



Malaika defies age

Actor and dancer Malaika Arora says that for her age is not a limit but an evolution

LEISURE | P2



Hirakud needs overhaul

67-year-old Hirakud Dam requires comprehensive overhauling to address structural concerns and enhance capacity

STATE | P5



Gold hits ₹1.05L

Gold price surges ₹1,000 to hit yet another record high of ₹1,05,670 per 10 gram in the national capital Monday

BUSINESS | P11



Record payout

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 set a new benchmark with a record-breaking prize pool of \$13.88 million

SPORTS | P12



NATURE'S FURY: NDRF and SDRF personnel conduct search and rescue operations at Pausari village that was ravaged by a cloudburst in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand, Monday **(Report P9)**

Brahmins gain at cost of Indians: Navarro

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 1: In a new rant against India for its purchases of Russian oil, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro has said that 'Brahmins' are profiteering at the expense of the Indian people and it needs to 'stop'.

"Look (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi is a great leader," Navarro, the Trump administration's Senior Counsellor for Trade and Manufacturing, said in an interview with Fox News Sunday.

The trade adviser said that he doesn't understand how the Indian leader is cooperating with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping "when he's the biggest democracy in the world".

"So I would just simply say, the Indian people, please understand what's going on here. You got Brahmins profiteering at the expense of the Indian people. We need that to stop," Navarro said.

Trump: India offers to cut tariffs to nothing

New York/Washington: US President Donald Trump Monday claimed that India has now "offered" to cut its tariffs to nothing, "but it's getting late", as he said that India buys most of its oil and military products from Russia and very little from the US.

"What few people understand is that we do very little business with India, but they do a tremendous amount of business with us," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. He added that India sells to the US, its biggest "client", "massive" amounts of goods, "but we sell them very little - Until now a totally one sided relationship, and it has been for many decades."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Free diagnosis at AYUSH hosps

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: In a major step towards enhancing healthcare accessibility, the state government Monday announced that free diagnostic services under Nidaan scheme will be available at AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries across the state within a fortnight.

Health & Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling said the initiative will cover institutions offering Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic treatment. The scheme will be implemented in nine Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic medical colleges and over 1,100 AYUSH hospitals, ensuring wider access to diagnostic facilities for patients.

The move is expected to benefit thousands of patients who previously relied on symptom-based treatment without proper diagnostic support. With this facility, patients will now be able to undergo essential diagnostic tests before consulting doctors at these centres.



The minister said, "This initiative will bring a transformative shift in healthcare delivery and ensure more accurate treatment for people across Odisha."

Under the expanded Nidaan scheme, free diagnostic services for 40 types of diseases will be available in AYUSH hospitals. Additionally, the government has waived all user fees, except cabin charges, at these hospitals.

Expressing gratitude for the support, Mahaling thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Health Minister JP Nadda, Union AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav, and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for enabling the initiative.

64-yr old dupes 200 people

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Sept 1: A 64-year-old man from Balasore was arrested Monday for defrauding about 200 people by enrolling them in a chain marketing scheme through a mobile app with the promise of a good return on their investments, police said.

The accused, identified as Partha Sarathi Das, a resident of Chandipur in Balasore district, collected a registration fee of ₹16,500 from each person he enrolled through 'Huge App', Cuttack DCP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo said.

"Initially, some people received good returns, and upon



their persuasion, others also joined. Those who were able to enrol more people were getting higher incentives," he added.

Some members were supposed to receive their money August 15, but they were told that they would have to deposit another ₹4,950 towards maintenance charges. Many deposited the amount, but later the app stopped functioning.

Sensing that they were defrauded, some investors lodged a complaint at Cuttack cyber police station August 28 and a probe began, the DCP said.

He also said ₹68,000 was seized, and a bank account having ₹2.51 lakh was frozen.

India-Russia ties key to global stability: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tianjin (China), Sept 1: India and Russia Monday vowed to strengthen their strategic ties against the backdrop of New Delhi's frictions with the US, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi telling Russian President Vladimir Putin that the two countries stood "shoulder-to-shoulder" even in most difficult times.

Modi and Putin met on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) with a focus on expanding bilateral cooperation in economic, financial, and energy sectors.

In his televised remarks, Modi also said that 140 crore



Indians are "eagerly waiting" to welcome the Russian leader in India in December.

"This is a reflection of the depth and scope of our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. India and Russia have always stood shoulder-to-shoulder even in the most difficult situations," he said. "Our close cooperation is important not only for the people of both countries, but also for global peace, stability, and prosperity," Modi said.

In his comments, Putin said Russia and India have maintained "special friendly and trust-based" relations for decades and it is the foundation for the future development of the ties.

An Indian readout said Modi reiterated his support for the recent initiatives that have been taken to address the conflict in Ukraine, and emphasised the need to expedite a cessation of the conflict, and find a "durable peace" settlement.

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SCO condemns Pahalagam attack

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Monday strongly condemned the Pahalagam terror attack and concurred with India's position that "double standards" in the fight against terrorism are unacceptable.

The influential grouping listed its strong resolve to combat terrorism in a declaration that was unveiled at the end of its two-day annual summit. "The member states strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalagam April 22," the declaration said. The SCO member states also condemned the terror attacks in Khuzdar and on Jaffer Express, both in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

When gritty Camilla smacked groper in the nuts

AGENCIES

London, Sept 1: Britain's Queen Camilla fought off an indecent attack when she was a teenager by taking off her shoe and bashing the assailant in the groin, according to a new book on the royal family.

Camilla was on a train to London's Paddington Station in the mid-1960s when the man next to her reached out and grabbed the future Queen, according to an excerpt from "Power and the Palace" by Valentine Low, a former royal correspondent for 'The Times of London'. She told former Prime Minister Boris Johnson about the attack when he was the Mayor of London.

"Camilla said, I did what my mother told me, I took my shoe off and whacked him in the nuts with the heel," Low told the BBC. "When she got to Paddington, this in a way is the crucial bit of the story, she found a man in uniform and told him what had happened and the man was arrested. ... She did the responsible thing."

The story drew widespread coverage in the British media Monday, with headlines ranging from the Daily Telegraph's basic "Queen fought off sex attacker" to the Sun's tabloid-style "Camilla whacked

groper in goolies". Whatever the approach, the tale is sure to add to Camilla's reputation as a no-nonsense woman who has brought a bit of grit to the royal family.



British Queen Camilla was on a train to London's Paddington Station in mid-1960s when the man next to the future Queen reached out and grabbed her, according to an excerpt from a new book

The story was related to Low by one of Johnson's former aides, who believed the incident was the reason for Camilla's outspoken support for charities that work with victims of domestic violence. She has been reluctant to

speaking about it because her experience, while upsetting, was less serious than the attacks suffered by other women and girls, Low said.

"She didn't want to draw attention to her at the expense of their experiences," he said.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the report.

"Power and the Palace" will be published later this month. But the book, which details the relationship between the monarchy and Britain's political leaders, has already attracted attention with excerpts published in 'The Times of London' that suggest the late Queen Elizabeth II opposed the UK's decision to leave the European Union.

₹ hits all-time low against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: The rupee depreciated just 1 paisa to close at an all-time low of 88.10 against the US dollar Monday amid Indo-US trade deal uncertainties and higher dollar demand from importers.

Forex traders said the rupee opened on a weaker note Monday morning and revisited its all-time intra-day low of 88.33 against the American currency, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.18 against the US dollar. The domestic unit finally settled at an all-time closing low of 88.10 against the greenback, registering a fall of just 1 paisa over its previous close.

leisure

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ARIES

You will be torn between work and family as both try to grab your attention. You may reserve the evening for having fun. You crave to become famous and are likely to accomplish your ambition shortly. You have Ganesha's blessings to support you.

TAURUS

Ganesha is pleased to see that you have a bright day ahead. Your efforts are due to give the results you expect. If you are in a mood to achieve something more than usual, this is the day for it. You are not likely to be disappointed. You will be getting increasingly popular socially as well as professionally, and gaining the trust and support of one and all.

GEMINI

An auspicious day awaits you. You will pay more attention to your family than to your career or at the work-front. This will mean the resolution of some long pending issues and projects at home. An enjoyable time with your family and children awaits you, says Ganesha.

CANCER

The Archer will be quite sharp at work and equally penetrating in matters of the heart. Though you may temporarily lose focus, your mind will bring you back to the real world. You will work at break-neck speed only to be able to spend as much time as possible with your sweetheart.

LEO

Pack your bags, and don't forget the sunscreen and the shades. Look at the stars today – Ganesha foresees for you a strong prospect of going on a tour. If not an individual backpacking adventure, then an elaborate family holiday, but travel you shall. With Lady Luck smiling upon you all day long, getting work done to the satisfaction of all is not an issue.

VIRGO

Today, find yourself rummaging through the vast recesses of your inner self. You will make fabulous money to spend on your loved ones. Face up to work pressures by indulging in corporeal pleasures. You may warrant the company of someone special to think out loud all that is inside you, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that you need to be more careful in your work field as your enemies or your competitors will try to pull you down today. You will have to be very careful in making business agreements or negotiations regarding give and take in the business. You will see your beloved grow distant from you today.

SCORPIO

You shall also work like a donkey and yet be smart as hell in what you do today. It is favourable if you engage in household activities – gardening, cooking, cleaning and the likes. Work pressure will be displaced by family pleasure, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Your ways to deal with your team mates and colleagues will be strict and disciplined. However, your perfect ways at work will leave them awestruck. Your personal equations will be least affected by your stern ways, says Ganesha. Do not let success go to your head.

CAPRICORN

Impulsiveness, which is not really your trait, will be very evident in whatever work you do today, say Ganesha. Money matters will keep you preoccupied for major part of the day, but ironically, your otherwise methodical approach to everything will go for a toss. You will splurge in the second half of the day, and it will be more than what your means can afford.

AQUARIUS

You are ambitious, and quite unapologetic about the way you pursue your goals! You will work hard and push your way through if you have to. Not just that, you will see to it that you have all the skills and competency required to make it big.

PISCES

Well begun is half done. With this in mind, you will set out to actively seek the cooperation of your colleagues and the sanction of your seniors to tackle some important projects, says Ganesha. The evening should find you heading out to watch a movie or doing something creative, like painting.

BROSAN REGRETS QUITTING THEATRE

Hollywood actor Pierce Brosnan has confessed he regrets turning his back on the theatre after landing his career-defining role as James Bond and applauds his successor Daniel Craig for treading both the mediums. He added: "It's essential to be creative outside of Bond."

PALTROW BAFFLED BY HER PUBLIC IMAGE

Actress and wellness guru Gwyneth Paltrow doesn't think people will understand her until she is dead and she is baffled by her public image. Speaking in a teaser clip for her appearance on The Cutting Room Floor podcast, the 52-year-old said: "No one will understand me until I'm dead."



PC turns wildlife photographer

Mumbai: It is not surprising to see Priyanka Chopra Jonas turn a wildlife photographer in Nairobi where she is shooting for her jungle adventure directed by SS Rajamouli.

Priyanka was always a photographer and a closeted director. Even on the sets of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Bajirao Mastani* she would be clicking her co-stars.

She once told this an entertainment agency, "I always view the world through a lens. You could say I am a director at heart. One day it will happen."

Currently in Nairobi, Priyanka Chopra Jonas's skills behind and in front of the camera are the talk of the unit.

A source from the team informed, "Priyanka is dazzling. She is a super fighter on camera, and super-photographer behind the camera. Her pictures are good enough for an exhibition. And yes, it may happen sometime in the future."

The 43-year-old was recently seen in the action-comedy Heads of State and the period action film *The Bluff*. She has also the second season of the TV series *Citadel*, *Ending Things*, *Cowboy Ninja Viking*, and the Hindi film *Jee Le Zaraa* in her pipeline.

AGENCIES



Kriti ecstatic over her UN role

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon has been appointed as the brand ambassador for UNFPA (The United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency).

Elated about her new role, the Do Patti actress shared that she has always wanted to use her influence for a cause that is close to her heart.

During an exclusive chat with this agency, Kriti shared: "It is a huge honor and an equally big responsibility. I am very excited because I have always wished to use my voice and my influence for such a cause and initiate a change which is close to my heart, and I feel gender equality is one such issue that is extremely important and broad."

"The issue has a lot of aspects- whether you talk about girl child education, or gender based violence- a lot of work needs to be done, and I am glad I am able to assist UNFPA in this journey," she added.

During her two-year engagement with UNFPA India, Kriti will be a part of a series of impactful activities aimed at furthering the cause, including field visits to UNFPA programme sites. The *Mimi* actress will also raise awareness through campaigns and opinion pieces, and join UNFPA events and advocacy efforts both nationally and internationally.

FIANS

MALAIKA ON AGE, BEAUTY

Mumbai: Bollywood diva Malaika Arora says that for her age is not a limit but an evolution. She adds that beauty is not about holding on to youth but about embracing every phase of life with confidence.

Asked how she views age and beauty today, Malaika, 51, who is the brand ambassador for HYUE, told this agency: "To me, age is not a limit but an evolution. Every year brings wisdom, resilience, and a deeper understanding of yourself—and that, to me, is the most beautiful transformation of all."

For Malaika, beauty is about embracing every phase. "Beauty isn't about holding on to youth; it's about embracing every phase with confidence and grace. When you feel content and strong within, that inner energy reflects on the outside, and no number can define that," she added.

The diva had earlier shared that glamour is about confidence, grace, and authenticity rather than extravagance.

Malaika, who is the sister of former actress Amruta Arora, was previously married to actor-filmmaker Arbaaz Khan. In March 2016, they announced their separation, citing compatibility issues. The couple officially divorced in 2017. Together they have a son, Arhaan Khan, born in November 2002.

FIANS



Shanaya explores beyond movies

Mumbai: Shanaya Kapoor is exploring a new role beyond films as a creator in the world of design. She has co-created Indinoor, a new jewellery brand from the House of Isharya, bringing a modern touch to traditional Indian styles.

For Shanaya, jewellery has always held personal meaning. Influenced by her mother's designs and the role of fashion in cinema, she developed an appreciation for the emotional value of adornment. With Indinoor, she aims to offer women jewellery that blends Indian craftsmanship with a modern, playful, and wearable style.

"My vision is to create something for women who appreciate Indian craftsmanship but want pieces that are easy, fun, and fit effortlessly into their style jewellery you

actually want to wear," said Shanaya. "We've grown up seeing jewellery locked away or worn only on special occasions. Indinoor changes that it's about celebrating your style, choosing joy in the everyday, and making Indian jewellery truly your own."

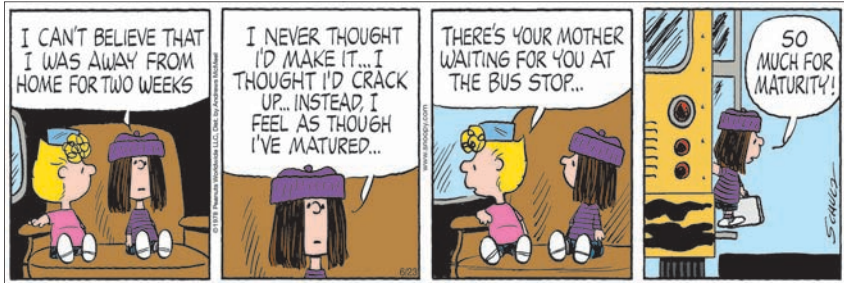
At the heart of Indinoor is Shanaya's guiding philosophy Jewels of Happiness. The collection reimagines polki, jadau, temple work, zircon, and more through bold chaandbalis, celebratory sets, and expressive designs crafted by master artisans.

