10 killed as oxygen cylinder explodes in Pakistan's Sindh

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

COUNTRY	Max	Min		COUNTRY	Max	Min	
Australia (Canberra)	18	4	SNY	Singapore	30	27	SNY
Indonesia (Bali)	27	21	LC	South Korea (Seoul)	17	7	LR
Italy (Rome)	22	9	LC	Switzerland (Bern)	17	4	SNY
Japan (Tokyo)	23	16	LR	Thailand (Bangkok)	33	25	LR
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	29	24	SNY	Türkiye (Ankara)	16	11	LC
Maldives (Male)	29	29	LR	UAE (Dubai)	33	28	SNY
Mauritius (Port Louis)	29	22	SNY	Vietnam (Hanoi)	32	23	LR

Spain declares mourning for 3 days; French nat'ls missing

URDA

SPAIN began three days of mourning on Thursday after its second high-speed rail collision this year killed 69 people and injured scores, with relatives desperately seeking news about their loved ones.

French officials are still trying to trace "several" citizens following the train accident, France's Foreign Ministry said Thursday. "At this stage, we are still attempting to establish contact with several of our nationals and are in touch with their families." Meanwhile, news outlet BFM reported that two French citizens were missing.

One of Europe's deadliest train disasters this century has raised fresh questions about safety on Spain's rail network after the transport minister reported an "error" and "inexplicable circumstances" that led to the crash. During a visit to the crash site, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez pledged to establish the cause of the crash. "We are working day and night not only to support the victims' families, but also to establish every last detail of this tragedy and strengthen safety measures to ensure it never happens again," he said.

The collision happened in the central region of Castilla-La Mancha on Wednesday morning when a service by state operator Renfe ploughed into the back of a stationary train belonging to private Spanish company Iryo.

Emergency services combed through the twisted wreckage at night to find further victims on the key line linking Madrid with the southern city of Seville.

Sniffer dogs and thermal drones were deployed at the crash site a few kilometres from the village of Urda on Thursday to search for bodies, the regional government said.

Teams from France's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and its embassy in Spain were monitoring the situation closely and remained in constant contact with local authorities, the ministry said. *AFP*

Bibi seeks to sideline Arab parties after poll deadlock

Funding allegations raise stakes as Arabs become kingmakers in Israel government formation

JERUSALEM

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc on Thursday piled pressure on Arab-Israeli leaders over unproven accusations of foreign funding, in a push to neuter parties that could hold the key to forming a government after an inconclusive election.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who holds a largely ceremonial role, called for an investigation into allegations but cautioned against stigmatising the entire Arab-Israeli community, who voted at unprecedented rates. Israel was nearing the completion of ballot counting from Tuesday's election, the first since Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks, with neither Netanyahu nor the opposition bloc led by former military chief Gadi Eisenkot appearing able to secure a majority.

The Netanyahu camp's accusations, denied by both Arab-majority lists, could bring new uncertainty into the electoral process at a time when the threat of a new Israeli and US attack on Iran looms over the region. The election saw soaring participation by Arab-Israelis, descendants of Palestinians who stayed after the country's creation in 1948, as outrage boiled at calls by officials such as National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir to treat their community much as Israel has dealt with Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. Following Netanyahu's accusations, Ben Gvir went so far as to encourage Israel to "immediately" order the arrests of Arab party leaders.



Israeli left-wing activists hold placards and chant slogans during a demonstration calling for forming a new government with Arab parties as allies in Tel Aviv | AFP

The Arab parties together have enough votes to take the opposition bloc over the finish line, but Eisenkot has baulked after relentless attacks by Netanyahu, who warned his right-wing Jewish base that voting for the opposition would put Arabs in power.

Supreme Court Justice Noam Sohlberg, a conservative who heads the Central Elections Committee, requested an investigation by the Shin Bet security service into allegations that the Arab grouping Raam received money from Qatar, the energy-rich Gulf powerbroker that has channels to Hamas. "The Raamgate scandal is a political earthquake. Israel's elections have been stolen!" Netanyahu's Likud party said. Raam chief Mansour Abbas denied any "connection to the affair" and welcomed an investigation. The Joint List accused Netanyahu and allies of "incitement" driven by fear of Arab citizens' political strength. *AFP*

UTJ eyes to ditch Netanyahu, support Eisenkot to form govt

JERUSALEM

THE ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism (UTJ) party is considering supporting a government led by opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot from outside the coalition in exchange for compromises on military draft exemptions, *The Times of Israel* reported, citing *Channel 12 news*.

