLED IN SOUTH LEBANON WORKED FOR HEZBOLLAH'S AL-MANAR

REUTERS

Beirut, Oct 25: An Israeli strike killed three journalists in south Lebanon Friday, Lebanon's health ministry said, and the UN refugee agency warned that Israeli airstrikes on a border crossing with Syria were hindering refugees attempting to flee the war.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was an urgency to get a diplomatic resolution to the conflict, a day after he said Washington did not want to see a protracted campaign in Lebanon by its ally Israel.

Israel launched its major offensive in Lebanon a month ago, saying it was targeting the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah group to secure the return home of tens of thousands of Israelis evacuated from the north due to cross-border rocket attacks.

Beirut authorities say Israel's Lebanon offensive has killed more than 2,500 people and displaced more than 1.2 million people, sparking a humanitarian crisis.

The journalists killed in south Lebanon were camera operator Ghassan Najjar and engineer Mohamed Reda of the pro-Iranian news outlet Al-Mayadeen and camera operator Wissam Qassem, who worked for Hezbollah's Al-Manar; the outlets said in separate statements. Several others were wounded.

They had been staying at guesthouses in Hasbaya when it was hit around 3 am (midnight GMT). The town had not previously been targeted.

Five journalists have been killed in previous Israeli strikes while reporting on the conflict, including Reuters visual journalist Issam Abdallah October 13, 2023.

"This is a war crime,"



We have a sense of real urgency in getting to a diplomatic resolution and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, such that there can be real security along border between Israel and Lebanon

ANTHONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary said. At least 18 journalists from six media outlets, including Sky News and Al-Jazeera were using the guesthouses.

"We heard the airplane flying very low, that's what woke us up and then we heard the two missiles," Muhammad Farhat, a reporter with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed, said.

He said several bungalows had been damaged. His footage showed overturned and damaged cars, some marked "Press".

There was no immediate comment from Israel, which in general denies deliberately attacking journalists.

**BORDER CROSSING STRUCK**

Israel has used airstrikes to pound southern Lebanon, the



At our inter-governmental consultations with India, we also want to deepen co-operation in defence and agree to bring our militaries together

OLAF SCHOLZ | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

### MUSK BRINGS ISS ASTRONAUTS BACK

Four astronauts return to Earth Friday with Elon Musk's SpaceX after issues with Boeing's Starliner delayed their mission



## King Charles admits 'painful' slavery history



REUTERS

Apia, Oct 25: King Charles said Friday the Commonwealth should acknowledge its "painful" history, as African and Caribbean nations push for reparations for Britain's role in transatlantic slavery.

Representatives of 56 countries, most with roots in Britain's empire, are attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that began in Samoa Monday, with slavery and the threat of climate change emerging as major themes.

Opponents of reparations say countries should not be held responsible for historical wrongs, while those in favour say the legacy of slavery has led to vast and persistent racial inequality. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has rejected calls for reparations and ruled out apologising for the country's historical role but said he was open to engaging with leaders who want to discuss it.

The Guardian newspaper, citing a source from Starmer's office, reported late Thursday that the Prime Minister had "opened the door to non-financial reparations", such as restructuring financial institutions and providing debt relief.

"We don't recognise those reports," a Starmer's spokeswoman said when asked about non-fi-

nancial reparations. Starmer, speaking to Commonwealth leaders in Samoa, said he was aware there were some calls for reparations but that, in his view, countries should work together to ensure the future was not in the "shadow of the past but is illuminated by it".

He announced Britain would host a UK-Caribbean forum next year. There are different types of reparations, from financial payments and apologies to technology transfer and educational programmes. CARICOM has its own reparations plan.

**'PARADISE IN DANGER'**

Bahamas Foreign Minister Frederick Mitchell told the BBC Thursday the summit's draft conclusion, expected to be published Saturday, had paragraphs calling for a discussion on reparations.

"If we say we want greater equality and equity in the world, the way to do this is to examine what and how reparations might manifest, rather than to shut down the conversation," said Jacqueline McKenzie, a lawyer at London firm Leigh Day, where her team are investigating the potential for reparations claims.