With Shanaya Kapoor at the creative helm, Indinoor offers jewellery that blends tradition with a modern touch, designed for festive occasions and everyday celebrations alike.

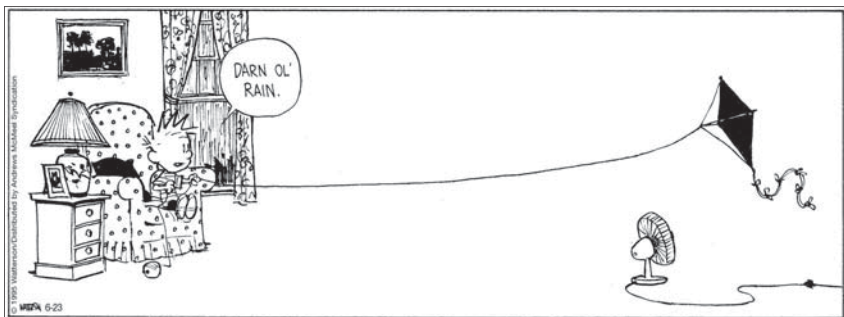
FIANS



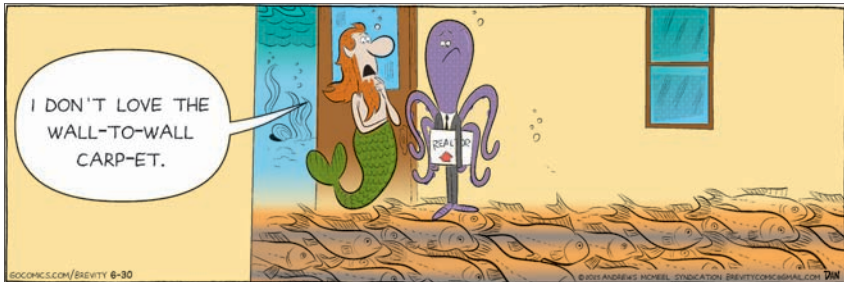
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

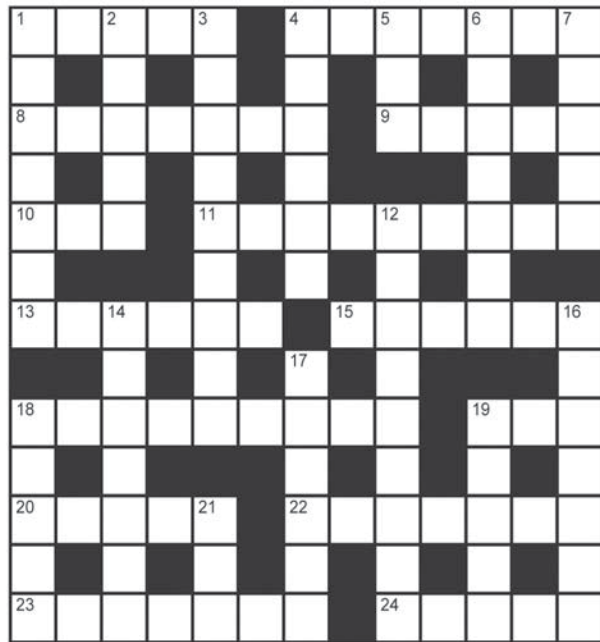


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across**

1 Instruct

4 Hot spot

8 Proceeds

9 Punctuation mark

10 Leather sticker

11 Numbers pools

13 Bushes

15 Capital of Alaska

18 Meddle

19 It has a shell

20 Like helium

22 Moved on all fours

23 Former star? (3-4)

24 Tuckered out

Down

1 Plaids

2 Blacksmith's block

3 Moustache type

4 Elaborate party

5 Mythical bird of stories

6 Large wardrobe

7 Tests

12 Joyously unrestrained

14 Cads

16 Turned over

17 Guiding light

18 Kind of coffee or stew

19 Frigid

21 Stocking part

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

S	L	E	I	G	H		S	W	A	M	P	S
C	N	R		F			A	A		E		
R	A	V	I	O	L		I	G	E	N	O	A
E		O		U		D		O	A	R		
A	B	Y	S	S		D	I	N	E	T	T	E
M												
	T	S	P		E	E	L		F	E	W	
S		H				R		A				O
T	R	A	F	F	I	C		S	A	T	I	N
E		C	U		R		L		I		E	
I	R	K	E	D			A	V	E	R	T	E
N		L	G		B		E	A			G	
S	W	E	D	E	N		S	P	O	N	G	E

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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Promote state’s cultural heritage in Europe, CM tells IFS officers

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday urged a delegation of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers of the 2000 and 2001 batches, who met him at Lok Seva Bhawan here, to help promote Odisha’s cultural heritage and handicrafts in European nations.

During the meeting, the officers held discussions with the Chief Minister on governance, development initiatives in Odisha, and India’s wider diplomatic engagements. They highlighted the growing demand for skilled youth in European countries and assured that ample opportunities await Odisha’s young professionals.

Interacting with the delegation, Majhi said his government has been taking proactive measures to develop the skill of state’s youth.

“The Skilled-in-Odisha ini-

The delegation held discussions with the CM on governance, development initiatives in Odisha, and India’s wider diplomatic engagements

The IFS officers congratulated the CM for his remarkable work over the past year and lauded the successful organisation of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar earlier this year, which strengthened connections between the global Odia community and their home state

The CM extended his best wishes to the officers for their service to the nation and appreciated their contributions in representing India’s interests abroad

tiative has become a globally recognised brand, and the future looks bright for the youth of the state. Odisha will facilitate better opportunities for its aspiring youth in European countries,” he said.

Majhi urged the delegation to help promote Odisha’s rich cultural heritage and handicrafts in European nations as it would not only generate greater pride but also enhance the state’s

global recognition.

The visiting dignitaries congratulated Majhi for his remarkable work over the past year and lauded the successful organisation of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Bhubaneswar earlier this year, which strengthened connections between the global Odia community and their home state.

Majhi extended his best wishes to the officers for their service to the nation and appreciated their contributions in representing India’s interests abroad, an official statement said.

Among them were India’s Ambassador to Romania Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador to Slovenia Amit Narang, and High Commissioner to Malta Gloria Gangte.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Saswata Mishra were present during the meeting.



New Srimandir panel meets Majhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The newly formed Shree Jagannath Temple Management Committee met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday at Lok Seva Bhawan to express gratitude for their appointments and discuss key initiatives for better temple management.

During the meeting, members highlighted the need for more systematic and disciplined conduct of rituals and festivals, alongside accelerat-

FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING SET FOR SEPT 3 TO DISCUSS DHADI DARSHAN, SHIFTING HUNDI, AND RATNA BHANDAR INVENTORY

ed development of Puri as a spiritual and tourist hub. The CM assured full government support, reaffirming the state’s commitment to developing Puri as a premier religious destination with enhanced facilities for devotees and visitors.

Prominent committee members present included

Krushna Chandra Samantray, Raghubir Das, Ramnarayan Gochhikar, Madhusudan Singhari, and Jagannath Pujapanda, among others.

The committee, chaired by Gajapati Maharaj Dibyasingha Deb, will hold its first official meeting September 3. Key agenda items include implementing

the ‘Dhadi Darshan’ queue system to streamline temple visits, discussing the relocation of the ‘hundi’ inside the Natya Mandap, and conducting the long-awaited inventory of the Ratna Bhandar (temple treasury).

The 10-member committee includes Siddheswar Mohapatra, Ganesh Dasmohapatra, Maharaj of Balaramkot Matha (representing Math & other institutions), Girish Chandra Murmu (former CAG), K Sabat (Chartered Accountant), and Mahesh Kumar Sahoo.

Discoms launch 1-kW rooftop solar scheme

Bhubaneswar: The Tata Power-led Odisha discoms Monday launched a 1-kW rooftop solar scheme, enabling households to generate around 100 units of electricity per month, officials said. The scheme was launched under the Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model, as part of the government’s flagship PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. While setting up a 1-kW solar system typically requires an investment of ₹65,000-₹75,000, under the ULA model, consumers are required to make a one-time payment of ₹5,000, the company said in a statement. The bulk of the cost is met through central and state subsidies, aggregated and facilitated by Tata Power-led Odisha discoms.

“With a 1-kW rooftop solar system, households can generate around 100 units of electricity per month, leading to average annual savings of nearly ₹5,000.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Gadadhar Pradhan, S/o - Late Magiti Pradhan, resident of Village / Post - Ataranga, PS - Aska, Dist. - Ganjam, Odisha, PIN - 761116 declare by this Affidavit No. 2135 dated 22.08.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Gadadhar Pradhan for all purpose.

I, Srikant Kumar Sethi, S/o- Karunakar Sethi, Resident of Qr. No.- B-695, Sector-2, Saraswati Vihar, Nalco Township, Damanjodi, Dist.- Koraput, PIN- 763008, Odisha declare by this affidavit Cf No.- 11, dtd. 01.09.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Srikanta Kumar Sethi for all future purposes.

I, Sashi Bhusan Majhi, S/o- Krushna Chandra Majhi, At/P.O.- Dengapadar, Via- Mirganguda, Dist.- Koraput, Odisha- 764063 solemnly declare that I have changed my minor son’s name “JAYATIRANJAN MAJHI” to “JYOTIRANJAN MAJHI” on dated 11.08.2025 before Notary Public, Borigumma. Henceforth, JAYATIRANJAN MAJHI shall be known as “JYOTIRANJAN MAJHI” for all future purposes.

‘QUAD CITY’ TO INTEGRATE STATE’S ECONOMIC REGIONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The state government will create integrated economic regions under ‘Quad City’ programme by clustering cities that significantly contribute to Odisha’s GDP, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee said Monday.

Addressing media, Padhee said the ambitious ‘Quad City’ programme aims at transforming leading cities into powerful engines of economic growth and global competitiveness.

“The first zone will connect Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, and Paradip — a unique combination of administration, culture, commerce, and port-driven trade. Similarly, another economic zone will be developed linking Sunabeda, Koraput, Bargarh, and Sambalpur, while a northern region will emerge with Rourkela and Keonjhar’s Barbil as key hubs,” she said.

Complementing this vision, the state government has launched the Samruddha Sahar initiative, which envisages the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradeep Economic Region (BCPPER) as a vibrant urban-indus-

trial corridor to drive economic growth, the H&UD department Principal Secretary said.

The scheme also proposes expansion to other key hubs like Sambalpur-Jharsuguda-Bargarh, Koraput-Sunabeda-Jey-pore, and Keonjhar-Joda-Barbil. Further, eight cities around industrial clusters will be developed as model cities, she added.

“Odisha’s Quad City programme, together with the Samruddha Sahar scheme, is designed not just to expand urban areas but to strengthen economic transactions, industrial opportunities, and inclusive development. These will provide a framework for

balanced regional growth while enhancing Odisha’s role in the national and global economy,” Padhee pointed out.

The initiatives are being steered in coordination with an internal committee and the State Policy Commission to ensure strategic planning and effective implementation. By creating interconnected economic zones and sustainable urban-industrial corridors, Odisha is preparing its cities to act as future-ready hubs of innovation, trade, and prosperity, she further added.



MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Coconut, valued for its versatile uses, is revered as ‘Kalpa-brukhya’ in several religions since every part of the tree serves a purpose. This year’s World Coconut Day theme, “Uncovering Coconut’s Power, Inspiring Global Action,” highlights the need to boost innovation and revitalise the coconut sector through sustainable practices and partnerships.

Taking a significant step towards sustainability, local artisans are giving new life to discarded coconut shells by crafting them into beautiful handicrafts and utility products.

Bijay Kumar Kamila, a mechanic from Mayurbhanj district, discovered the value of coconut shells by turning them into intricate sculptures. “During the Covid period, I noticed discarded coconut shells and thought of creating something with them. That’s



when I began crafting detailed sculptures,” he said.

Kamila has recreated Biju Patnaik’s Dakota aircraft and several other works using coconut shells. “The appreciation from locals motivated me to pursue this art further. Currently, I am working on a sculpture based on ‘Operation Sindoor’ and also plan to open a coconut shell sculpture museum in my town to promote this craft,” he added.

Similarly, Bishnu Prasad Dash from Puri recognised the potential of coconut shell waste and transformed it into art. He handcrafts elegant

home décor items, earning praise from his community. “This is a traditional art of coastal areas, and I want to give it a modern touch,” Dash said. He collects discarded coconut shells from nearby villages and repurposes them into unique creations. “Through this craft, I aim to raise awareness and create employment opportunities for youth in this sector,” he added.

Noted Bhubaneswar-based coconut shell artist Devi Prasad Dash raised concerns over coconut production in Odisha, pointing out the state’s lack of variety. “From coconut shells, we can create not only home décor and sculptures but also utility products with significant health benefits.

However, these require different varieties of coconut shells, which our state currently lacks. We urge the government to increase both the cultivation of coconut trees and the diversity of their varieties in Odisha,” he said.

Breastfeeding room now operational at Srimandir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Sept 1: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Monday opened a breastfeeding room on the premises of the 12th-century shrine in Puri.

SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said such a facility was the need of the hour, as a large number of nursing mothers visit the temple every day along with their children.

“A dedicated breastfeeding room is operational on the temple premises from today,” he told reporters. Women attendants have been engaged to assist the visitors in the room, he said.

Four women can feed their babies at a time in the breastfeeding room, which has been designed to ensure privacy, hygiene and safety of mothers and children, an official said.

“The nursing mothers can also avail medical assistance if required in the facility,” Puri Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida said.

Priest gets 7-year jail term for minor’s sexual assault

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: A priest was sentenced to seven years in jail by a special court in Bhubaneswar Monday for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl at a temple.

Pradyumna Kumar Mallia (35), a priest of the Kapileswar temple, was convicted by the special POCSO court in connection with the incident that happened June 3.

The court directed the district legal services authority to provide compensation of Rs 1 lakh to the survivor.

The girl, along with her cousin sister, went to the temple on the evening of June 3. They got separated on the temple premises, according to the prosecution.

Around 8pm, the girl was returning alone from the temple as she could not find her cousin. At that time, the priest invited her to see the puja at the Shani temple, which is located in the same complex.



The girl went with the priest, who took her to a dark place in the temple complex and sexually assaulted her. As she resisted, he threatened to kill her, the prosecution said.

The priest eventually let her go, and she found her sister at the temple’s gate. She told her the whole incident, and then went home and narrated it to her mother, it said.

The girl’s mother filed a complaint at Lingaraj police station.

Police registered a case under relevant sections of the BNS and POCSO Act, and arrested the accused.

BDA inaugurates park, playground on foundation day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) marked its 43rd Foundation Day Monday by inaugurating a new park and playground at K9B, Kalinga Vihar. Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprises Minister and BDA chairman Krushna Chandra Mahapatra inaugurated the facilities, developed at an estimated cost of ₹5.5 crore (2.3-acre playground and 1.36-acre park).

The inauguration was attended by BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, H&UD Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, and BDA Vice-Chairman N. Thirumala Naik. Later, the Foundation Day programme was held at Soochana Bhawan, with Minister Mahapatra as chief guest. Other dignitaries included BDA Secretary Manas Ranjan Padhi and BDA Karmachari United Forum president Samir Mohanty.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Mahapatra stressed the importance of strategic urban planning to manage Bhubaneswar’s rapid growth, urging greater collaboration between authorities and citizens.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.19 ▼ 0.00	SENSEX	80364.49 ▲ 554.84	GOLD	₹104,727 ▲ ₹903
EURO	102.89 ▼ 0.09	NIFTY	24625.05 ▲ 198.20	SILVER	₹122,350 ▲ ₹1,979

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.7°	33.2°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	24.3°	23.2°	
Humidity	95%	92%	
Rainfall	0.2mm	9.8mm	

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Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

At 67, Hirakud dam needs major overhaul: Chief engr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Burla, Sept 1: The 67-year-old Hirakud Dam, the world’s longest earthen dam, requires comprehensive overhauling to address structural concerns and enhance capacity, according to a senior official.

Sudhir Kumar Sahu, Additional Chief Engineer, Hirakud Dam Circle, said while the dam’s overall strength remains good, superficial cracks and cavities have been identified upstream of the reservoir.

“We are maintaining the dam properly and the Central Soil and Material Research Station and Central Water and Power Research Station have given good reports. Its strength is very good, but there are some superficial cracks and cavities upstream of the reservoir,” Sahu told PTI.

The Hirakud Dam project is built across the Mahanadi River at about 12 km upstream of Sambalpur town. Located 6 km away from NH6, the dam is accessible via Hirakud Railway Station as the nearest rail connection and Jharsuguda as the nearest airport

The 25.4-km long dam, which creates Asia’s largest artificial lake spanning 743 sq km, was completed in 1957 as India’s first multipurpose project after Independence.

Construction began in 1948 after the foundation stone was laid in 1946 by then Governor Sir Hawthorne Lewis. Then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru laid the first batch of concrete in 1948, and the project was inaugurated January 13, 1957.

Currently, the dam serves multiple purposes, including flood control, irrigation, power generation, industrial and domestic water supply.



Sudhir Kumar Sahu, Additional Chief Engineer, Hirakud Dam Circle, said while the dam’s overall strength remains good, superficial cracks and cavities have been identified upstream of the reservoir

Sahu said the identified structural issues are being addressed through periodic treatment. “We have one package for underwater treatment under DRIP 3 and one additional spillway will be constructed,” he said.

The Central Water Commission has recommended building an additional spillway to handle increased water release capacity. While the current spillway can manage 15 lakh cusec, the new facility will help handle Probable Maximum Flood of 24.6 lakh cusec.

“CWC has told us to build another spillway, additional spillway. It is under process

and MoU will be signed with the CWC,” the official said.

Regarding funding, Sahu explained that routine maintenance costs are borne by the state government while major schemes like spillway construction, underwater treatment and lining are funded by the Centre.

Three major packages are currently underway - underwater treatment under DRIP 3, construction of an additional spillway, and automation of gates.

Despite good monsoon this year with increased water flow in rivers, there has been no flooding in downstream areas.

“We opened 20 gates in the first phase and later closed them. This season we opened 12 gates. Now two gates are open and there is no flood in the downstream area,” Sahu said.

The official emphasised the need for Central government support for the ageing infrastructure.

“Hirakud dam is more than 65 years old. So, overhauling is necessary and the Central government is cooperating in many ways with the state government,” he added.

Snakebite victim carried 3 km on cot to reach hosp

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dasamantapur, Sept 1: Villagers of Paduguda village under Lulla panchayat in Dasamantapur block of Koraput district carried a 30-year-old man on a cot for 3 km Monday after he was bitten by a snake while grazing cattle near Ajaghat hill.

The victim, Naveen Saunta, son of Sarathi Saunta, was critical and had to be carried to the Dasamantapur community health centre for treatment due to lack of proper road and delayed ambulance service.

According to villagers, Naveen was bitten by a snake on his right hand while grazing cattle about half a kilometre away from his home. Hearing his cries, other herders alerted his father, who, along with villagers, carried him on a cot over rough terrain to Lulla village square. An ambulance had been contacted but failed to



arrive even after an hour-long wait. From Lulla, Naveen was transported by an auto-rickshaw arranged by a local resident to the health centre.

Doctors said Naveen received preliminary treatment and would be transferred to the district headquarters hospital if necessary. Villagers said more than 85 tribal families live in Paduguda without proper road connectivity. Despite repeated written and verbal complaints to block officials, district administration, and political leaders over the years, no action has been taken to improve road access, they added.

Protest erupts as pregnant ASHA dies due to ‘medical negligence’

OVER 100 VILLAGERS AND LOCAL HEALTH WORKERS MARCH 5 KM CARRYING THE BODY ON BIER DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPENSATION



POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, Sept 1: Villagers of Badabasini village under Umarakote block in Nabarangpur district staged a road blockade Monday to protest the death of a pregnant ASHA, alleging medical negligence. The victim, Dayamati Bhatra, was critically ill after experiencing labour Sunday afternoon and died while being transferred to the district headquarters hospital in Nabarangpur.

According to family members, Dayamati was first admitted to the Umarkote sub-divisional hospital around 3pm, where she received treatment for three hours before doctors advised to shift her as her condition worsened. She passed

away en route to the district headquarters hospital. Her body was carried back to Badabasini village at night. Over 100 villagers and local health workers marched 5 km Monday morning carrying her body on a bier in a protest procession, demanding accountability and compensation.

Protesters demanded strict action against the attending doctor, Sagarika Swain, and demanded compensation from the state and Central governments.

Following instructions from the District Collector, Umerkote Municipal Executive Officer Alok Kumar Anugulia, Additional Tehsildar Nilambar Pujari, police station in-charge Ramakant Sae, SIs Shibaji Prasad Panda, and

Akshay Mishra visited the site and held discussions with the protesters. Authorities said an inquiry will be conducted into the incident and strict action will be taken against the doctor if negligence is established. The state government will be formally requested to provide compensation, with ₹10,000 from the Red Cross fund and a monthly allowance of ₹4,000 under the Batsalya scheme for the deceased’s daughter. Following these written assurances, protesters ended their four-hour road blockade, and normal traffic resumed. Dayamati was cremated at Badabasini village crematorium.

Meanwhile, Dr Sagarika Swain strongly denied any negligence. She stated that Dayamati experienced labour from Saturday and was brought to Umerkote hospital Sunday in a severe condition with bleeding. She was examined immediately upon arrival. Due to heavy bleeding and the onset of labour complications, she was referred to Nabarangpur district headquarters hospital for further treatment. Dr Swain maintained that no negligence occurred during her care.

DRI BUSTS SMUGGLING RING

2 leopard hides seized; 4 held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Sept 1: Forest officials seized two leopard skins and arrested four men in Rayagada district while they were attempting to smuggle the skins to Maharashtra, officials said Sunday.

The joint operation was carried out by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Mumbai, and the Rayagada Forest Division. Two of the accused are from Maharashtra and two are residents of Rayagada. They were produced in court late Sunday.

The arrested men were identified as Prabhakar Nayak and Raj Kumar Gupta of Matinagar, Maharashtra, and Jisaya Gamang of Anjarsing village and Mahesh Huika of Machhakhunti village under Gunupur block in Rayagada district. The operation was led by Assistant Conservator of Forests Ashok Pradhan, with participation of Ranger Kameswar Achari, Forester Gauri Sahu and other staff.

According to the Forest department, Jisaya and Mahesh arranged to sell the skins to Nayak and Gupta. The DRI

tracked the group, and acting on specific intelligence, caught them red-handed Saturday.


Pradhan said the skins, believed to be of leopards aged between five and seven years, were sourced from Gajapati district and were intended to be smuggled to Maharashtra. The origin of the hides is still under investigation. In November 2023, the Special Task Force of Crime Branch had seized two leopard skins in Rayagada’s Chandil police limits and arrested two people.

According to the 2017 elephant and tiger census, forests under the Gudari, Muniguda and Kalyansinghpur ranges of Rayagada district housed 16 elephants and six leopards. However, ACF Pradhan said the 2023-24 census did not record any tigers in the district. He added that elephants from neighbouring Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts are occasionally spotted entering Rayagada forests in search of food. Pradhan said the Forest department maintains regular awareness campaigns in rural areas to strengthen wildlife protection.


Man trapped in middle of Saveri River airlifted to safety after 20 hours

Malkangiri: A 45-year-old man, stranded for over 20 hours in the middle of Saveri River on the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, was rescued Monday after being airlifted by a helicopter after spending the night clinging to a tree branch and a rock to survive, police said. The man was identified as Irma Sodhi of Katamateru village in Malkangiri district. He had travelled Sunday to Sukma district in Chhattisgarh to work in a banana plantation. While returning home late at night, his country boat capsized midstream due to rising water levels and strong current. Sodhi managed to hold on to a tree branch and later climbed onto a rock, where he remained trapped overnight. He failed to reach the bank as the river was in spate. Villagers spotted the stranded man and alerted the local sarpanch Monday morning. The sarpanch in turn informed the fire brigade personnel at Padia as well as the Malkangiri district administration and local MLA. Malkangiri MLA Narsingha Madkani reached the spot and held talks with the Chhattisgarh administration. While the Malkangiri district administration took up the matter with its counterpart in Sukma, the MLA contacted BJP’s Sukma unit president, who expedited the rescue operation. “Initially, the fire services personnel of Odisha tried to rescue Sodhi, but could not go near him due to the strong river current. Finally, a helicopter of the air force arrived from Jagdalpur and airlifted Sodhi to safety. He was rushed to a hospital in Sukma and his condition is stated to be stable,” Madkani said.

OIPR-10003/13/0253/2526



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା
ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ମ୍ୟାଲେରିଆ ଓ ଡେଙ୍ଗୁ ନିରାକରଣ ସଚେତନତା ଅଭିଯାନ

୧ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ - ୩୦ ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୪

ବର୍ଷା ଋତୁରେ ମଶା ବଂଶ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇବା ଏବଂ ମ୍ୟାଲେରିଆ ଓ ଡେଙ୍ଗୁ ରୋଗ ବ୍ୟାପିବାର ଆଶଙ୍କା ଅଧିକ ଥାଏ । ଏଥିରୁ ନିଜକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖିବା ପାଇଁ ନିମ୍ନଲିଖିତ ଉପାୟ ଆପଣାନ୍ତୁ ।

- ଘର ପାଖ ପରିବେଶ ସଫା-ସୁତୁରା ରଖନ୍ତୁ
- ଘର ପାଖରେ ଜମୁଥିବା ପାଣିକୁ ସମ୍ଭାବ୍ୟରେ ଅନ୍ତତଃ ଥରେ ନିଷ୍କାସନ କରିଦିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଘରେ କିମ୍ବା ଘର ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ଫୁଲ କୁଣ୍ଡ, ପାଣି ଟାଙ୍କି, କୁଲର, ଫ୍ରିଜର ପଛପଟେ ଥିବା ଡିଫ୍ରେଷ୍ଟ ଷ୍ଟେର ଇୟର ଆଦିକୁ ସମ୍ଭାବ୍ୟରେ ପାଣି ବାହାର କରି ପରିଷ୍କାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ଘର ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ଭଙ୍ଗା ଡବା, ବୋତଲ, ପୁରୁଣା/ ଛିଣ୍ଡା ଟାୟାର, କଟା ପଇଡ଼, ନଡ଼ିଆ ଷଡ଼େଜ, କୁଡୁଆ, ବାଉଁଶ ଗଛର କଟା ଯାଇଥିବା ମୂଳ ଅଂଶ ଆଦି ସବୁକୁ ନଷ୍ଟ କରିଦିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଦିନ ହେଉ ବା ରାତି, ଶୋଇବା ବେଳେ ମଶାରି ନିଷ୍ଠୟ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ, ମଶା ଦାଉରୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ଘରର ଝରକାରେ ସରୁ ଜାଲି ଲଗାନ୍ତୁ
- ଶରୀରକୁ ପୁରା ଘୋଡ଼ାଇଲା ଭଳି ପୋଷାକ ପିନ୍ଧନ୍ତୁ
- ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସ୍ଥଳେ ମଶା ନିବାରକ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ଜ୍ୱର, କମ୍ପ, ଆଣ୍ଟି-ଗର୍ବି, ଆଣ୍ଟି ଓ ମାଂସପେଶୀରେ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ହେଲେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ରକ୍ତ ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରି ଚିକିତ୍ସିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ

ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ସଚେତନତା ସହିତ ସମଯୋଗିତ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଜୀବନର ମୂଳମନ୍ତ୍ର

ରାଜ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ୍: ୧୦୪

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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Berhampur: The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) observed Local Self-Governance Day Sunday at the Khallikote University Stadium here.

State Commerce, Transport, Mines and Steel Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena attended as chief guest and paid tribute to Ganjam’s eminent sons Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati and Shashi Bhushan Rath. Jena said Berhampur faces a shortage of space, which could hinder government-backed development projects. He urged residents to work together for the city’s growth in education, health and sanitation. Plans are underway to build a ring road linking Berhampur, Chhatrapur and Gopalpur, he added. RDC (South) Sangram Keshari Mohapatra and Sub-Collector Abinash Kumar also attended as guests of honor. “If Ganjam is strong, Odisha is strong,” Mohapatra said, stressing the importance of keeping the city clean and beautiful. The occasion saw the inauguration of development projects worth ₹4 crore and foundation laying for 11 projects costing ₹10 crore. BeMC Commissioner Prathamesh Aravind Rajashirke said the civic body aims to transform Berhampur into a modern city with advanced urban facilities. He noted that a proposal to merge 18 panchayats into the corporation has been approved, paving the way for a “Greater Berhampur.”