UTJ, which has seven seats according to the latest vote count, could refrain from voting against an Eisenkot-led government, allowing it to rely on the support of the Islamic Ra'am party, the report said.

"We won't receive anything from Netanyahu," a UTJ source was quoted as telling *Channel 12*, adding that the party's alliance with the prime minister had run its course, particularly as his bloc fell short of the 61 seats needed for a majority.

UTJ seeks Knesset influence, while Eisenkot's demands for universal military service and dismantling Hamas clash with its stance.

Palestinian prez hopes for peace talks with new govt

NICOSIA: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday voiced hope that a new Israeli government would enable the resumption of peace talks. "We hope that, immediately after a new Israeli government is formed, we will be able to engage in dialogue together," Abbas said during a meeting with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides in Nicosia.

ASIA MATTERS



INDONESIA

21 FOREIGNERS ARRESTED IN GAMBLING RAID

Authorities detained 21 foreign nationals in Bali over alleged involvement in an international online gambling syndicate. The suspects comprise 12 Myanmar nationals, eight Vietnamese and one Chinese citizen. Immigration officers raided two houses on Thursday, seizing 36 personal smartphones, 29 operational phones, 18 laptops, six desktop computers and three tablets. Investigators said the group allegedly operated an illegal gambling website, processing transactions through Chinese payment platforms Alipay and WeChat Pay.

MALAYSIA

750 PERMANENT MED JOBS OFFERED

The Health Ministry will recruit 750 permanent medical officers for Sabah and Sarawak, with applications open November 9-15. Eligible contract officers must have completed housemanship and secured full medical registration. Successful candidates report on February 15, 2027, to help address staffing shortages in Sabah and Sarawak.

THAILAND

RABBI LOSES CITIZENSHIP OVER PASSPORT

Authorities revoked prominent Rabbi Yosef Chaim Kantor's citizenship after he repeatedly used his US passport following naturalisation in 2013, the interior ministry said on Thursday. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul signed the order under the 1965 Nationality Act, which prohibits naturalised citizens from retaining their former nationality. Kantor, who has lived in the country since 1993, used his US passport up to 16 times to travel to Australia, officials said. The move followed raids on three Jewish organisations in Bangkok earlier this month over alleged violations.

Vance makes last-ditch bid to revive talks with letter to Iran

TEHRAN

US Vice President JD Vance has made a fresh bid to avert further US strikes on Iran by sending a letter seeking to revive negotiations, Iranian media reported on Thursday, adding that Tehran had yet to respond. *Tasnim news agency* reported that "Iran has received the letter but has not yet responded", while Fars news agency carried a similar account, citing "a source familiar with the matter".

The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that Vance had sent the letter to Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei at the direction of US President Donald Trump, in a bid to revive negotiations and avert new US strikes. The letter and subsequent contact between US and Iranian officials focused on a possible framework for negotiations rather than a peace deal, the newspaper reported.



US Vice President JD Vance | AFP

'4 tankers ablaze in Hormuz'

At least four tankers have caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's armed forces said Thursday, a day after the US military said it had cleared key routes through the waterway.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorised southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said in a statement.

US denies Iran captured drone

The US military is denying Iran's claim that it seized control of an American surveillance drone and captured it intact near the Strait of Hormuz Iranian state television reported Thursday that the Revolutionary Guard, in an "electronic warfare operation," detected and identified the MQM-170 Outlaw drone, and took over of its control systems before landing it in Iranian territory. It did not say when the drone was allegedly seized. *AFP/AP*



Cars on fire following a Russian air attack in Chernyhiv, Ukraine | AP

Aid set to reach Ukraine's Oleshky as localised ceasefire enters third day

KYIV

HUMANITARIAN aid is poised to roll into the stricken city of Oleshky, a Ukrainian official said Thursday, as a localized ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine stretched into a third day and military units cleared away landmines.

Moscow and Kyiv have observed the truce in and around the devastated southern Ukrainian city since Tuesday, but remain otherwise locked in the war that began with Russia's full-scale invasion more than 4 ½ years ago. Previous efforts to secure ceasefires either never worked out or the truces quickly fell apart.