From the 15th to the 19th century, at least 12.5 million Africans were kidnapped and forcibly taken by mostly European ships and merchants and sold into slavery. Britain transported an estimated 3.2 million people.

## NK backs troops send off to Russia

REUTERS

Seoul, Oct 25: North Korea said Friday any move to send its troops to assist Russia in its war in Ukraine would be in line with international law, although it stopped short of confirming that such a deployment had taken place.

Ukraine, the United States and other Western allies say they have evidence that Pyongyang has sent thousands of troops to Russia for possible deployment against Ukraine.

Previously both Pyongyang and the Kremlin had dismissed such reports as baseless rumours. But when asked about the reports Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin stopped short of denying them.

Ukraine says North Korean participation in the war, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February



Ukraine says North Korean participation in the war could amount to the crime of aggression under international law

2022, could amount to the crime of aggression under international law.

In a statement reported by North Korea's KCNA news agency, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Jong Gyu said the foreign ministry was not directly involved in matters handled by the defence ministry and would not comment di-

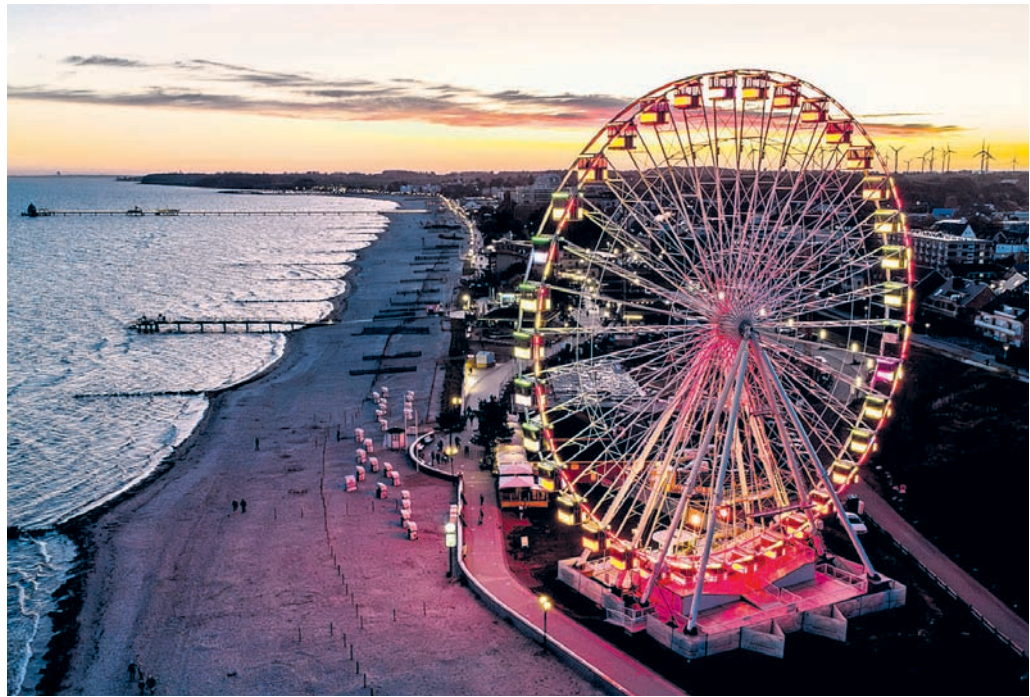
rectly on any deployment.

Putin said Thursday it was up to Moscow and Pyongyang how to conduct their mutual defence agreement, and accused the West of escalating the Ukraine war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that Russia plans to deploy North Korean troops to the battlefield starting October 27-28, citing intelligence reports.

Ukrainian military intelligence said Thursday that around 12,000 North Korean troops, including 500 officers and three generals, were already in Russia, and training was taking place on five military bases.

The United States has said it has seen evidence of North Korean troops in Russia, and South Korean lawmakers said about 3,000 soldiers had been sent, with more to follow.



A Ferris wheel stands at the beach of the Baltic Sea, in Groemitz, northern Germany

PTI PHOTO

## US PREZ POLLS SURVEY

### Trump takes narrow lead over Harris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 25: Republican presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump has taken a narrow lead over his Democratic rival and Vice President Kamala Harris ahead of the November 5 elections, according to a survey.