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2025-24, Dt. 25.08.2025

NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF CLASS- 'A' SURGE PROTECTION AT STATION END GOOMTIES OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Tender Value in (₹) : 1,71,36,000.74,
EMD (₹) : 2,35,700.00

Date and time of closing of Tender:-At 1100 Hrs. of 22.09.2025


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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.irgps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) / Sambalpur

PR-542/Q/25-26



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
HEAD WORKS DIVISION, SAMAL
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Email ID - ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com

'e'-Procurement Notice No. SE_HWD-03/2025-26

No. A-562 : The Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors registered with the State Government contractors of equivalent Grade / Class Registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways/CPWD for execution of Civil works mentioned as detailed below :

1	No. of works	03 (Three) Nos. of civil works
2	Name of the work	1. Improvement to Khapal Distributary from RD 5.00Km to RD 8.00Km in patches. 2. Improvement of Kulei Distributary from RD 0.00m to RD 3850.00m of R.I.P. 3. Repair and Maintenance of F-Type Quarters at SBTS
3	Estimated Cost	Approximately 3.83 lakhs to 30.36 lakhs
4	Cost of tender paper	Rs. 2000.00 to Rs. 6000.00 (Non-refundable)
5	EMD/Bid Security	Rs. 3900.00 to Rs. 30,400.00 (Refundable)
6	Class of Contractor	'D' & 'C' class and 'C' & 'B' class
7	Period of Completion of work	2 months and 6 months
8	Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website	From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.02.09.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.11.09.2025 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
9	Date, time and place of opening of online tender	Dt.12.09.2025 at 11.30 A.M. in O/o the Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal
10	Date, time and place for finalization of tender through Transparent Lottery System (if required)	Intimate later
11	Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III
12	Name and Address of Officer inviting Tender	Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal, AT/P.O. Samal Barrage Township Dist. Angul, Odisha, PIN-759037 Email ID - ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal : www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR-32020/11/0017/2526

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal

“Not only a truer knowledge, but a greater power comes to one in the quietude and silence of a mind that, instead of bubbling on the surface, can go to its own depths and listen

SRI AUROBINDO

Shooting the Messenger

A great truth about the ongoing and seemingly unending spiral of violence, death and devastation in Gaza is that truth and those tasked with uncovering truth – journalists - have become one of the worst casualties. It cannot be denied that any war reporter (or correspondent) covering a real conflict zone has voluntarily chosen to be at a high risk area which could turn life threatening at any moment. In modern day warfare, it is impossible for any artillery gunner sitting miles away or a jet bomber pilot dropping his lethal payload from thousands of feet above ground to know which individual is sitting in a particular hospital or a housing colony at that moment when the attack takes place.

This Gaza war seems the most lethal for the media in recent times. A whole lot of war reporters is being wiped out in a way the media has never witnessed before. To bring to light this unprecedented and brutal suppression of truth, multiple media outlets registered a large-scale protest on 1 September to demand Israel stop the killing of journalists in Gaza and call for the international Press to be allowed into the enclave to report freely.

Nearly 250 outlets from 70 countries took part in the demonstration in forms appropriate to their mode of functioning. Several newspapers ran blacked-out front pages, broadcasters and radio stations interrupted their programming and online outlets disrupted their home pages, stated Reporters Without Borders (RSF), coordinating the protest along with Avaaz and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). The objective was to draw global attention to the alarming number of journalists killed during Israel’s war in Gaza.

According to the IFJ, at least 210 journalists have been killed in Gaza since 7 October, 2023. This means the conflict has already become the deadliest for reporters in modern times. The situation has been complicated by the Israeli government’s decision to prevent international media from reporting freely in Gaza, as only Palestinian journalists have been left to fend for themselves while reporting under fire. The Director General of RSF, Thibaut Bruttin, painted a gloomy picture of the plight of journalists working in Gaza fearing that at the rate journalists are dying in Gaza, there will soon be no one left to keep the world informed. Thus, he concluded this is not only a war on Gaza, but “a war on journalism itself.”

The civilian death toll in Gaza is already staggering and journalists too expose themselves to death, while it is important that they remain alive to tell the stories of starvation deaths and famine inflicted on the people of Gaza. The situation, as the protesters put it most succinctly, is such that journalists put their lives at risk to report, while others do so in their bid to escape being hit by missiles and bullets.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has documented the circumstances in which reporters are working in Gaza. It has stated the inescapable conclusion from the volumes of facts and data it has collected that it is the deadliest and most deliberate effort to kill and silence journalists. It is convinced that Palestinian journalists are being threatened, directly targeted and murdered by Israeli forces and are arbitrarily detained and tortured in retaliation for their work.

In fact, journalists in Gaza work in unbearable conditions fighting against hunger and exhaustion and breaking off reporting to find food for their families, help carry bodies from rubble or assist wounded relatives in finding shelter. Many are separated from those they love and many have buried loved ones. But, they carry on undeterred so as to defend the truth. Of course, no one can truly say what the truth is in a situation as seen in Gaza.

Among those killed was Anas Al-Sharif, one of the most well-known Palestinian journalists. He became a household name for many in the Arab world due to his daily coverage of the conflict and its humanitarian toll. Last week, Israel killed another five journalists in back-to-back strikes on the Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu conceded the incident was a “tragic mishap.”

Israel usually tries to justify the killings of journalists with the alibi that they were mostly working for Hamas, though it has not been able to provide evidence to buttress its contention. It repeated the same charge against Sharif too. The words of the CEO of the CPJ Jodie Ginsberg bear repetition. She said international law is very clear on the point that the only individuals who are legitimate targets during a war are active combatants. Having worked as a media advisor for Hamas, or indeed for Hamas currently, does not make their killings justified, she made it clear. Jodie’s argument however is highly untenable in modern day style of conducting a war. No one can be identified individually as being of a specific profession from a long distance bomber cockpit.

It may be true that journalists across the globe are fast becoming targets of state-sponsored attacks and harassment for doing their job of uncovering truths and exposing corrupt and oppressive regimes. But the killings in Gaza add a new dimension to the whole issue that needs attention for the future safety of frontline correspondents.

WISDOM CORNER

“Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children

KAHLIL GIBRAN

“Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness, not pain or mindless self-indulgence, is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values

AYN RAND

“Have you not noticed that love is silence? It may be while holding the hand of another, or looking lovingly at a child, or taking in the beauty of an evening. Love has no past or future, and so it is with this extraordinary state of silence

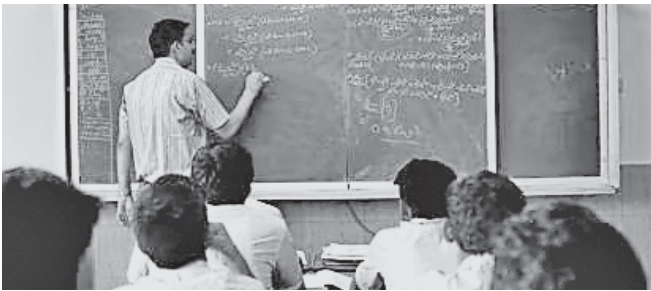
JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1792:** The September Massacres—mass killings of prisoners in Paris—began, instigated by beliefs that political prisoners during the French Revolution were going to rise up in their jails to join a counterrevolutionary plot.
- **1901:** American politician Theodore Roosevelt, who was then the Republican vice presidential candidate, gave the first public speech in which he said, “Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.” The Big Stick policy later became a central feature of his presidency.
- **1945:** World War II came to an end as Japanese Foreign Minister Shigemitsu Mamoru and General Umezu Yoshijiro signed Japan’s formal surrender aboard the USS Missouri.
- **1960:** The First election of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile is held. The parliamentary body of the Central Tibetan Administration was elected and formed by Tibetan exiles in India. The day is celebrated as Democracy Day among Tibetan exiles.

FOCUS EDUCATION

THE TEACHER VACANCY CRISIS



The combined effects of teacher shortages, contractualisation, and parallel schooling are devastating for India’s long-term competitiveness

versities are heavily reliant on CHB teachers because recruitment has lagged. Of the 53,178 sanctioned positions nearly 7,000 remain vacant. More than 60% of teaching posts lie vacant in at least five of the 11 traditional state universities in Maharashtra. These include the universities of Mumbai, Pune and Kolhapur. CHB teachers are paid a measly ₹400 to 800 per lecture, with a maximum of thirty lectures a month, with no health insurance, pension or leave benefits. There is no job security as they face annual re-appointments and unpredictable workloads. Their situation is similar to daily wage workers.

The General Secretary of the Bombay University and College Teachers’ Union has warned, “By normalising CHB positions, government is casualising higher education ... a CHB teacher’s job is akin to that of a daily-wage worker — and the dignity of the profession is lost.” One side effect is that private universities will proliferate, which in itself may not be a bad thing, unless their regulation is lax. With limited state regulatory capacity and oversight, the situation can indeed become bleak and desperate for the faculty in private colleges too.

The growing reliance on underpaid, undertrained, and insecure faculty has lowered incentives for long-term academic investment, research, and men-

toring. In many colleges, permanent faculty focus on administrative roles, while day-to-day teaching is left to CHB instructors juggling multiple colleges. The teacher shortage crisis is compounded by a collapse of trust in government-run education. Not surprisingly there is an exodus of students to private colleges and universities. In urban India, over 30% students attend government schools, as per a recent CMS survey. This survey also reports that in affluent neighbourhoods, municipal schools operate with single-digit enrolments. Some have been repurposed as anganwadis or have shut down entirely. Nearly 54% of urban enrolments are in unaided schools. This shift has resulted in underutilised public infrastructure, while municipal budgets continue to fund half-empty schools. For instance, in the recent July frenzy for admissions to junior colleges across Maharashtra, it was revealed that there were 300 colleges, fully funded by the state that received zero applicants. These colleges receive grants for staff and faculty salaries but have no students. There is suspicion that this state of affairs has been going on for quite some time. It was shocking enough for the Bombay High Court to take suo moto cognisance and initiate legal proceedings.

The weak public education system has fuelled a booming

shadow schooling economy, with one in three students nationally taking private coaching. In urban areas, 98% of private unaided school students pay for coaching. The combined effects of teacher shortages, contractualisation, and parallel schooling are devastating for India’s long-term competitiveness. It leads to poor learning outcomes, misaligned workforce skills where employers consistently complaining of skill shortages, because curricula lag hopelessly behind. No wonder that of the college educated youth in the age group 24 to 29, the unemployment rate is more than 30%. Graduates are emerging from colleges but are unable to secure employment—a paradox hidden in the promise of higher education. For instance, in the GenAI sector, only 1 qualified engineer exists for every 10 open positions, per TeamLease Digital. The electronic manufacturing sector, especially smartphone production, lacks both blue-collar workers and skilled engineers—putting the Make in India momentum at risk.

The way forward is very clear. An aggressive mission to fill all teacher vacancies with full time appointments, professionalising the CHB positions and enforcing the equal pay for equal work principle, investing in teacher training and updating the curriculum to be future oriented, and rebuilding trust in public schools, colleges and universities. India’s aspirations, whether a \$5 trillion economy, a global innovation hub, or skills superpower, ultimately rest on fixing its education foundations.

Investing in educators is investing in the future. Without urgent reforms, the combined weight of teacher shortages, contractualisation, and inequality will deepen the divide between privileged learners and those left behind, risking India’s demographic dividend and long-term growth.

The writer is a noted economist.
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SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

Can AI provide psychotherapy?

In January, the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz announced that it had backed Slingshot AI, the world’s first foundation model for psychology, bringing the startup’s total capital to \$40 million. A few weeks later, the European Union’s AI Act, which includes a ban on manipulative AI systems, came into force.

These two events highlight a troubling contradiction. Even as regulators attempt to protect users from deceptive AI practices, investors are betting that AI chatbots can treat people struggling with mental-health issues – in other words, when they are especially vulnerable to exploitation. Worse, the way that large language models are currently trained may make them fundamentally incapable of providing such treatment.

The mental-health market is huge, and the use of generative AI is poised to expand significantly. The United States National Institute of Mental Health estimates that one in five US adults has a mental illness. But more than 122 million people in the US live in an area with a shortage of mental-health providers. This has given rise to a slew of AI chatbots that promise to fill the gap. Wysa, for ex-

ample, calls itself the “clinical alternative to ChatGPT” and claims to have helped six million people in 95 countries.

But AI chatbots’ behaviour is at odds with the delicate balance of empathy and confrontation that evidence-based psychotherapy requires. Mental-health professionals must validate patients’ experiences while challenging the rigid thinking that perpetuates psychological distress. This productive discomfort helps patients examine their assumptions, driving meaningful change.

Consider a patient who avoids social situations, claiming that they prefer solitude instead of acknowledging their social anxiety. A skilled therapist might gently challenge them by asking if something else is informing that preference – perhaps a fear of how others might react. This opens space for self-reflection without attacking the patient’s conception of self. Current AI models tend to avoid such confrontations. In April, OpenAI rolled back GPT-4o update because it was “overly flattering or agreeable – often described as sycophantic.” It reportedly praised one person’s plan to “sell shit on a stick” as “genius” – an obvious example of prioritizing

agreeableness over accuracy. Researchers have found that sycophancy is “a general behavior of AI assistants” that likely stems from the way these models are trained, particularly the use of human feedback for fine-tuning. When human evaluators consistently rate validating responses more favourably than challenging ones, AI assistants learn to echo, rather than question, the user. In mental-health contexts, this tendency toward agreement may prove problematic, because psychological disorders often involve cognitive distortions that feel true to the individual and thus contribute to their distress. For example, depressed people tend to feel worthless or hopeless, while anxiety is often associated with catastrophic thinking. An AI chatbot programmed to be agreeable might reinforce these harmful thought patterns by focusing solely on validation, rather than introducing alternative points of view.

Addressing AI’s sycophancy problem requires fundamental changes to how these systems are designed and used. Instead of optimizing for user satisfaction, AI chatbots that provide mental health care should be trained to recognize when therapeutic challenge is necessary. That

could mean incorporating therapeutic principles and examples of effective therapeutic interventions into training strategies.

Crucially, health professionals and patients must play a central role in developing these tools, given their insights into which therapeutic interactions are helpful and which are harmful. Meaningful patient involvement in design and deployment would ensure that the models serve end users’ real needs, not what tech leaders assume they want.

The global mental-health crisis demands innovative solutions, and AI will be an essential component. But if AI technologies are to expand access to quality care and promote long-term healing, investors should demand evidence of effective therapeutic outcomes before funding the next chatbot therapist.

Claims about AI revolutionizing mental health care remain premature. Until it can master the very specialized ability of therapeutic confrontation – sensitively but firmly questioning patients’ assumptions and offering alternative perspectives – it could end up harming those it is meant to help.

The writer is a German board-certified psychiatrist.
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Marc Augustin

AI CHATBOTS’ BEHAVIOUR IS AT ODDS WITH THE DELICATE BALANCE OF EMPATHY AND CONFRONTATION THAT EVIDENCE-BASED PSYCHOTHERAPY REQUIRES

Letters

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



Bronco for cricketers

Sir, Endurance, speed and stamina, are prerequisites for a cricketer. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has now replaced the erstwhile Yoyo test with the Bronco test. Clearing the test for inclusion of a player in the side is a rite. Bronco is a more rigorous test that allows players little time to recover and has a very short time limit. In other words, it’s a sustained high intensity test pushing the players to the brink. Yoyo focused more on assessing agility and interval recovery. More frequently used in a tough game like rugby, Bronco requires a player to start off with 20 metre shuttle run followed by 40 and 60 metre runs for five sets without break in six minutes. In contrast in Yoyo, players were required to run to and from between two set markers with short recovery periods. Bronco is seen as a game-specific test that also addresses a fast bowler’s fitness and players’ mental agility.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Educating girls

Sir, The 67th Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia’s most prestigious honour, will be conferred on 7 November in Manila, the Philippines to the Indian non-government organisation “Educate Girls” for its pioneering work in addressing gender injustice in education. Founded by Shafeena Hussain after her return from the London School of Economics, the organisation has mobilised community and government resources to bring girls from remote and disadvantaged regions into classrooms. Its Pragati open-schooling initiative further empowers young women who were denied formal schooling. By breaking the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy and poverty, Educate Girls is unlocking the hidden potential of thousands of marginalised girls, equipping them with knowledge, confidence, and skills essential for modern India. The recognition, accompanied by a medallion and cash prize, will inspire countless others towards inclusive nation-building.

RS Narula, PATIALA

The Union Territory and all agencies together have significantly reduced potential damage, and through coordinated efforts, we have successfully saved many lives

AMIT SHAH

UNION HOME MINISTER

We (BRS cadre) have to think why the taint of corruption came to KCR. Some who are close to KCR have benefited in many ways by making use of his name

K KAVITHA

BRS MLC

Punjab has been in the grip of severe floods for the last several days. The people of Punjab, especially the farmers, have suffered huge losses. Our brave brothers and sisters of Punjab are facing the disaster with great courage

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Naidu dares YSRCP MLAs to show up in Assembly

Thallapaka (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Monday challenged YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP MLAs to attend the Assembly and debate whose governance led to devastation and whose delivered development. Addressing a village meeting after participating in welfare pensions disbursal at Thallapaka in Annamayya district, Chief Minister termed YSRCP as a "fake party". "I am asking directly, are you ready for the Assembly? There are 11 (YSRCP MLAs), come to the Assembly. I am ready to discuss whose (governance) is devastation and whose delivered development. Who has the capability to do welfare," said Naidu.

6 cyber criminals held in Deoghar

Deoghar (Jharkhand): Six cyber criminals were arrested for allegedly duping people in Jharkhand's Deoghar district, police said Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the police arrested them from Dalraiyyeesh forest area under Sarawan police station limits.

BJP holds rally in Dharmasthala

Dharmasthala (Karnataka): The BJP Monday organised a massive rally in Dharmasthala, demanding a central agency probe into allegations of multiple murders, rapes, and burials in the temple town. According to the party, nearly one lakh people from across Karnataka participated in the demonstration, which it described as a show of solidarity against what it termed an "attempt to vilify the temple and its traditions."

Explosion at Surat textile mill: 2 dead

Surat: At least two workers were killed and 20 others were injured after an explosion triggered a fire at a textile processing unit in Surat district of Gujarat Monday, officials said. The condition of two workers is critical.

Row in Goa over rail double-tracking project

Panaji: The double-tracking of the Hosapete-Vasco rail line has triggered a backlash from the Opposition in Goa, which accused the government of putting the ecology and the health of people at stake by attempting to turn the state into a coal hub.

From the outside, the hospital names and management appear the same. But investments have been made by some big foreign companies. They want to provide good medical care, but the rates for treatment are going beyond manageable levels

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

KERALA CM

EX-VP DHANKHAR MOVES TO PVT FARMHOUSE IN DELHI

Former vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar shifted from his official residence to a private farmhouse in the Chhatarpur area of south Delhi Monday evening, six weeks after he resigned from his post, according to officials



Rahul warns BJP: 'Hydrogen bomb' on 'vote chori' coming

Speaking at the concluding event of his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' here, Gandhi said Bihar, being a revolutionary state, has given a message to the country about "vote chori" and will not allow such malpractice



the heart of the capital here. With this, the 15-day Voter Adhikar Yatra in poll-bound Bihar, which started from Sasaram August 17, ended with a boisterous response from workers of the Congress, RJD and Left parties that displayed their strength on the streets of Patna on the last day Monday.

Workers of various constituents of Mahagathbandhan lined up along the 7-km route of the Yatra on the last day, carrying flags and raising slogans in support of their leaders, amid the sound of 'vote chori' tunes, creating a charged atmosphere.

Gandhi was joined by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Vikassheel Insaan Party chief Mukesh Sahani, CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby, CPI (ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, CPI's Annie Raja, TMC MP Yusuf Pathan, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut and other INDIA bloc leaders.

The Yatra led by Gandhi and other Mahagathbandhan leaders covered a total of 1,300 km and passed through 110 assembly constituencies in 25 of the 38 districts ahead of the upcoming state elections.

"In the coming time, I am guaranteeing you that after the hydrogen bomb (comes), Narendra Modi ji will not be able to show his face to the country," the former Congress chief said amid a thunderous applause from the crowds. Citing data from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Gandhi had last month claimed that over one lakh votes were "stolen" through "manipulation" in Mahadevapura Assembly segment in Karnataka, and asserted that "vote chori" is an "atom bomb on our democracy".

The BJP, however, mocked Gandh's claim of "hydrogen bomb", saying his "atom bomb" had turned out to be a damp squib, and accused him of demeaning his position as the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha with "irresponsible" comments.

The 'Gandhi se Ambedkar' march by the Opposition parties Monday was stopped midway by the police at the Dak Bungalow crossing, where the INDIA bloc leaders addressed a gathering.

In his address, Kharge attacked Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, saying the JD(U) chief used to talk of socialism earlier but then "fell into the lap" of the BJP-RSS, which will dump him "where garbage is dumped".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 1: Days after accusing the BJP of stealing elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Monday threatened that he will soon amplify his charges by coming out with more "vote chori" disclosures that would be like a "Hydrogen bomb" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not be able to show his face to the country.

Speaking at the concluding event of his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' here, Gandhi said Bihar, being a revolutionary state, has given a message to the country about "vote chori" and will not allow such malpractice.

Alleging that the forces that killed Mahatma Gandhi are now trying to "murder" democracy and the Constitution, he claimed that the Opposition INDIA bloc would not allow them to do so.

"We will not let them (BJP) murder the Constitution and that is why we took out a yatra. We got a tremendous response. People came out in large numbers and raised the slogan 'vote chor gaddi chhor' ((vote thieves, vacate the throne)," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said at a major public meeting in

US-INDIA TIES REACHING NEW HEIGHTS: EMBASSY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: The India-US partnership continues to reach new heights, the US embassy said in a surprise social media post Monday, amid the ties between the two countries reeling under possibly the worst phase in two decades over the Trump administration's policies on trade and tariff.

The post comes on a day there was visible bonhomie among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin. A photo of PM Modi engaging in a warm ex-

change with Xi and Putin even went viral on social media. "The partnership between the United States and India continues to reach new heights -- a defining relationship of the 21st century. This month, we're spotlighting the people, progress, and possibilities driving us forward," the US embassy here said in the post.

"From innovation and entrepreneurship to defense and bilateral ties, it's the enduring friendship between our two peoples that fuels this journey. Follow the hashtag and be a part of #USIndiaFWDforOurPeople," it said.

With the post, the embassy also attached a photo of Secretary of State Marco Rubio along with a message from him.

"The enduring friendship between our two peoples is the bedrock of our cooperation and propels us forward as we realise the tremendous potential of our economic relationship," Rubio said.

BIHAR SIR

Claims can be filed beyond Sept 1: EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Election Commission of India Monday said claims, objections and corrections in the draft electoral roll prepared in the Bihar special intensive revision (SIR) exercise can be filed beyond September 1 but the same would be considered once the electoral roll was finalised.

According to the June 24 schedule of the poll panel for the Bihar SIR, the deadline for filing claims and objections to the draft roll ends today and the final electoral roll will be published September 30.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi noted the submission of the Election Commission (EC) which said claims and objections could be filed till the last date of nomination forms in each assembly constituency.

"As regards extension of time, a note submitted by the ECI says that filing of claims/objections or corrections is not barred after September 1. It is stated that the claims/objections/corrections can be submitted even after the deadline, that is after September 1 and the same will be considered after the roll has been finalised," the bench noted.

The top court order further recorded, "The process will continue until the last date of nominations and all inclusions/exclusions are integrated in the final roll. In light of this stand, let the claims/objections/corrections be continued to be filed." The bench then granted liberty to the political parties to submit their replies in response to the EC's note.

The top court also termed the confusion over the Bihar SIR as "largely a trust issue" and directed the state legal service authority to deploy paralegal volunteers to assist individual voters and political parties in filing claims and objections to the draft roll, which was pub-



lished August 1. The bench said the paralegal volunteers would submit a confidential report with the district judges concerned and the collated data of the state will be considered September 8. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for EC, said the extension of timelines for filing claims and objections beyond September 1 would disrupt the entire schedule for finalisation of electoral roll.

"The timelines have been fixed according to the rules, and a maximum time of thirty days has been provided for filing claims and objections," he said.

Dwivedi pointed out that according to the records, approximately 99.5 per cent of the 7.24 crore electors featured in the draft electoral roll for Bihar had already submitted their eligibility documents for the SIR exercise.

"The exercise of verification of these documents is currently ongoing, and is scheduled to be completed by September 25, 2025, in accordance with the schedule provided in the SIR order dated June 24, 2025," he said. Dwivedi added that the assertion made by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of filing 36 claims through its booth level agents was "incorrect and misleading" and the correct position, records showed, was only 10.

"However, as is admitted in the IA (interlocutory application), all 36 claims have been accepted by the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and are being processed accordingly," Dwivedi said, pointing out that CPI (ML) filed 15 claims for inclusion and 103 objections for exclusion as August 31.

Shopkeeper stunned by ₹141cr tax notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bulandshahr (UP), Sept 1: A small grocery store owner in Bulandshahr has alleged that his PAN card was misused to set up six companies in Delhi after he received a notice from the Income Tax Department over sales worth more than ₹141 crore.

Sudhir, a resident of Khurja's Nayaganj locality, said he runs a modest grocery shop from his home. He claimed that he had first been served a notice in 2022, following which he explained to the tax authorities that he had no connection with the companies.

"On July 10 this year, I was shocked to get another notice claiming I had reported sales of ₹1,41,38,47,126," Sudhir said, alleging that his PAN had been fraudulently used to incorporate multiple firms in Delhi. Khurja Police Station In-charge Pankaj Rai said a case has been registered and an investigation is underway.

Officials say PAN (Permanent Account Number) card fraud occurs when someone illegally uses another person's PAN details to open bank accounts, create shell companies, obtain loans, or evade taxes.

Victims often discover the fraud only after receiving unexpected tax notices or recovery calls. Experts advise regularly checking credit reports and linking PAN with Aadhaar to minimise risks.

Flood threat in Delhi as Haryana releases water into Yamuna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: With the record release of water from Haryana raising the threat of flooding in Delhi, authorities are on high alert even as Chief Minister Rekha Gupta assured that the government is fully prepared to handle the situation.

The authorities have advised people living in the Yamuna floodplains to relocate to safe locations as the water level of the river rose steadily, and is predicted to reach the evacuation mark of 206 metres by Tuesday evening.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Monday ordered closure of traffic movement on the Old Railway Bridge from 5 pm Tuesday, as the Yamuna continues to swell.

According to the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the Hathnikund barrage discharged 3,29,313 cusecs of water at 9 am Monday, while the Wazirabad barrage discharged around 38,900 cusecs at the time the flood warning was issued.

Divisional commissioner Neeraj Semwal said it is expected that more than 3 lakh cusecs of water will be discharged from the Hathnikund barrage over the next couple of days.

"We have alerted the concerned district magistrates about the preparations that need to be made regarding food, electricity and relief camps. They are monitoring the situation," Semwal told reporters.

New Immigration & Foreigners Act comes into effect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: A new Act that regulates matters related to foreigners and immigration and has provisions for heavy punishment for carrying a forged passport or visa came into effect Monday. The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, was passed by parliament during the Budget session, and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent April 4, 2025.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 (13 of 2025), the central government

hereby appoints the 01st day of September, 2025, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force," said a notification issued by Nitesh Kumar Vyas, additional secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

According to the law, henceforth, anyone found to be using a forged passport or visa for entering into India or staying in or exiting from the country will be punishable with a jail term of up to seven years and a fine to the extent of ₹10 lakh.

The Act also provides for mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities and other



educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners.

All international airlines and ships will also be required to submit at a port or place in

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, was passed by parliament during the Budget session, and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent April 4, 2025

India to a civil authority or immigration officer the passenger and crew manifest, the advance information of passengers and crew on board such aircraft, vessel or other mode of transport.

"Whoever knowingly uses or supplies a forged or fraudulently obtained passport or other travel document or visa for entering into India or staying in or exiting from India, shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than two years, but may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees, but may extend to ten lakh rupees," according to the Act.

It also says that any foreigner who enters into any area in India without a valid passport or other travel document, including visa required for such entry

in contravention of provisions of the law or of any rule or order given in pursuance thereof, shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees or with both.

It is comprehensive legislation to regulate all matters relating to foreigners and immigration which were till now administered through four Acts, i.e. the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. All these laws have been repealed.

of the day

quote

I would like to tell the honourable Chief Minister that although Kannada is not my mother tongue, I deeply cherish all the languages, cultures, and traditions of my country. I hold great respect and regard for each of them

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

I am asking directly, are you ready for the Assembly? There are 11 (YS-RCP MLAs), come to the Assembly. I am ready to discuss whose (governance) is devastation and whose is development and who has the capability to do welfare

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA CM

Once completed, this bridge will provide all-weather connectivity to villages like Bizari, Anpum, Loklung and Paglam. It will ease travel and open up new opportunities for the area

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Gorakhpur: BJP MLA's brother held

Gorakhpur: Posting “derogatory” remarks against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his OSD on social media has landed BJP MLA Mahendra Pal Singh's brother Bholendra Pal Singh in police custody. After an extensive manhunt, Gorakhpur police and crime branch teams arrested Bholendra from a hotel in Kushinagar late Sunday, officials said Monday. A group of people gathered to protest against Bholendra at Indra Bal Vihar crossing, demanding strict action against him. They burnt his effigy and raised slogans of “Bholendra Pal Murdabad” (‘down with Bholendra Pal’).

3 sentenced to life imprisonment

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A special SC/ST court here sentenced three men to life imprisonment for killing a Dalit man and injuring his three children last year, officials said. Special Judge Smt. Asharani Singh also imposed a fine of Rs 35,000 each on Rajender Jat, his son Mohit Jat, and Virender. The court found them guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 452 (house trespass), 504 (insult), 506 (criminal intimidation), and sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, government counsel Parvendra Kumar told PTI.

Spicejet flight turns back mid-air

Mumbai: A Delhi-bound SpiceJet flight from Pune made a mid-air turnback to the originating airport due to a technical glitch Monday and landed under full emergency conditions, a source said. The aircraft landed safely and passengers were deplaned normally, SpiceJet said in a statement.

CBI books DRI, Customs officers

New Delhi: The CBI has registered a corruption case against six officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Customs on a reference from the Lok Pal, officials said. In its FIR, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has named a former senior intelligence officer of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DR) from its Delhi zonal unit, besides three inspectors and two superintendents, who were posted in the office of the Commissioner of Customs in Kolkata, they said.

Only a few people are opposing inviting Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate Mysuru Dasara, and not all Hindus are with them

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

SC EXTENDS STATUS QUO IN SAMBHAL MOSQUE ROW

The Supreme Court Monday extended by two weeks its order directing status quo over the Sambhal mosque dispute in Uttar Pradesh. A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Radhe said two appeals were filed in the matter by Committee of Management Jami Masjid Sambhal represented by its secretary and vice president, respectively



Top court rejects PIL against 20% ethanol-blended petrol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Supreme Court Monday rejected a PIL challenging the nation-wide rollout of 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol (EBP-20), alleging millions of motorists were forced to use the fuel not designed for their vehicles.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran did not agree to the contentions, raised in the plea filed by advocate Akshay Malhotra, who sought directions to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to ensure availability of ethanol-free petrol at all fuel stations.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, opposed the plea and claimed EBP-20 benefits sugarcane farmers. “I say it with some responsibility that the petitioner (Malhotra) is just a name lender. A lobby is behind it. The government has considered everything,” the law offi-

cer said. The bench then went ahead and dismissed the plea.

Senior advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the petitioner, submitted only EBP-20 was “seemingly available” at petrol pumps now, that too without any notice.

He said EBP-20 was not a problem for vehicles compatible with it. “But the largest number of vehicles have not been manufactured for that,” he said, referring to a report illustrating damage to vehicles not compatible to EBP-20. Farasat sought consumers to be given a choice while adding EBP-20 was leading to a drop in mileage of vehicles. The PIL sought a direction to the authorities to mandatorily label ethanol content on all petrol pumps and dispensing units, making it clearly visible to consumers, and also to ensure consumers were informed about ethanol compatibility of their vehicles at the time of fuel dispensing.



NATURE'S FURY

7 die in Himachal, U'khand landslides, several roads shut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Seven people died in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in landslides, while flood-hit Punjab received another spell of torrential rain Monday, leading to the closure of all schools and colleges in the state.

In Jammu and Kashmir, amid heavy rainfall in Katra town, the pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day since a landslide on a yatra route claimed 34 lives last Tuesday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Modi government is committed to ensuring the rehabilitation of those affected by recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir, as he undertook a whirlwind tour of a worst-hit area in Jammu. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and senior J&K BJP leaders.

Chairing a high-level meeting at Raj Bhavan to review the latest situation after inspecting the affected areas, Shah appreciated the efforts of all the agencies and said the J&K government carried out the successful rescue operation very quickly.

In Himachal Pradesh, five people, including a 35-year-old man and his daughter, were killed in the past 24 hours in separate incidents of landslides in Shimla district as heavy rain pounded several places in the state.

Six trains plying on the Shimla-Kalka track have been cancelled following landslips, and 793 roads, including five na-



tional highways, are closed in the state. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu informed the state assembly that with the recovery of four more bodies from Kugti between Hadsar and Manimahesh Lake, the number of devotees killed during the Manimahesh Yatra since its start August 15 has risen to 16.

In Uttarakhand, a landslide on the Kedarnath route early Monday killed two pilgrims and left six injured while heavy rain continued to lash various parts of the state, leading to temporary suspension of the Char Dham and Hemkund Sahib pilgrimages till September 5, officials said.

Rains also lashed several parts of Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory Chandigarh Monday, with Ludhiana logging the highest rainfall of 216.70 mm.

Several districts of Punjab are flooded due to incessant rains. The Punjab government Monday announced closure of all colleges, universities and polytechnic institutes till September 3 due to incessant rainfall. According to officials,



An artist breathes fire during BJP's 'Dharmasthala Chalo' rally, demanding NIA probe in the mass burial case, in Dharmasthala, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

HC asks Jarange, supporters to vacate city streets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: Maratha quota leader Manoj Jarange Monday asked protesters to follow the directives of the Bombay High Court and not inconvenience the people of Mumbai by roaming on the streets.

He also appealed to the protesters to park their vehicles only in the designated parking areas, hours after the High Court frowned on the conduct of protesters. “Follow the high court’s orders. Don’t trouble Mumbaikars. Don’t roam on streets, park vehicles in designated areas. Those who don’t want to listen to me can return to their villages,” Jarange said while addressing a gathering at Azad Maidan, the ground zero of his hunger strike, Monday night.

In a frail voice, the quota leader said he had to drink water while addressing the protesters. Jarange reiterated that he would leave Mumbai only after Marathas get the reservation under the OBC category.

He wondered if some “outsiders” joined the ranks of Maratha protesters to malign the agitation. “Our people don’t misbehave with journalists and indulge in hooliganism,” he said.

“I don’t want the aspersions to be cast on my caste. I am going through a lot of pain and suffering for you and your children. If you behave in such a manner, then what’s the use (of the agitation)?” he said.



ARMY REMOVES TMC'S PROTEST STAGE

Mamata blames BJP for misuse of power



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 1: West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee Monday accused the Centre of “misusing” the Indian

tionally dismantled structure. The TMC was holding sit-ins at the site Saturdays and Sundays for nearly the past one month.

“The BJP wants to misuse the Army for their own purposes. This is a sad message.

They do not care about the country’s internal issues or its border security. They only care about fighting the Trinamool Congress in Bengal. But the more they do this, the worse the result will be for them,” Banerjee claimed.

The Army should have consulted the Kolkata Police before dismantling the stage, the CM main-

tained. “They could have called me, and I would have removed the stage within minutes. They could have contacted the state police or the Kolkata CP, since this was about law and order, and that is a state subject. They could have also spoken to our sports minister Aroop Biswas like they did during the Durand Cup,” she said, alleging that the police were deliberately insulted by this act on Police Day.

BANERJEE'S REACTION CAME AFTER THE INDIAN ARMY PARTIALLY DISMANTLED THE TMC'S STAGE ERECTED BESIDE THE GANDHI STATUE IN THE MAIDAN AREA IN CENTRAL KOLKATA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PARTY HAD OVERSHOT THE PROGRAMME'S PERMISSION TENURE

Grasslands in Manas National Park face rapid decline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 1: Grasslands in Assam’s Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve have shrunk by nearly 50 per cent in the last three decades due to various factors, including climate change, officials said.

Manas National Park (MNP) and Tiger Reserve Field Director C Ramesh told PTI that grasslands paving the way for woodlands is a natural process that takes over 100 years but it has accelerated in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, forcing herbivorous animals to get concentrated in areas where grasses are available.

“We are witnessing that the grassland expanse is shrinking and woodlands are increasing. That’s a part of succession, but it is happening very rapidly,

and that is a cause of concern for us as grasslands are crucial for the ecosystem,” he said.

Ramesh stated that the trees and shrubs that are replacing grasslands are of native species. With woodlands replacing the grasslands, animals are getting concentrated in areas that have grass.

The grasslands of the national park are unique from a biodiversity point of view as it is the only place in the world where greater one-horned rhino, swamp deer, hog deer, pygmy hog, hispid hare, wild buffalo, Bengal florican, tiger and elephant co-exist in the same habitat.

Speaking about the crisis, eminent conservationist and grassland expert Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar told PTI that the grasslands are affected in



two ways – biotic and abiotic or anthropogenic.

The anthropogenic pattern means affecting the grassland through livestock grazing, uncontrolled burning and grass cutting for various purposes.

Lahkar said that the diversity of grasses has also been declining over the years.

“Different animals depend on

different types of grasses. So, if a particular species of grass decreases, then the animals dependent on that grass will also gradually vanish from the park,” he added.

Lahkar said very little emphasis is given in Assam on developing habitats as the primary focus is still on developing infrastructure and combating

We are witnessing that the grassland expanse is shrinking and woodlands are increasing. That’s a part of succession, but it is happening very rapidly, and that is a cause of concern for us as grasslands are crucial for the ecosystem

C RAMESH | MNP AND TIGER RESERVE FIELD DIRECTOR

poaching. Echoing similar views, Gauhati University Assistant Professor (Environmental Science) Minakshi Bora said climate change is responsible for altering MNP’s grassland community, enabling invasive species like Chromolaena odorata and Mikania micrantha to thrive.

Bora said that rising temperatures and declining precipitation have disrupted the hydrological cycle in the Manas

River Basin. Additionally, flash floods, intensified by melting Himalayan glaciers and increased sediment loads, are causing significant damage to grassland vegetation and leading to wildlife mortality, Bora stressed.

Ramesh, however, said that no study has been conducted on the impact of climate change in the forest, and there is no weather station inside the national park, which is why it is difficult to analyse the change of temperature or rainfall pattern inside the jungle over the years. In a bid to arrest the decline, the park authorities, in collaboration with several NGOs, have prepared a 10-year ‘Grassland Management Action Plan’ (GMAP) to conserve and restore the habitat.

international

of the day quote

Those are things that you don't discuss before you sit down at the negotiating table with many parties that have a say in the matte

BORIS PISTORIUS | DEFENCE MINISTER, GERMANY

Our joint letter with my colleagues, the foreign ministers of China and Russia, signed in Tianjin, reflects the firm position that the European attempt to invoke snapback is legally baseless and politically destructive

ABBAS ARAGHCHI | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

We can indeed confirm that there was GPS jamming. We have received information from the Bulgarian authority that they suspect that this was due to blatant interference by Russia

ARIANNA PODESTA | EU DEPUTY CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

5 killed as Pak army helicopter crashes

Islamabad: Five Pakistan army personnel, including two officers, were killed Monday after their helicopter crashed in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir's Gilgit-Baltistan region. An Mi-17 helicopter, on routine training, attempted to "crash-land" after developing a technical fault, the army said in a statement, adding that the accident occurred at around 1 am near Hudor village, about 12 kilometres away from Thakdas Cantonment, in Diamer. Those killed were identified as Major Atif, pilot in command; Major Faisal, co-pilot; Naib Subedar Maqbool, flight engineer; Havilar Jahangir, crew chief; and Naik Amir, crew chief.

B'desh Army chief meets Yunus, Prez

Dhaka: Army Chief Gen Waker-uz-Zaman Monday met Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and President Mohammed Shahabuddin and discussed the military's role in assisting the civil administration, amid deteriorating law and order situation in Bangladesh in recent days. In a statement, the army described the meetings as "courtesy calls" and said Gen Zaman briefed them about his recent visit to China. According to a statement issued by the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, Yunus thanked the military for their continued contribution to the maintenance of law and order.

Helicopter with 8 aboard loses contact

Jakarta: A helicopter carrying eight people lost contact in a forest in Indonesia's tropical island of Borneo eight minutes after takeoff, officials said Monday. The Airbus BK117 D-3, owned by Eastindo Air, departed from the airport in Kotabaru district in Indonesia's South Kalimantan province at 08:46 am Monday on its way to Palangkaraya city in Central Kalimantan province. It was supposed arrive in Palangkaraya at 10:15 am. Its last contact with air traffic control was at 08:54 am.

10 Indian-origin men charged in Singapore

Singapore: Ten Indian-origin men were charged in a Singapore court Monday after they allegedly took part in a brawl at a coffee shop of an industrial estate last month that left two victims with stab wounds. Each man faces one charge of rioting while armed with a deadly weapon, reported The Straits Times. For rioting while armed with a weapon, an offender can be jailed for up to 10 years and caned, according to the report.

The first meeting of the Council is scheduled for 3 September. At this meeting, the fund's council will determine the principles for selecting projects and other operational procedures

YULIYA SVRYDENKO | PRIME MINISTER, UKRAINE

SL'S JAFFNA TO GET FIRST INT'L CRICKET STADIUM

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Monday laid the foundation stone for the construction of the first international cricket stadium in the former war torn region of Jaffna. Speaking at the ceremony, Dissanayake said Sri Lanka, which was always in the news for wrong reasons such as the civil war, the economic crisis and corruption, found cricket as the only good news provider



Earthquake rattles Afghanistan

The magnitude 6 tremor hit overnight, levelling villages, killing at least 800 people and injuring more than 2,800 in remote mountainside areas

REUTERS

Kabul, Sept 1: The shrinking of funding for Afghanistan, led by US aid cuts, was hampering the response Monday to a powerful earthquake in the east, with dozens of clinics closed and a helicopter out of use, humanitarian officials said.

The magnitude 6 tremor hit overnight, levelling villages, killing at least 800 people and injuring more than 2,800 in remote mountainside areas.

The ruling Taliban administration and aid officials have a daunting task to rescue and help thousands of Afghans with a tinier budget than ever and an economy in crisis.

"The actual delivery of response has been badly hit by the funding cuts this year, but also the number of people we have on the ground is much less than we would have had six months ago," said Kate Carey, deputy head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan.

It was the third major deadly earthquake since the Taliban took over in 2021 in a nation also reeling from conflict, droughts, floods and the push-back of 2.1 million Afghans by neighbouring countries.

Afghanistan has been badly affected since US President Donald Trump's administration in January began funding cuts to its humanitarian arm USAID and aid programs worldwide in what he casts as part of a broader plan to remove wasteful spending.

But even before that, funding was shrinking to Afghanistan



due to competing emergencies in areas like Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan, as well as frustration from donor governments over the Taliban's policies towards women, especially its restrictions on the work of Afghan female NGO staff.

Humanitarian aid, aimed at bypassing political institutions to serve urgent needs, has shrunk to \$767 million this year, down from \$3.8 billion in 2022. The impact of the cuts was starkly illustrated by the latest crisis, Carey said, with a creaking health system now dealing with thousands of patients hit by falling rubble.

Forty-four health clinics catering to over 363,000 people in Nangarhar and Kunar, the provinces worst-affected by the quake, suspended operations or closed this year due to US aid cuts, according to World Health Organization figures.

NO HELICOPTER

Where in the past a helicopter would have taken health teams and supplies to remote villages only accessible by foot, funding cuts to the World Food Programme, which runs a humanitarian air service, put the aircraft out of commission

- Quake response hampered by funding cuts
- Deadly tremor the latest of multiple crises
- Dozens of clinics shut in worst-hit provinces

earlier this year, Carey said.

The Taliban has appealed for more aid in a country where half the population was already in need of urgent humanitarian assistance according to UN estimates.

"Support from the international community is seen as essential," said Abdul Rahman Habib, spokesperson for the Taliban-run Ministry of Economy, noting the fall in funds for food, healthcare, displaced people and communities hit by climate change.

Aid has been a lifeline during Afghanistan's global isolation under the Taliban, whose government has only formally been recognised by Russia. Sanctions on some of its leaders have hampered the banking sector and the US has frozen billions in central bank assets.

Taliban authorities do not publicly release their annual

budget. The World Bank noted in April that although authorities' tax and revenues mobilisation had been relatively strong, it had not been enough to offset the sharp drop in aid.

As well as the global funding plunge, the UN and charities have to navigate a plethora of complex policies on operations under the Taliban, which says Afghan female aid staff should not work though there are exemptions in health and education.

The Taliban, which has closed high schools and universities to female students and placed restrictions on their movement without a male guardian, says it respects women's rights in accordance with its interpretation of Islamic law.

Sherine Ibrahim, the International Rescue Committee's Afghanistan Director, said Monday that the funding cuts were a drag on the response to Afghanistan's latest disaster.

"Although we have been able to act fast, we are profoundly fearful for the additional strain that this disaster will have on the overall humanitarian response in Afghanistan," she said.

Trump claims India offered to cut tariffs to nothing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, Sept 1: US President Donald Trump Monday claimed that India has now "offered" to cut its tariffs to nothing, "but it's getting late", as he said that India buys most of its oil and military products from Russia and very little from the US. "What few people understand is that we do very little business with India, but they do a tremendous amount of business with us," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

He added that India sells to the US, its biggest "client", "massive" amounts of goods, "but we sell them very little - Until now a totally one sided relationship, and it has been for many decades."



The reason is that India has charged us, until now, such high tariffs, the most of any country, that our businesses are unable to sell into India, he said.

"It has been a totally one sided disaster! Also, India buys most of its oil and military products from Russia, very little from the US. They have now offered to cut their Tariffs to nothing, but it's getting late. They should have done so years ago. Just some simple facts for people to ponder!!!" Trump said.

XI PUSHES NEW GLOBAL ORDER

REUTERS

Tianjin, China, Sept 1: Chinese President Xi Jinping Monday pressed his vision for a new global security and economic order that prioritises the "Global South", in a direct challenge to the United States, during a summit that included the leaders of Russia and India.

"We must continue to take a clear stand against hegemonism and power politics, and practise true multilateralism," Xi said, in a thinly veiled swipe at the United States and President Donald Trump's tariff policies.

"Global governance has reached a new crossroads," he added.

Xi was hosting more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries at a summit in the



Chinese port city of Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a China-backed initiative given renewed impetus by the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi.

In an image designed to convey a mood of solidarity, Putin and Modi were shown holding hands as they walked jovially towards Xi before the summit opened. The three men stood

shoulder-to-shoulder, laughing and surrounded by interpreters. "It's hard to tell if the scene was choreographed or improvised, but it doesn't really matter," wrote Eric Olander, editor-in-chief of The China-Global South Project, a research agency.

"If the US president and his acolytes thought they could use tariffs to pressure China, India, or Russia into submission, that (encounter) says otherwise."

After the summit, Modi shared a ride with Putin in the Russian leader's armoured Aurus limousine en route to their bilateral meeting.

"Conversations with him are always insightful," Modi wrote on X. At the bilateral meeting, Putin addressed Modi in Russian as "Dear Mr Prime Minister, dear friend."

Deadliest quakes

2025

A magnitude 5.6 quake hit Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region August 27.

A magnitude 5.2 earthquake hit Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region August 19, at a depth of 186 km (115 miles).

A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck central Pakistan June 29, with its epicenter at a depth of 149 km (93 miles).

A magnitude 5.7 earthquake struck Pakistan May 10, the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre said.

Quakes of magnitude 5.6 and 5.8 hit the Hindu Kush and Afghanistan-Tajikistan border regions, April 16 and 19, respectively.

A magnitude 5 earthquake struck Pakistan April 12, at a depth of 39 km (25 miles).

Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi has been hit by several moderate or minor tremors in March and June.

2024

A magnitude 5.5 earthquake hit the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan October 17.

An earthquake of magnitude 5.75 struck Pakistan at a depth of 10 km (6 miles) September 11.

Earthquakes of magnitude 5.5 and 5.8 struck Pakistan between March 19 and March 20.

An earthquake of magnitude 5.5 hit northwestern Kashmir February 19.

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan January 11.

A magnitude 5 earthquake hit the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region January 5.

2023

An earthquake of magnitude 5.3 hit the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region November 15.

Many died as multiple earthquakes rattled Afghanistan in October.

An earthquake of magnitude 5.1 hit the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border August 6.

Earthquakes of magnitude 5.6 and 5.7 hit the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan May 3 and August 5, respectively.

An earthquake of magnitude 6.5 hit northern Afghanistan in late March, killing at least 13.

A magnitude 5.8 earthquake hit the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan January 5.

2022

An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 hit southeastern Afghanistan December 16.

Over September 5 and 6, at least two earthquakes struck Afghanistan, with one killing at least eight.

A magnitude 5.6 quake struck Pakistan's southwestern region August 1.

A magnitude 6 earthquake in Afghanistan killed more than 1,000 people in June.

A magnitude 5.7 earthquake struck the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan February 5.

An earthquake of magnitude 5.6, at a depth of 30 km (19 miles), hit western Afghanistan January 17.

2021

At least 15 people were killed after an earthquake struck southern Pakistan October 7.

A magnitude 4.6 earthquake, at a depth of 17.6 km (11 miles), shook Afghanistan May 19.



of the day

QUOTE

Our acquisition of a majority stake in Pinkvilla is a critical step in our mission to deepen our engagement with Gen Z

RAVI IYER | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT (CORP), FLIPKART

The upcoming India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 will focus on 5G and 6G technologies and also discuss ways to connect communities such as farmers, MSMEs and school children

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION TELECOM MINISTER

Crossing 20.01 billion UPI transactions in August 2025 is a remarkable milestone that reflects the depth and resilience of India's digital economy

DILIP MODI | CEO, SPICE MONEY

SHORT TAKES

Ashok Leyland's big investment

Mumbai: Automaker Ashok Leyland, India's third-largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles said Monday it will invest more than 50 billion rupees (\$571.4 million) in domestic EV battery production. The investment will be spread over the next 7-10 years, it said. The company plans to supply the batteries to its EV unit, called Switch, as well as to other automakers and for energy storage purposes. Ashok Leyland will also partner with China's CALB one of the world's top EV battery makers, for the battery production venture. CALB supplies EV batteries for cars, commercial vehicles, and energy storage.

CAD narrows

Mumbai: India's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to \$2.4 billion, or 0.2 per cent of GDP, in the June quarter from \$8.6 billion (0.9 per cent of GDP) in the year-ago period, helped by exports of services, according to RBI data released Monday. India recorded a current account deficit (CAD) of \$23.3 billion (0.6 per cent of GDP) for 2024-25, down from \$26 billion (0.7 per cent of GDP) in 2023-24. During the quarter, merchandise trade deficit was at \$68.5 billion higher than \$63.8 billion in the April-June period of previous year. Net services receipts increased to \$47.9 billion in quarter from \$39.7 billion a year ago, it said. Services exports have risen on a y-o-y basis in major categories such as business services and computer services, it added. In the financial account, it said.

Deutsche Bank to sell Indian retail bank biz

New Delhi: Deutsche Bank is exploring the sale of its Indian retail banking assets and has invited bids from domestic and foreign lenders in the country, two sources said. The Germany-based bank has pledged to make its retail business more profitable. In March, CEO Christian Sewing said headcount at its retail bank will be cut by almost 2,000 people in 2025, with a "significant" reduction in branch numbers. In India, Deutsche wants to completely sell its retail banking business, which spans 17 branches. The sources said Deutsche had set an August 29 deadline for non-binding bids from several banks for its India retail assets. The valuation the bank is seeking for its India retail business was also not immediately clear.



India's manufacturing PMI hit another new high in August, driven by a rapid expansion in production. The increase of US tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent might have contributed to the slight easing in new export orders growth

PRANALI BHANDARI | CHIEF INDIA ECONOMIST, HSBC

ONLINE GAMING ACT TO BE NOTIFIED SOON

The government will notify the Online Gaming Act very quickly, a top government official said on Monday. The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, passed by the Parliament August 21, bars all forms of online money games while promoting e-sports and other online games. The act has received the President's assent. The act will come into effect after it is notified by the government



Gold touches lifetime high of ₹1.05 lakh/10g on tariff jitters

GLITTERING METAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Rising for the sixth consecutive session, gold prices rallied Rs 1,000 to hit yet another record high of Rs 1,05,670 per 10 grams in the national capital Monday, lifted by expectations of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve this month and robust demand in overseas markets.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had climbed Rs 1,000 to hit a record high of Rs 1,04,670 per 10 grams Saturday.

In the local market, gold of

99.5 per cent purity jumped Rs 800 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 1,04,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Monday. It had settled at Rs 1,04,000 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Traders said the precious metal surged as investors surged towards safe-haven assets amid growing concerns over the uncertainty around tariff policies.

Additionally, silver prices rallied Rs 1,000 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,26,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) Monday. The white metal had skyrocketed Rs 6,000 to hit a record high of Rs 1,25,000 per kg Saturday.

GOLD & SILVER



"Silver hit record high in the domestic markets largely driven by industrial demand in clean energy and electronics

supporting with speculative interest driving the price sharply higher," Trivesh D, Chief Operating Officer at brokerage firm

India collects ₹1.86L-cr GST in August

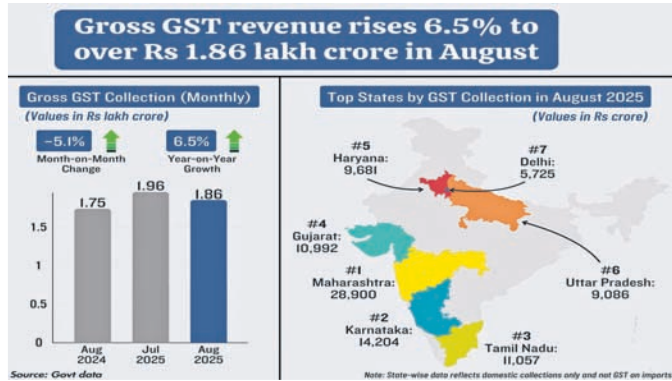
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Goods and Services Tax (GST)collection in August rose 6.5 per cent to over Rs 1.86 lakh crore with increased domestic sales, and the upcoming festive season is likely to swell the kitty going forward.

The August GST mop-up is, however, lower than Rs 1.96 lakh crore collected in July. In August 2024, the collection was Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

The gross domestic revenue grew 9.6 per cent to Rs 1.37 lakh crore, while tax from imports dipped 1.2 per cent to Rs 49,354 crore in August. GST refunds were down 20 per cent year-on-year to Rs 19,359 crore.

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the significant dip in export refunds is a clear signal of the impact that global tariffs are heavy on the export sector.



Net GST revenue stood at Rs 1.67 lakh crore in August 2025, recording 10.7 per cent year-on-year growth.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said while Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) recorded a double-digit expansion, the growth in Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and cess collections was

tepid, dampening the headline GST increase to 6.5 per cent.

The collection data comes just two days ahead of the meeting of the GST Council, comprising Centre and states, which will deliberate on rate rationalisation and reducing number of tax slabs.

Mani said after four months of increase in GST refunds, this month depicts a decline in re-

funds, although on an annual basis, refunds are 18 per cent more than last year.

He said these collections pertain to economic activity during July, which is typically impacted by the monsoon-led lower demand for goods and services.

"The demand increase which begin in the festival season starting August and will continue till November, should result in significant jumps in collections in the coming months; however reduced GST rates that are expected to be announced soon may temporarily moderate the collection," Mani added.

With expected GST cuts on many products in the upcoming Council meeting, the government would be closely monitoring the collections over next few months, according to Pratik Jain, Partner Price Waterhouse & Co LLP.

Vedanta organises mega health camp

LANJIGARH: Vedanta Aluminium, as part of its CSR healthcare initiative organised a mega health campaign 'Project Aarogya' in Kankutru Gram Panchayat, Lanjigarh. During the camp, a dedicated team of health experts provided free general health check-ups, medicines, and built awareness around preventive care and early diagnosis, helping extend healthcare access to remote areas. As part of its ongoing commitment to community well-being, the company conducts monthly health camps to ensure regular access to essential medical services for rural communities. This initiative reflects the company's focus on bridging healthcare gaps through sustained outreach and aligns with its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being for all. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO of Vedanta's Alumina Business, said, "Healthcare is a fundamental right, yet access remains a challenge for many rural communities. In Kalahandi district, through Project Aarogya, we provide quality healthcare services to more than 60,000 people annually. Initiatives like the Mega Health Camps reflect our belief that community well-being is the foundation of sustainable growth."



Spykar opens new store

BHUBANESWAR: Spykar, one of India's leading youth fashion brands, announced the grand opening of its latest exclusive store at Khavela Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Bishwajit Mishra and Arijit Mahapatra as the chief guests. The new 650 sqft outlet offers a wide range of fashion-forward collections. The event witnessed the presence of franchisee owners Naman Narula and Sanjay Narula, along with their family. Biki Gupta (ASM, Spykar) was also there. This is the sixth store for Bhubaneswar, and 20th store in Odisha. Speaking on the launch, the franchisee owners expressed their excitement in bringing Spykar's youthful fashion to the heart of Bhubaneswar.



TPCODL Discoms launches rooftop solar scheme

BHUBANESWAR: Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms Monday announced the launch of a one-kilowatt Rooftop Solar (RTS) adoption scheme under the Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model, as part of the Centre's flagship PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The scheme allows eligible domestic consumers with a one-kilowatt contract demand to install rooftop solar systems by paying just Rs 5,000 upfront, with the remaining cost covered through subsidies. Typically, a 1 kW solar system costs Rs 65,000-Rs75,000, but under this model, the Centre and State governments together provide a subsidy of Rs5,000—Rs 30,000 and Rs 25,000 respectively. Consumers will only bear the cost of the solar generation meter, while the Discoms will provide the net meter. "With a 1 kW rooftop solar system, households can generate around 100 units of electricity per month, leading to annual savings of nearly Rs 5,000," said Gajanan S Kale, Chief, Odisha Distribution Business & CEO, TPNODL. He added that "Consumers just need to submit a consent form and make the one-time contribution. Tata Power-led Discoms will ensure installation, quality checks and after-sales service." The company will offer a five-year warranty on system components and 25 years on solar panels.



Modi to inaugurate semiconductor conference

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Semicon India – 2025', a conference aimed at catalysing India's semiconductor ecosystem, Tuesday.

The three-day conference starting from Tuesday will focus on advancing a robust, resilient, and sustainable semiconductor ecosystem in India, it said.

It will feature sessions on the progress of the Semicon India programme, semiconductor fab and advanced packaging projects, infrastructure readiness, smart manufacturing, innovations in R&D, and artificial intelligence, investment opportunities, and state-level policy implementation, among others.

Additionally, the event will highlight initiatives under the Design Linked Incentive

(DLI) scheme, the growth of the startup ecosystem, international cooperation, and the future roadmap.

Over 20,750 attendees, including more than 2,500 delegates from over 48 countries, over 150 speakers, including over 50 global leaders, and more than 350 exhibitors will participate in the event, the statement said.

It will also include six countries roundtable discussions, country pavilions and dedicated pavilions for workforce development and startups, among others.

The statement said semicon conferences organised across the world aim to maximise outreach of the technological advancements in the semiconductor domain as well as the policies of various countries to strengthen the semiconductor ecosystem.

SBI Bhubaneswar celebrates National Sports Day 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: SBI Bhubaneswar celebrated National Sports Day from August 29 to August 31 to honour the birth anniversary of Major Dhyani Chand, the legendary hockey player

In this regard State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle organised sports events and felicitation of sports person at different centre. Some of the events as follows.

ROURKELA: August 29, a Hockey Match between Lakra Club and SBI organised at Panposh Hockey Stadium, Rourkela. The bank invited and felicitated Olympian hockey player Lazarus Barla, veteran hockey player of Rourkela Surendra Tigga, Cyprian Kerketta, Naiman Tirkey. More than 37 Hockey Player participated in this event.

CUTTACK: August 29, Satyabrata Stadium Cuttack 239



participants form SBI including Senior Citizens participated in different events like Yoga, Zumba, 100 mts race, 3 Kms Walk, Tug of War, Skipping etc.

BHUBANESWAR: August 29, Administrative office, Unit-I Bhubaneswar more than 100 participants from SBI taken part in event like Box Cricket, Badminton etc. Apart from this, Prashant Kumar, DGM inaugurate a special play zone

for children at Administrative Office, Bhubaneswar.

BERHAMPUR: August 29, Administrative office, Brahmanagar, Berhampur organised events like Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, and Carom etc. More than 130 State Bank employees of Berhampur centre participated in these events

BALASORE: At Balasore Indore Stadium more than 44 participants participated in a Badminton

ton tournament August 30.

ASKA: At Aska Stadium more than 50 participants participated in a Cricket Match tournament August 30.

PURI: More than 60 State Bank staff participated in a Cricket Tournament Sunday, August 31 at Jagannath Stadium Puri. Bharat Charan Sahu, Regional Manager Puri felicitated Ramesh Chandra Sahoo national Kho Kho Player.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: Benchmark BSE Sensex Monday rebounded by nearly 555 points on value buying in IT, auto and consumer durables shares after three straight days of losses and strong macro data.

The 30-share Sensex jumped 554.84 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 80,364.49 with 23 of its constituents ending higher and seven lower. The index opened with gains and later surged 597.19 points or 0.74 per cent to hit a high of 80,406.84.

The 50-share NSE Nifty spurred by 198.20 points or 0.81 per cent to close at 24,625.05.

Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Trent, Eternal, Asian Paints and Infosys were the major gainers. However, Sun Pharma, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and Titan were among the laggards.

India's economy grew by a stronger-than-expected 7.8 per cent in April-June, its fastest pace in five quarters, before US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs that now cloud the outlook, threatening key exports.

"India's Q1 GDP growth of 7.8 per cent, exceeding projections, has reinforced investor confidence in the economy's resilience amid global uncertainties.

"Expectations of GST rationalisation at the upcoming council meeting continue to bolster sentiment, supporting discretionary consumption.

NO MONDAY BLUES

Sensex jumps 555 points



This optimism is particularly benefiting sectors such as auto and consumer durables," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.64 per cent and small-cap index climbed 1.49 per cent.

Auto surged the most by 2.68 per cent, followed by consumer durables (2.07 per cent), consumer discretionary (2 per cent), capital goods (1.93 per cent), power (1.80 per cent), metal (1.68 per cent), BSE Focused IT (1.65 per cent) and BSE IT (1.62 per cent).

As many as 2,796 stocks advanced while 1,391 declined and 193 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"The fall has been sharp in past three trading sessions and a breather was expected, and hence markets witnessed a relief rally. The bounce back was also due to strong Q1 GDP numbers and optimism ahead of the GST rejig meeting later this week.

"However, persistent FII selling coupled with a falling rupee has made investors jittery about equity markets near to medium prospects," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.92 per cent to \$68.10 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 8,312.66 crore on Friday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 11,487.64 crore, according to exchange data.

US OPEN → Djoko, Alcaraz defy age

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Sept 1: In his quest for ultimate history at the US Open, the 38-year-old Novak Djokovic became the oldest man in history to reach all four major singles quarterfinals in one season, after ending the run of qualifier Jan-Lennard Struff with 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 win inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

His latest victory makes him the fourth oldest man—after Pancho Gonzalez, Ken Rosewall and Jimmy Connors—to advance to a US Open quarterfinal. Prior to Djokovic, Connors was the most recent man to achieve the feat, which he did during his famous run to the semifinals, at age 39, in 1991.

This is Djokovic's 14th career singles quarterfinal at the US Open, meaning he separates himself from Roger Federer and Andre Agassi, both of whom notched 13. He's now second on the men's Open Era list behind only Connors, who reached 17 US Open quarterfinals.

The Serb, who is aiming all-time record 25th Grand Slam singles title, will nexy play No. 4 seed Taylor Fritz, who beat Tomas Machac in straight sets.

Earlier, the 22-year-old Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest man to reach 13 Grand Slam quarterfinals in the Open Era with a 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-4 victory over France's Arthur Rinderknech. Rinderknech was appearing in the Round of 16 at a major for the first time and was bidding to become the first Frenchman to reach the quarters in Flushing Meadows since Gael Monfils in 2019.

Alcaraz boasts a 21-2 record at the Grand Slams this season, reaching the Australian Open quarterfinals, saving three championship points to win Roland Gar-

Novak Djokovic at 38: Oldest to reach quarters since Connors, eyes historic 25th Grand Slam



Carlos Alcaraz at 22: Youngest man to reach 13 Grand Slam quarterfinals in the Open Era



Defending champ Sabalenka storms into quarterfinals

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka dominated Cristina Bucsa 6-1, 6-4 to reach the US Open quarterfinals for the fifth consecutive year. The win marks the fifth consecutive year that Sabalenka has made it to at least the quarterfinal round in Flushing Meadows, with her previous four trips resulting in semifinal appearances or better. The 73-minute win also assures that Sabalenka will officially stay No 1 in the world rankings after the tournament, regardless of any other results. Sabalenka has now reached the quarterfinals in each of the last 12 majors that she has contested, solidifying her position as a top contender. A matchup of Grand Slam champions awaits Sabalenka in the quarterfinals as she'll take on a former Wimbledon winner champion Marketa Vondrousova, who prevailed in a battle of former Wimbledon champions, defeating No 9 seed Elena Rybakina 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in 1 hour and 51 minutes to advance to the US Open quarterfinals for the second time in her career. Against Vondrousova, Sabalenka leads the head-to-head 5-3, including a second-round win, also taking place in Cincinnati a few weeks ago. A win against either opponent would send Sabalenka to a fifth straight US Open semifinal. Earlier, Jessica Pegula advanced to the quarterfinals with a dominant 6-1, 6-2 win over Ann Li in an all-American matchup. Pegula needed only 54 minutes to move past the 25-year-old Li, who was playing in her first fourth-round match at a major championship and fell to 1-9 against Top 10 competition.



Maaya enters US Open junior singles second round

Teenage Indian tennis player Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi overcame China's Zhang-Qian Wei to enter the second round of the junior girls' singles event at the US Open but Hitesh Chauhan bowed out after a straight-sets defeat here. The unseeded 16-year-old, who hails from Coimbatore and trains at the Rafael Nadal Academy in Mallorca, Spain, defeated her Chinese rival 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 in little over an hour and half. She will take on second-seeded Hannah Klugman of the United Kingdom in the second round. Klugman decimated Aspen Schuman of the US 6-0, 6-2. Revathi, who is emerging as a promising player, recently upset multiple senior players to make it to the semifinals of the Mumbai Open WTA125 tournament despite being unranked at that time.



ros, and reaching the Wimbledon final. Next up for Alcaraz is 20th

seed Jiri Lehecka of Czechia, a 7-6(4), 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, winner over

Frenchman Adrian Mannarino. It will be a rematch of this sum-

mer's Queen's Club final, won by Alcaraz, 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-2.

AIFF-FSDL ROW

SC reserves order on issue of master rights agreement for ISL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Supreme Court Monday reserved its order on issues pertaining to the renewal of the master rights agreement, which is necessary for holding Indian Super League (ISL) football matches this season.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi said it will pass a short order on the urgent issue of master rights agreement and thereafter, pronounce the verdict on the constitution of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). "First, we will pronounce a short order and then we will pronounce the verdict on the constitution. The judgment is ready but we have not pronounced it as there is uncertainty over the Act coming into force," Justice Narasimha said.

The bench asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) KM Nataraj how much time the government will take to come up with rules and other modalities to make the National Sports Governance Act of 2025 come into force.

The ASG said work is in progress and it may take a month or three months or may be six months for the Act to come into force.

The bench said it cannot wait for that long and clarified that till the Act comes into force, the judgment will hold its ground.

Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing in the court for one of the parties, said this should not mean that the constitutionality of the Act has been upheld as there are several aspects like bringing the state associations in the ambit of the central Act that will certainly be challenged.

The bench said the validity of the law or its provisions can be challenged anytime and it will clarify the position in the judgment on the issue of constitution.



Jamil tastes first defeat



AGENCIES

Hisor (Tajikistan), Sept 1: India head coach Khalid Jamil has suffered his first loss, as India were defeated 3-0 by Iran in their second group match of the CAFA Nations Cup football tournament here Monday.

A gritty India fought hard for most part but let in two goals in the last seven minutes to eventually lose to defending champions Iran.

The Indian defence largely remained compact and thwarted waves of Iranian attack but failed to stop strikes from Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (60th minute), Ali Alipourghara (89th) and Mehdi Taremi (90+6) to lose the match.

Iran are a formidable side, ranked 20th in the world while India are currently at 133rd in FIFA ranking.

Iranian head coach Amir

Ghalenoei had come with a team that has a mix of veteran internationals and few emerging talents from the Iranian Premier League.

India had beaten higher-ranked Tajikistan 2-1 in their opening match August 29. They play against Afghanistan September 4 in their final group B match.

The top teams from each group will play each other in the final, while the two second-placed teams will face off in the third-place match, scheduled to be played September 8.

India failed to execute their chances, and Iran ultimately scored two late goals via Ali Alipour and Mehdi Taremi.

The defeat likely ends India's chances of reaching the CAFA Nations Cup final, but they can still make the third-place match with a positive result over Afghanistan.

Badminton Worlds in India after 17 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 1: New Delhi has been chosen as the host city of the next Badminton World Championships in August 2026, the sport's global governing body BWF announced Monday.

The Badminton World Federation's (BWF) most prestigious tournament will return to India after 17 years, with Hyderabad hosting it first way back in 2009.

The announcement was made during the closing ceremony of the 2025 championships in Paris, where a handover took place between BWF president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Frank Laurent, chief of the Federation Francaise de Badminton, and general secretary of Badminton Association of India Sanjay Mishra, who promised that the country will carry forward the standards of "excellence and grandeur" that Paris has showcased.

"We assure that India will give nothing less than 100 per cent to uphold and carry forward the same standards of excellence and grandeur that Paris has showcased. We look forward to welcoming the badminton family to Delhi," Mishra was quoted as saying in a BAI release.

The Delhi edition will also mark the tournament's return to Asia after four years, with Nanjing in China hosting it in 2018.



Minister of Sports & Youth Services Suryabanshi Suraj inaugurated the 14th Odisha State Shooting Championship at Kalinga Stadium and extended his best wishes to all the participants Monday

16-member Odisha team to participate in Basketball National Championship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: A 16-member Odisha Basketball team with 7 female and 7 male athletes and 2 coaches left Bhubaneswar by flight today to participate in the Special Olympics Bharat National Championship to be held at Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan from September 2 to 6.

The Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of Odisha provided the flight tickets from Bhubaneswar to Delhi. The team was given a warm send off at the Bhubaneswar airport by Namita Dehury, HR Head of AAI, Bhubaneswar who also made arrangements for the food

ASIA CUP

RUTHLESS INDIA THRASH KAZAKH

India crush Kazakhstan 15-0 to march into Super 4s with all-win record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), Sept 1: A ruthless India scored every four minutes on average to demolish Kazakhstan 15-0 in an utterly lopsided match and march into the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup hockey tournament with an all-win record here Monday.

Abhishek (5th, 8th, 20th, 59th minutes) found the target four times, while Sukhjeet Singh (15th, 32nd, 38th) and Jugraj Singh (24th, 31st, 47th) struck fine hat-tricks to help India top Pool A.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (26th), Amit Rohidas (29th), Rajinder Singh (32nd), Sanjay (54th) and Dilpreet Singh (55th) were the other scorers as India registered their third consecutive win in the tournament after beating China and Japan.

India will be joined by China in the Super 4s from their group, while Malaysia and Korea are the teams to have progressed to the next stage from Pool B. All the four teams will play each other in the next stage of the tournament, and the top two sides will qualify for Sun-

We are full of confidence. It was good to spend a lot of time in final third and that's what we were hoping for and we did. 15 goals against any team isn't easy

CRAIG FULTON | CHIEF COACH, INDIA

day's final. India will play Korea in their first Super 4 match Wednesday. India's chief coach Craig Fulton was satisfied with his team's performance, especially the forwardline.

"It was a difficult game with all respect to Kazakhstan, considering that we knew we were already in the Super 4s and we were cautious not to get any injuries, we don't do anything silly. Going into the Super 4s you want your strikers connecting and scoring goals," he said.

Earlier, Japan lost out on a Super 4 berth to China on goal difference after a 2-2 draw.

In the day's first Pool A match, China took a 2-0 lead through field goals from Changliang Lin (7th minute) and Xiaojia Zhang (25th) before Japan mounted a comeback.



Record payout: Women's WC champs to get nearly ₹40cr cheque

ICC Women's World Cup prize money sees 297% increase from previous edition, more than the Men's World Cup 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 1: The winners of the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup will receive the biggest-ever prize money in the history of the tournament, a massive hike from \$1.32 million (₹11.65 crore) in the previous edition to \$4.48 million (₹39.55 crore), the sport's global governing body announced on Monday.

The 13th edition of the global showpiece event, beginning September 30, is being jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Overall, the the eight-team event will witness nearly a three-fold increase in prize money, with the ICC announcing a total prize purse of \$13.88 million (₹122.5 crore approx) for the mega event.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) today announced a staggering four-fold increase in prize money for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 to be hosted by India from 30 September to 2 November. The ICC sets a new benchmark for women's cricket as champions walk away with a record \$4.48 million in prize money," said a statement from the global cricket body.

"The overall prize money at the eight-team tournament totals \$13.88 million, which is a rise of 297

per cent from the \$3.5 million (Rs 31 crore approx) at the last edition held in New Zealand in 2022. The total prize pot eclipses the prize money at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, which had total prize money of \$10 million (₹88.26 crore approx)."

The runners-up will now receive \$2.24 million

(₹19.77 crore approx), an increase of 273 per cent in comparison to the \$600,000 (₹5.30 crore) England received for reaching the final, while the two losing semi-finalists will be richer by \$1.12 million (₹9.89 crore approx) -- up from \$300,000 (₹2.65 crore approx) in 2022) each.

The group-stage win will earn the victors \$34,314 (₹30.29 lakhs). The teams finishing fifth and sixth will take home \$700,000 (₹62



This announcement marks a defining milestone in the journey of women's cricket. This four-fold increase in prize money is a landmark moment for women's cricket and reflects our clear commitment to its long-term growth. Our message is simple, women cricketers must know they will be treated on par with men if they choose this sport professionally

JAY SHAH | CHAIRMAN, ICC

lakh approx) each and those in seventh and eighth place will earn \$280,000 (₹24.71 lakh approx). Each participating team will take home \$250,000 (₹22 lakh approx).

ICC said the move is aimed at increasing the popularity

of women's cricket worldwide and to bring about a parity with men's cricket.

"The increased prize money aligns with the ICC's strategy to focus on the growth of the women's game and a decision to introduce pay parity was announced ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024," the statement added.

The winner of the tournament, to be held across five venues - Guwahati, Indore, Navi Mumbai and Visakhapatnam in India and Colombo in Sri Lanka - will receive \$4.48 million, a 239 per cent increase from the \$3.2 million (₹11.65 crore) awarded to Australia when they won their seventh title three years ago. The winners' purse at the last Men's World Cup was \$4 million (₹35.31 crore approx).