Elsewhere, a jet-powered Russian drone hit two passenger trains stopped at a station in Dnipro in central Ukraine on Thursday, killing at least 14 people and injuring 14 more, including a 40-year-old man whose legs were amputated, officials said. Also, a Russian cruise missile killed two 15-year-old girls in the northern city of Chernihiv, and three more civilians died when a Russian drone hit an apartment block in the central Ukraine city of Kremenchuk, authorities said. In all, 56 people were injured in the strikes, including 10 children.

Russia's Defense Ministry said air defenses downed 1,214 Ukrainian drones overnight in one of the largest drone attacks launched by Kyiv. Around half of the drones were heading to the Russian capital, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said.

The planned six-day ceasefire around Russian-occupied Oleshky has brought a rare and welcome stillness for civilians in the nearby city of Kherson, which is held by Ukraine and has also been wracked by the war. *AP*

US blocks Chinese biotech imports over labour claims

WASHINGTON

The Trump administration said on Wednesday that it is blocking shipments by the Chinese biotech company BGI Group and its affiliates, alleging ties to forced labor in China's far-west ethnic region of Xinjiang.

Starting Thursday, US Customs and Border Protection will bar goods by BGI Group, a major biotech company known for its genetic sequencing technologies, as well as BGI Genomics and MGI Tech.

The Department of Homeland Security said the companies are either sourcing materials from Xinjiang or working with the regional government to "recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, or receive forced labor" of members of persecuted ethnic groups in Xinjiang, including Uyghurs.

Adding the companies to a trade blacklist comes as biotechnology is emerging as another front in the economic and tech competition between the U.S. and China. The Treasury Department last week proposed new restrictions on US investments in biotechnology, artificial intelligence and supercomputing from flowing into countries such as China.

China said it rejected any accusation of forced labor and called the ban an act of "political manipulation" and "bullying under the guise of 'protecting human rights.'"

"These listings run counter to the consensus reached by the two countries' heads of state, seriously undermine the stability of China-U.S. economic and trade relations, and violate the spirit of humanitarianism," said China's Ministry of Commerce in a Thursday morning statement. "China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its interests."

The latest trade actions precede an expected meeting next month between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where BGI Group is based. Xi could then travel to Florida in December for the Group of 20 leaders summit and meet Trump for the fourth time this year as the two try to keep ties stable during a trade truce.

BGI Group denied the allegations, saying Wednesday it had never engaged in forced labour and opposed the practice. *AP*

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MAHE DIVISION, MAHE

No.1-7/PW/DBM/D1/26-27

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Mahe Division, PWD, Mahe invites on behalf of the President of India, online bids for the following work :

Tender No.11/EEM/26-27/45(25-26). Name of Work : **Construction of three storeyed building with five class rooms and toilet block for 1. K.Kumaran Government Higher Secondary School, Pandakkal, Mahe.** Estimate Cost : **Rs.2,87,39,324/-** (inclusive of GST). Earnest Money : **Rs.5,74,786/-**. Period of Completion : **10 (Ten) Months** (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender : **16.11.2026 @ 9.30 A.M.** The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: **www.pudutenders.gov.in.**

For clarification regarding tender contact Department No. **- 0490 2333280,** email id : **pwdmahe@gmail.com**

No.250/DIP/AD(Press)/ADVT/2026-27 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Office of the Superintending Engineer, DS Circle, PSPCL, Patiala, 66 KV Grid Sub Station Colony, DCW Road, Patiala-147001 (Punjab), 96461-01201, 96461-10963
E-mail: circlepatiala1@gmail.com
Reg.Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala (Punjab)

Tender Enquiry No. 39/SE/DS Circle, Patiala/2026-27 Dated : 28.10.2026

Superintending Engineer / DS Circle, PSPCL Patiala invites e-tender for Outsourcing of Labour Part for Erection, Testing & Commissioning of New 11KVLT / HT Lines on Rail / PCC Poles, Distribution T/Fs, Augmentation / Sagging of ACSR of HT/LT Lines, Cables laying, Guarding, Stay Set for Various Works such as Releasing of T/Well Connections, GSC/ISC Connections, Deloading of Overloaded T/Fs, Shifting of Meters Outside Consumer Premises, Preventive maintenance of HT/LT lines not involving conductor replacement or insertion of extra poles Earthing of DTs/Lines or any Development Works under DS WEST Division Patiala under DS Circle Patiala.