A national survey conducted by The Wall Street Journal said that Trump is now leading Harris by two percentage points, 47 per cent to 45 per cent. Similarly, as per a CNBC All-America Economic Survey, Trump holds a 48 per cent to 46 per cent lead over Harris within the poll's 3.1 per cent margin of error, which is unchanged from August.

In the seven battleground states, Trump leads 48 per cent to 47 per cent, within four per cent margin of error for that portion of the poll, the news channel said.

According to RealClearPolitics, which tracks all major national and regional polls, Harris has a slender lead of 0.3 percentage points over Trump at the na-



tional level. On the other hand, Trump has a lead of 0.9 percentage points in the battleground states for the 2024 presidential elections are Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia.

Kalshi, an American financial exchange and prediction market based for future events like elections, where legalised betting is taking place, has given Trump a lead over Harris. According to this betting market, Trump has 61 per cent chances of winning the election, while Harris has 39 per cent. The Wall Street Journal said views of Harris have turned more negative since August, when equal shares of voters viewed her favourably and unfavourably.



mering tension in the Indo-Pacific region as China rapidly modernizes its military, and in the wake of successful missile defense efforts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

How many PAC-3 interceptors the Navy will need is uncertain, but overall demand is "through the roof," said Tom

The US has tapped Japan, a key ally, as a location for joint production of Patriot missiles

Karako, a missile defense expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

He said there was strong interest from foreign governments adding that the US Army wants to more than double production in coming years.

# business

of the day quote

The livestock census operation will be conducted with a budget of ₹200 crore. The cost will be entirely funded by the central government

**RAJIV RANJAN SINGH** | UNION MINISTER

We're now bringing this same momentum to India with the launch of the YouTube Shopping affiliate programme starting with Flipkart and Mynta. We're unlocking a new phase of product discovery, powered by the strong connections between creators and their viewers

**TRAVIS KATZ** | GENERAL MANAGER AND VP (SHOPPING), YOUTUBE

Industry 5.0 represents a defining moment for the manufacturing sector - one that creates a symbiotic relationship between humans and advanced technologies like AI, robotics and the IoT

**SUDIPTA GHOSH** | PARTNER AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS LEADER, PWC INDIA

## Q2 RESULTS

### JSW Steel profit plunges over 85%

**New Delhi:** Steelmaker JSW Steel Friday reported a steep fall of 85.43 per cent in its consolidated net profit at ₹404 crore in the July-September quarter of the current fiscal, affected by lower income. The company had posted a net profit of ₹2,773 crore in the second quarter of the last financial year. The total income decreased to ₹39,837 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal as against ₹44,821 crore a year ago, JSW Steel said.

### HPCL net profit slumps over 97%

**New Delhi:** State-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) Friday reported a massive 97.5 per cent drop in net profit in the September quarter, as refinery margins fell and marketing margins shrunk. HPCL reported a consolidated net profit of ₹142.67 crore in July-September -- the second quarter of the current 2024-25 fiscal year -- compared to a profit of ₹5,826.96 crore a year back. Net profit also declined sequentially, when compared to an earning of ₹633.94 crore in the April-June period.

### IndiGo flies back into red after 2 yrs

**New Delhi:** India's IndiGo airline operator Interglobe Aviation swung to its first quarterly loss in two years, weighed down by fuel expenses and aircraft rental costs. The country's largest airline IndiGo Friday reported a net loss of ₹986.7 crore in the three months ended September, impacted by grounding of planes and higher fuel costs. The carrier had a profit of ₹188.9 crore in the year-ago period, according to a release. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said the airline's growth and expansion continued as the topline grew by 14.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis in the September quarter to ₹17,800 crore.

### BPCL net profit falls 72 per cent

**New Delhi:** State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) Friday reported a steep 72 per cent drop in net profit in the September quarter, as refinery margins fell and marketing margins shrunk. BPCL reported a consolidated net profit of ₹2,297.23 crore in July-September -- the second quarter of the current fiscal -- compared to a profit of ₹8,243.55 crore a year back.



There would be no pact if the European Union insists on opening the dairy sector. If we respect (these) things, the FTA can be done very honourably, admirably, and fast

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

### SWIGGY LOWERS IPO TARGET

Food delivery giant Swiggy is internally aiming for a company valuation of \$12.5 billion-13.5 billion for its upcoming IPO, cutting its target by 10-16% due to market volatility, sources said. Swiggy was earlier targeting a \$15 billion valuation for its \$1.4 billion November IPO which will be the country's second biggest stock offering this year, behind Hyundai India's debut this week



## MARKET CRASH

# Widespread selloff spooks D-St

Shares log worst weekly run in 14 months on foreign outflows, frail earnings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 25:** Declining for the fifth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex Friday plunged about 660 points to crash below the 80,000 level due to widespread selling pressure tracking massive foreign capital outflows and muted earnings growth. Besides, deep losses in energy, consumer durable and industrial stocks and surging global crude prices amid geopolitical uncertainties added to the gloom, analysts said.

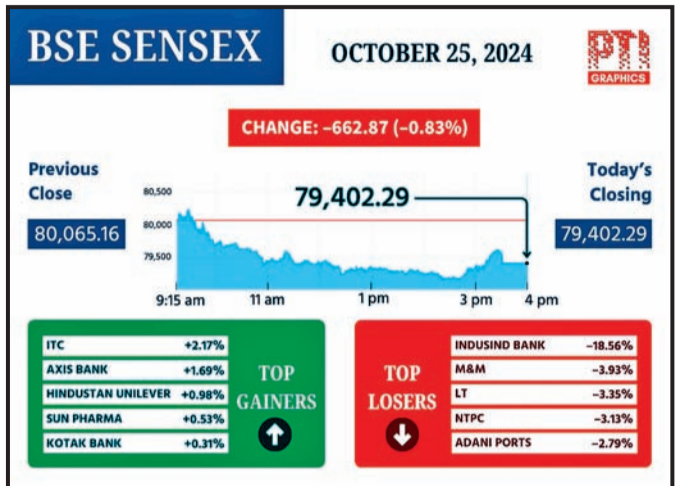
The BSE Sensex plummeted 662.87 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 79,402.29. During the day, it plunged 927.18 points or 1.15 per cent to 79,137.98.

A total of 3,101 stocks declined, while 841 advanced and 79 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty tanked 218.60 points or 0.90 per cent to 24,180.80. The index closed lower for the fourth consecutive week.

From the 30 Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank plunged over 18.50 per cent after the firm reported a 40 per cent decline in September quarter net profit at ₹1,331 crore, pulled down by concerns over its asset quality.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Maruti, Bajaj Finance and Titan were also among the laggards.

In contrast, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma



**SENTIMENT HURT:** Selling by FIIs in the month of Oct is nearing ₹1tn, which has turned out to be the highest selling by foreign investors in a month

and ICICI Bank were the other big gainers.

ITC climbed over 2 per cent after the diversified entity reported an 1.8 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹5,054.43 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024.

"Nifty ended on a weak note on Friday near two-and-half-month lows despite the last-hour bounce.

The domestic market faced a continuous fall due to persistent FII selling. All sectors, except FMCG, were impacted, with small and midcap stocks suffering the most. However, DII have been a strong buyer absorbing the selling and mitigating the fall. Due to the regressive selling, the domestic market is expected to reach the oversold territory

**VINOD NAIR** | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

**5TH DAY OF FALL**

- Sensex plummets 662.87 points to settle at 79,402.29
- Nifty tanks 218.60 points to close session at 24,180.80

**INVESTMENT LOST**

- Investors' wealth erodes by a whopping ₹6.80L-cr Friday
- Fourth straight weekly drop erodes ₹20L-cr in investor wealth

ON WEEKLY FRONT, BSE TANKED 1,822.46 POINTS OR 2.24%, AND NIFTY FELL BY 673.25 POINTS OR 2.70%

It fell for the fifth consecutive session," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Indian markets have fallen on all days of the week reeling under FPI selling pressure, weak Q2 results from most corporates and rising treasury yields in the US, Jasani said.

"Though a bounce in the markets is overdue, it needs a reversal of selling pressure from FPIs and some sentiment stability in the local investor community," he added.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined by 2.44 per cent, and the midcap index fell by 1.48 per cent.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Khimji Jewellers' 'Raunak Wali Diwali'

**Bhubaneswar:** Khimji Jewellers, Odisha's one of the trusted jeweller, is on a quest to make this Diwali unforgettable with their campaign titled 'Raunak Wali Diwali'. As a glittering continuation of their viral ad film featuring actress Prakruti Mishra, the brand now guarantees superb deals on gold, diamond, silver, CZ, fashion jewellery, and luxury watches for jewellery buyers this Diwali. The brand is offering a flat 50% off on gold jewellery making charges, a flat 20% off on diamond jewellery making charges, a 25% off on the making charges for silver jewellery, and a flat 15% off on silver MRP items. In the semi-precious category, the brand is offering a flat 20% off on MRP of fashion jewellery and a flat 10% off on MRP of 18k CZ jewellery. In the segment of luxury watches, the jewellery brand has announced a grand offer of up to 70% off on selected items.



### Canara Bank expands branch network

**Bhubaneswar:** With the aim of providing convenient banking solution to the customers, Canara Bank is expanding branch network in Odisha by opening new branches across the state. In last two days, the bank has opened two new branches at Padmapur Town and Talcher. Earlier this financial year, it opened its branches at 42 Mouza Cuttack district, NIST Berhampur and Chandbali. After inaugurating the branches, Circle Head and General Manager Jagdish Chander informed that the branches will prioritise agricultural loans to SHGs, gold, housing, education and vehicle loans along with MSME loans to customers.



## NON-COMPLIANCE

### Reserve Bank revokes authorisation to UAE Exchange Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 25:** The Reserve Bank has revoked the certificate of authorisation of UAE Exchange Centre LLC for non-compliance with regulatory requirements and now it cannot transact the business of cross border in-bound money transfer.

UAE Exchange Centre LLC (UAEEC), with registered office in Dubai, was issued Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) for cross border in-bound money transfer operator (customer-to-customer) as 'Overseas Principal'.

In a statement, the RBI said the CoA of the payment system operator has been revoked for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

Following the revocation of CoA, UAEEC cannot transact the business of cross border in-bound money transfer as 'Overseas Principal', it added.

## ₹ LINGERS NEAR ALL-TIME LOW

Rupee falls 1 paise to settle at 84.08 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

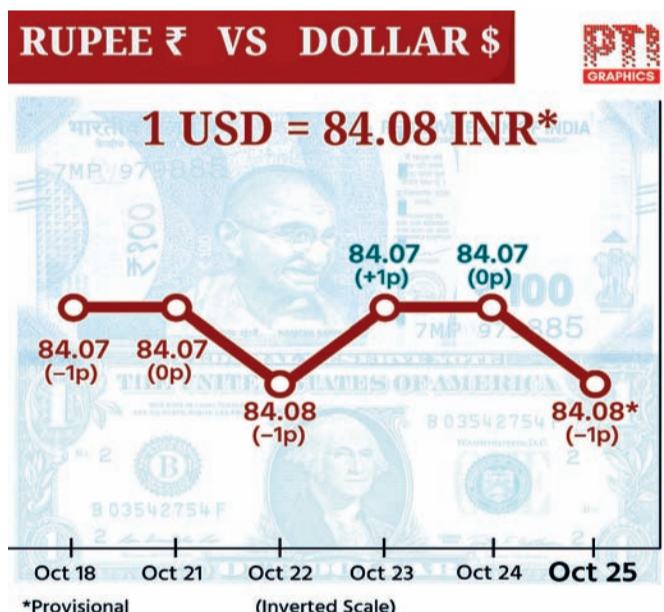
**Mumbai, Oct 25:** The rupee edged lower by just 1 paise to settle near all-time low at 84.08 against the US dollar Friday, weighed down by a firm American currency and relentless foreign fund outflows.

Besides, a weak trend in domestic equity markets also dented market sentiment, forex traders said. Also, they said, higher US treasury yields, fear of slower interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve and uncertain geopolitical scenario have prompted investors to move cautiously.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic unit opened at 84.07 against the

The rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias on overall strength in the US dollar and sustained FII outflows. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹83.90 to ₹84.30

**ANU CHOUDHARY** | RESEARCH ANALYST, SHAREKHAN



greenback and traded in a tight range of 84.07 to 84.09 during the session.

The unit finally settled at 84.08 against the dollar, just 1 paise lower from its previous closing level. The local currency touched its lowest closing level of 84.10 against the dollar Oct 11.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was higher by 0.01 per cent at 103.93.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, climbed 0.51 per cent to \$74.76 per barrel in futures trade.

# Ent industry lost ₹22,400cr to piracy

**PIRACY ECONOMY RANKS FOURTH AGAINST SEGMENT-WISE REVENUE GENERATED BY INDIA'S MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IN 2023**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** The Indian entertainment industry suffered a staggering loss of ₹22,400 crore in 2023 due to piracy, according to a report released Friday, that advocated for stronger regulations and collaborative efforts to effectively mitigate piracy risks.

According to "The Rob Report" by EY and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), 51 per cent of media consumers in India access content from pirated sources, with streaming services being the most significant contributor at 63 per cent.

"The size of India's piracy economy was ₹22,400 crore in 2023, ranking fourth against the segment-wise revenue generated by India's Media and Entertainment industry.

"Of this, ₹13,700 crore was generated from pirated content from movie theatres while ₹8,700



The rapid growth of digital entertainment in India is undeniable, with filmed entertainment expected to reach ₹14,600 crore by 2026. However, this potential is severely threatened by rampant piracy. It is imperative for all stakeholders - government bodies, industry players, and consumers -- to unite in combating this issue

**ROHIT JAIN** | CHAIRMAN, IAMA's DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

crore was generated from OTT platforms' content. The potential GST losses of up to ₹4,300 crore were estimated to have been incurred," it said.

Piracy refers to the unauthorised copying, distribution, or use of copyrighted material, which can include music, movies, software, and other forms of intellectual property.

GST losses of up to ₹4,300cr were estimated to have been incurred due to piracy

It is considered a form of theft because it infringes on the rights of the original creators and can lead to significant financial losses for them.

Viewers cited high subscription fees, the unavailability of desired content, and the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions as primary reasons for indulging in pirated content.

The report said that piracy is particularly prevalent among younger audiences aged 19 to 34, with women favouring OTT shows, while men gravitate towards classic films.

Interestingly, 64 per cent of those who access pirated content expressed willingness to switch to authorised channels if offered for free, despite advertisement interruptions, revealing the need for content providers to rethink their pricing models and accessibility strategies. Around 70 per cent of pirated content consumers claimed that they did not wish to purchase any OTT subscriptions.

The report also revealed that piracy is more prevalent in Tier II cities compared to Tier I cities. "Limited means of watching authorised content, easy access to pirated content, a lack of awareness about the perils of piracy, income disparity and inaccessible theatres are some of the reasons for this contrast. Tier I users typically access pirated content to watch old films while those from Tier II cities watch legitimate versions of recently launched films, once again showcasing the unwillingness to pay for tickets," it said.

## SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

# MF investor count crosses 50mn feat

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** The sustained buoyancy in the equity market and a surge in equity fund launches brought nearly 10 million new investors to the mutual fund (MF) fold in the past 12 months, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

MFs had added only 4.4 million investors during the October 2022-September 2023 period.

The total investor count stood at 50.1 million at the end of September 2024, surpassing the 40 million mark reached in September 2023.

The unique investor count is tracked using the number of permanent account numbers (PANs) registered with MF schemes.

According to MF executives, the surge in new investors is underpinned by the growing appeal of equity investments.

While retail interest in equities has been steadily growing since the pandemic, the recent uptick in investor numbers is attributed



Pace of investor addition has more than doubled compared to the previous 12 months

to the strong market rally, the robust performance of equity schemes, and a wave of new fund offerings (NFOs) in popular categories, as per experts.

The benchmark indices, the National Stock Exchange Nifty 50 and the S&P BSE Sensex, rose around 35 per cent in the one-year period ending September 30. In comparison, the two indices had increased by only about 10 per cent in the previous 12 months.

NEW ZEALAND ON CUSP OF HISTORY AFTER BOWLING INDIA OUT FOR 156 IN THE 1ST INNINGS COURTESY SANTNER'S 7 WICKETS

# Shambolic batting show

AGENCIES

**Pune, Oct 25:** New Zealand took massive strides towards doing the unthinkable: not just their first Test series win in India, but also India's first series defeat at home in 12 years. Mitchell Santner who had never taken four wickets in an innings before this Test, and with just one first-class five-for to his name, tied Indian batters to the crease and took seven wickets to bowl the hosts out for 156.

After New Zealand had taken a healthy lead of 103 runs, their batters led by skipper Tom Latham (86, 133b, 10x4) did some efficient front-running by attacking the Indian spinners to end the day with a lead of 301 runs and five wickets in hand.

It would not be wrong to say that it was a shambolic show by the Indian batters, the prime example being Virat Kohli who was bowled by a Santner full toss for a nine-ball one. Except for Ravindra Jadeja (38), Shubman Gill (30) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (30), none of the other Indian batters showed the gumption to stay and fight in the middle. If pace had been their undoing in Bangalore, it was spinners Santner and his partner in crime Glenn Phillips (2/26) who triggered a monumental collapse on a



Mitchell Santner

Washington Sundar once more picked up vital wickets for India in the second innings

PTI PHOTOS

pitch that is still not as treacherous as the Bangalore wicket was on the third day.

Tom Blundell (30 batting) had Phillips (7 batting) for company when stumps were drawn. The only silver lining for India was Washington Sundar's continuing good show. He completed 11 wickets in the match, adding four more to his career-best first innings haul of seven.

Latham did well to raise hopes for a first century since December 2022 but Sundar ended his progress at 86 with a ball that kept slightly low. Every added run tightened the screws further on India whose spinners appeared to have been out-bowled by their

Kiwi counterparts.

As India endured yet another 'one bad session of play', six wickets fell in the morning for a mere 91 runs which made the pitch look unfavourable for batting when it was not the case.

While Santner's orthodox spin tested the Indians' defence and resolve, India's failure to rotate strike added to their woes.

Jaiswal had done fairly well to reach 30, but going with hard hands to defend a delivery outside off, spinning away from his bat to take an edge to the first slip, gave Phillips his first wicket. If that wasn't enough, Rishabh Pant's (18) failure to read the lack of bounce while

going for a mighty heave across the line against the part-time spin of Phillips, resulted in the ball crashing into his off-stump, leaving India in a desperate situation at 83 for five.

At the end of the day's play, Santner said he never thought he would get Kohli's wicket with a full toss. "The moment the ball left my hand, I thought it was going for a six," Santner stated. "I was in shock for a while as Kohli's stumps were rattled. It was not a wicket-taking delivery," he added. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 259 and 198 for 5 (Tom Latham 86, Washington Sundar 4/56) vs India 156 (Ravindra Jadeja 38, Mitchell Santner 7/53).

# Sports Ministry clears wrestlers for Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** The government Friday cleared Indian wrestling team's participation at the World Championships (WC) after all the 12 selected athletes assembled outside the residence of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and sought his intervention, a day after the WFI withdrew the nation's entries from the prestigious tournament.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) was Thursday forced to pull all three Indian teams out of the championships after wrestler Satyawart Kadian, husband of Sakshi Malik, approached the court against the federation's decision to conduct trials for the U-23 and senior Worlds. Kadian contended that since WFI is suspended, it was committing a contempt of court by taking decisions.

"A group of wrestlers met me and appraised me of the issue and their concerns. I gave the direction that the court matter will continue in court but the

wrestlers must compete in World Championships. They should get this opportunity. Whatever and wherever I needed to speak, I have done that," Mandaviya told reporters. The wrestlers met the minister along with WFI president Sanjay Singh. The interaction lasted about an hour.

"We discussed the issue with the minister, who assured that they will take responsibility if a contempt charge is levelled on the federation and cleared the participation of the team. Tickets have already been booked and the team will depart as scheduled Sunday morning," Singh said.

The women wrestlers who met the minister were Manisha Bhanwala (65kg), Mansi Ahlawat (59kg), Kirti (55kg) and Bipasha (72kg). Four men's freestyle wrestlers Udit (61kg), Manish Goswami (70kg), Parvinder Singh (79kg), Sandeep Mann (92kg) and as many Greco-Roman exponents Sanjeev (55kg), Chetan (63kg), Ankit Gulia (72kg) and Rohit Dahiya (82kg) also were present at the meeting.



Wrestlers wait in front of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's residence in New Delhi, Friday

PTI PHOTO

# Rana, Reddy in team for Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** Delhi speedster Harshit Rana and Andhra seam bowling all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy have earned their maiden call-up in the 18-member Indian team led by Rohit Sharma for the upcoming five-Test series against Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The series starts November 22 with the Test at Perth.

There is no Mohammed Shami in the squad while Kuldeep Yadav has been advised long term rehabilitation for his groin injury.

From the squad picked for New Zealand series, Axar Patel has been dropped. However, all-rounder Washington Sundar,

who has so far picked up 11 wickets against the Kiwis in the ongoing Test at Pune, has found a place in the team for Down Under.

Prior to their departure for Australia, the Men in Blue will play a four-match T20I series against South Africa at home. Karnataka seamer Vyshak Vijaykumar and Punjab batter Ramandeep Singh have been included while express pacer Mayank Yadav has again got injured. He is at the Centre of Excellence for recuperation.

Sources meanwhile said that Kuldeep's rehabilitation may take more than three months and he will not go to Australia. **Squad for Australia:** Rohit

Sharma (captain), Jasprit Bumrah (vice-captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohd Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar.

**Team for T20Is against South Africa:** Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarty, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan and Yash Dayal.

# Mourinho given marching orders

AGENCIES

**Istanbul, Oct 25:** Fenerbahce coach Jose Mourinho was sent off as his side drew 1-1 with his former club Manchester United in the Europa League Thursday after Christian Eriksen's early goal was cancelled out by Youssef En-Nesyri.

Joshua Zirkzee found Eriksen with a short pass and the Danish midfielder put United ahead in the 15th minute with a powerful first time shot from the edge of the area.

However, after the break Youssef beat United keeper Andre Onana as he headed in Allan Saint-Maximin's cross.

# Colts play out thrilling draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Johor Bahru (Malaysia), Oct 25:** India hockey colts displayed remarkable composure to finish their round-robin stage with a thrilling 3-3 draw against New Zealand at the Sultan of Johor Cup here Friday.

Gurjot Singh (sixth), Rohit (17th) and Talem Priyobarta (60th) put their names on the score-sheet, while drag-flicker Jonty Elmes (17th, 32nd, 45th) scored a hat-trick for New Zealand.

India got off to a strong start with a fine goal from Gurjot early on. Gurjot's first shot on goal, assisted by Sukhvinder, bounced straight back after the goalkeeper made the save. In his second at-



tempt, he skillfully lofted the ball to the roof of the net to earn India an important 1-0 lead. India had a chance to extend their lead in the eighth minute after earning two back-to-back penalty corners (PCs) but the New Zealand custodian produced outstanding saves.

New Zealand eventually worked their way through Indian defence in the 17th minute when Elmes scored a fine field goal to equalise. But India was quick to respond,

with Rohit striking from a penalty corner to regain the momentum and also lead 2-1.

Both teams played at frantic speed and though India created a flurry of penalty corners towards the end of the second quarter, they could not convert.

To their dismay, New Zealand began the third quarter with Elmes converting a penalty corner. He then again struck from another PC to hand New Zealand the lead.

With 90 seconds left on the clock, India found a golden opportunity to equalise when they earned a PC. This time, they found success with a splendid variation which was executed to perfection by Priyobarta.

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