For detailed NIT and Tender Specifications please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **28.10.2026, 06:00 PM** onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-1027/26/29/10/2026
1079/12/2026-27/16629

IDBI BANK

IDBI Bank Ltd
No.72, Mayflower "E" Castle, Dr. Balasundaram Road, Off. Avinashi Road, ATT Colony, Coimbatore- 641018
Website: www.idbi.bank.in, CIN : L65190MH2004GOI148838

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **IDBI Bank,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 20.11.2026 (between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.),** for recovery of **Rs.68,75,844/- (as on 01.10.2026)** due to the **IDBI Bank,** Secured Creditor from **Shri.Vivek. B and Smt.B. Amutha.** The reserve price will be **Rs.80,73,000/-** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.8,07,300/-.**

Description of the immovable properties

Residential Property admeasuring land extent of 620 Sq.ft. along with building constructed therein (built-up area – 1,480 Sq.ft.), situated in Ward-C, Block- 6, T.S. No.137, in this R. Survey Ward-K, Block-6, T.S. No.52/15 & Ward-K, Block – 6, T.S. No.52/3 and situated within the limits of Alagapuram Pudur, Salem Taluk.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.baanknet.com and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.idbi.bank.in

Date : 23.10.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Coimbatore **IDBI Bank Ltd.**

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0478-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMML_870461_1	Process Design Consultancy for Vent Gas Scrubbing Systems in IBP
2	2026_KMML_881631_1	Area cleaning & formation of ETP temporary storage pond

Chavara 29.10.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

JOTHI HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
116, Veerapathra Street, VCTV Main Road, Penna Tower, Erode - 638003 (Erode Branch)
No.3, Manoranjitham Street, Annamalai Nagar, Tiruchirapalli – 620 018

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule 8(1)] (for immovable property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized officer of **Jothi Housing And Mortgage Finance Private Limited,** Asset Recovery Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices dated as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers and to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices being as mentioned below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Co-borrower/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on **29.10.2026.**

The borrowers/co-borrower/guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Jothi Housing And Mortgage Finance Private Limited** for an amount as below mentioned and together with further interest and charges thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower, to redeem the secured assets

1. Borrower : S.Ranjithkumar S/o.Subramaniyam, No.1/2-130, Mel Colony, Tharkadu Post, Mettur, Kaveripuram, Salem – 636 303. **Co Borrower :** R.Amsaveni, W/o.Ranjithkumar, No.1/2-130, Mel Colony, Tharkadu Post, Mettur, Kaveripuram, Salem – 636 303.

Demand notice dated 01.07.2026. Demand Notice Dues : Rs.7,12,405 (Seven Lakh Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Five Rupees) as on 01.07.2026 together with further interest and charges at the contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you.

Possession Notice dated 29.10.2026. Possession Notice Dues:Rs.7,19,971 (Seven Lakh Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred And Seventy-One Rupees) as on 28.10.2026 together with further interest and charges thereon.

Description of Secured Assets : AS PER DOC.NO.2595/2017: Salem District, Salem West Registration District, Kollathur Sub Registration District. Karunkallur village divided out from the Kaveripuram village. Natham Old Survey No.1075/1Part, for this Natham Patta No.375, Natham new survey no. 1231/27, measures 0.0086.0 for this kist Rs.2.00 measures 926 sq ft of land. East of: Saroja house, West of: Kuppan house, South of: Anaiyanhouse, North of: Common Street. Admeasures East West on North side 9.2 mt, East West on South side 11.8 mt, North South on East side 7.2 mt, North South on West side 9.0 mt which totally measuring an extent of 926 sq ft of land. Therefore, the said property had a common mamool pathway and easemntary rights thereto. The said property lies in Karungallur Village panchayat limit out of the Kaveripuram.

AS PER DOC.NO.1828/2011: Salem District, Salem West Registration District, Kollathur Sub Registration District, Karukallur village divided from the Kaveripuram village, Natham New R.S.No.1075/1 Part in this 0.0096.0 sq mt of land as per Natham patta no.501 New R.S.No.1231/31 measures 0.0096.0 sq mt for this kist Rs.2.00 measures 1032.75 sq ft of land is situated within the following boundaries: East of: Chinnapaiyan land, West of: North south street, North of: East West Street, South of: Kuppan land Admeasures, 1032.75 sq ft of land, Therefore the said property had a common mamool pathway and easementary rights thereto. Therefore, the said property lies in Patta No.501. Therefore, the said property lies in Karukallur village panchayat, Kollathur panchayat divided from the Kaveripuram village.

DATE : 29.10.2026 **AUTHORISED OFFICER**
PLACE: TRICHY **JOTHI HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED**