



LEISURE | P2



INTERNATIONAL | P10



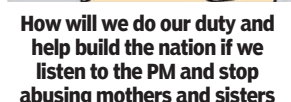
BUSINESS | P11



SPORTS | P12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IRREGULAR **by** MANJUL



LOOMING THREAT: Partially submerged Dussehra Ghat near Taj Mahal as the water level of Yamuna rises in Agra, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

This decision will provide new opportunities in medical education and significantly strengthen healthcare services in Talcher and nearby regions, ensuring better access to quality healthcare for the people of Odisha, he said. Since the formation of the new government, the state administration has been continuously working towards the improvement of health services and medical education in Odisha. The Chief Minister said that this approval is a result of the government's consistent efforts in that direction.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2025

DHARITRI CLIMATE GRANT JURY

DR. DEBABRATA SWAIN
FORMER REC-CCO
LOKAYUKTA ODISHA MEMBER

ARUN KRISHNAMURTHI
FOUNDER, EFI

ADVASHA SATPATHY
CEO, DHARITRI & ORISSA POST

SOUMYA RANJAN BISWAL
COASTAL CONSERVATIONIST

PRAKASH MARDARAJ
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Please send details to :

dharitriyouthconclave@gmail.com

Visit : www.dharitriyouthconclave.com for details

APPLY NOW

<https://myyati.com/y2025/>

Last Date of Entry : 10th October 2025

Despite the risks to people and health in the Pacific, remediation has been slow. The 80th anniversary of WWII offers an opportunity to reflect on the toxic legacy of war – and to act.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You may be impetuous today, which may lead to unforeseen results. You may be in a hurry and complete work which has been pending for a long time. You will find the time to make long-term plans. Ganesha says you will rectify your past mistakes.

TAURUS
This is, health wise a bad day for you. Ganesha urges you to take special care and not to do anything that invites illness or discomfort. The least you can do is to ensure that you do not over exert or get into situations that generate tension and anxiety. Be careful about the food you eat.

GEMINI
Interactions with member of the opposite sex may yield positive and pleasurable results today. Public servants will get the much-needed encouragement and moral support from bosses and family members. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problem you set your mind to.

CANCER
Today, you are likely to remain open-minded while dealing with others. However, it doesn't mean that you will always be soft on others. Later in the day, your approach may be different and stubborn. In the evening, you will enjoy the company of family and friends.

LEO
You will be in a very good mood today. You will inspire others to achieve substantial things in life. While you have been looking to take on an extremely challenging project, you have been unable to find the right opening so far. You ought to start such projects today, says Ganesha. The obstacles in your way will fade away on their own and you will be easily able to find the path to success.

VIRGO
If being humanitarian needed a definite physical form, you are most likely to be nominated. Such is the mix of values and practicality today, says Ganesha. Devise strategies to achieve more productivity. See the bigger picture, says Ganesha. This is not difficult considering you have a broad vision - with or without the glasses.

LIBRA
Wedding bells are ringing, and you are about to get very lucky! Ganesha foresees a plethora of marriage proposals coming your way on this day full of special occasions, as you turn up your charisma and sweep the enthralled opposite sex off their feet with your charm.

SCORPIO
A happening day where a lot may happen today, suggests Ganesha. Grey hairs will teach valuable lessons, so keep your ears open to bosses and elders. Seniors will extend their best possible cooperation to you. Stay clear of courtrooms, warns Ganesha, lest the legalities sink you deep.

SAGITTARIUS
The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. You may have a few family friends over for lunch or dinner, and end up chatting a good deal with them. Ganesha says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN
Money will flow in from various quarters today, but it will also find its way out of your pockets. Keep a tab on your income and more on your expenses, says Ganesha. Situation at work may get a little trying, but you will overcome all problems by means of your innate and acquired skills, and past experience.

AQUARIUS
Most of the time it is your way or no other way, especially when you charging towards your goal. Today, you will push your limits to achieve what you have desired. You are talented, hard working, creative, and icing on the cake is your luck which is favouring you big time.

PISCES
For those in the creative, marketing or advertising fields, today will likely bring about an important milestone on their path to progress, says Ganesha. Your creativity and ingenuity will be at their peak. Remembering that confidence is the key to success will keep you from shying away from challenges, which when surmounted will bring you substantial gains.



ETHAN HAWKE TALKS ABOUT ON SET ROMANCE RISKS

Hollywood star Ethan Hawke, who met his first wife Uma Thurman when they made *Gattaca* in 1997, says there is 'danger' to falling in love on a movie set because it "doesn't have any connection to the dailiness of real life".

EMILY ATTACK ON SUFFERING ASSAULT ON TELEVISION SETS

Actress-comedian Emily Attack has revealed shocking experiences of sexual assault on TV sets during her career. Attack now plans a documentary on intimacy coordinators after her experience with them on Disney+ series *Rivals* and feels that they have brought about a welcome shift in conduct behind-the-scenes in projects.



Rahman shifts career pace

Mumbai: Music maestro AR Rahman, who has inspired generations with his timeless compositions, has shared a rare glimpse into his personal journey of balancing work and family. In an exclusive interaction with this news agency, Rahman revealed that after years of working tirelessly day and night, he has now consciously decided to slow down in life to prioritise family and personal life.

Talking about his career, Rahman said there were multiple times when he was working on multiple films altogether, constantly worried about what would come next. "Sometimes, you plan everything, and it cancels. Sometimes it's beyond me. I go with the flow, like water. It takes the shape of the container. Even with work, it automatically gives. God had his way of giving me time," he said.

The Oscar-winning composer stated that the relentless pace of his early career often made him miss out on life, especially on the personal front. "Before, I was like a maniac, working day and night. You sometimes miss life when you work too much," Rahman admitted. He further added that now he has consciously slowed down on his personal front to enjoy his personal life and also to learn new things that he never could earlier because of his extremely hectic work schedule. "I've reduced a lot so that I can enjoy life, learn things, spend time with family, and do work at the same time," he said. **IANS**

Kriti bats for gender parity

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon has opened up about gender equality in Bollywood, shedding light on the subtle biases that still linger in the industry.

While reflecting on her upbringing, she shared how her parents created a home free from gender-based restrictions. Both of them pursued professional careers while sharing household responsibilities, which allowed Kriti and her sister to grow up without limitations. In contrast, her mother's childhood was shaped by traditional expectations where girls had fewer freedoms compared to boys. Despite being denied opportunities like learning swimming or dancing, her mother fought for her education and went on to become a professor. Kriti emphasised that her mother's struggles played a key role in ensuring she and her sister were encouraged to follow their dreams freely.

However, Kriti admitted that her Bollywood journey exposed her to subtle gender disparities. She noted instances where male actors received better cars or rooms, highlighting that equality is not about luxury but respect. She also pointed out ingrained habits on sets, such as assistant directors prioritising male actors, which she has often corrected. On the professional front, Kriti will be seen in **Aanand L Rai's**

Tere Ishq Mein with Dhanush in November 2025 and is also part of *Don 3*. **AGENCIES**



Vidya's take on pretentious cinema

Mumbai:

Vidya Balan recently made headlines when her candid views on the state of Bollywood cinema went viral. In an earlier conversation, the National Award-winning actress criticised what she called "pretentious cinema," expressing concern that many new filmmakers, influenced by international trends or foreign education, were drifting away from India's unique

storytelling style. According to her, such films often feel cold and alienating rather than engaging for Indian audiences.

Sharing what truly resonates with her as an actor and viewer, Vidya highlighted the importance of close-ups in building emotional connection. "The only way to connect with your character is through a close-up. Give me close-ups! Let me look into the eye," she stressed. To illustrate her point, she praised Shah Rukh Khan's ability to create intimacy with audiences, crediting his emotional

connect for making him India's beloved romantic hero. "If he was only doing this (arms-stretched pose), he wouldn't be as loved!" she quipped.

Vidya also defended masala entertainers, saying they may be exaggerated but never fake, as emotions remain their heart. Her insights resonated strongly, especially amid debates on realism versus escapism. While Shah Rukh preps for *King* with Suhana Khan, Vidya continues shining post-*Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. **AGENCIES**



Suhana lands in hot water

Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan has landed into a legal trouble surrounding a real estate deal.

It has come to light that the actress has bought the land allotted to the farmers by the government without procuring proper permissions and paperwork. The piece of land is in the Thal village, and was given to the farmers by the government for the purpose of farming.

The piece of land reportedly costs INR 12.91 crores, which Suhana paid to the Khote family based in the Cuffe Parade, the upmarket area of Mumbai. She had paid a stamp duty of INR 77.46 lakh at the time she bought the land. The transfer happened May 30, 2023 through Standard Chartered Bank.

The matter is under investigation and an impartial report has been sought from the Alibaug tehsildar. The order was issued by the Resident Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Suhana is gearing up for her upcoming film *King* which also stars her father. It marks her second film after the streaming debacle *The Archies*, which was unanimously panned by the critics and the audiences alike. Earlier, her father SRK was said to have suffered an injury to his arm while filming *King*. **IANS**

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

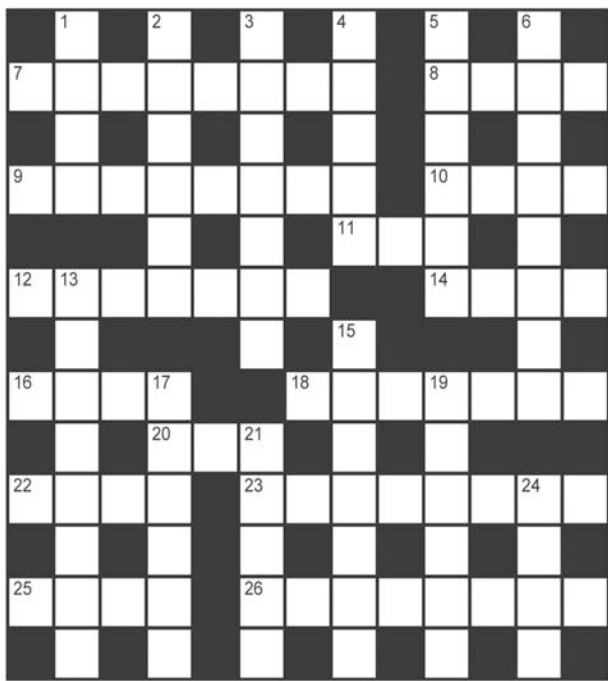


BREVITY



FUN post

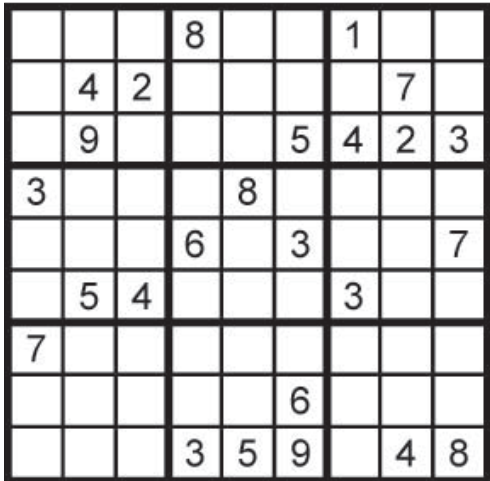
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Curs
 - 8 Military group
 - 9 High-angle gun
 - 10 Malayan dagger
 - 11 Pittance
 - 12 Chinese dish (4,3)
 - 14 Meager
 - 16 Voyaging
 - 18 Fire-breathing dragons
 - 20 Spigot
 - 22 Chalupa alternative
 - 23 Levels
 - 25 Lunar trench
 - 26 Double-crosser (3-5)
 - Down**
 - 1 Ho-hum (2-2)
 - 2 More hideous looking
 - 3 Sudden attack, medically
 - 4 Some Romanovs
 - 5 Commotion
 - 6 Palermo native
 - 13 Australian state
 - 15 Cyclone
 - 17 Coral reefs
 - 19 French pastry
 - 21 Animal hides
 - 24 Have to have

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

OHRC seeks report on police ‘excesses’ against tribals

Activist moves Commission seeking judicial probe and compensation for victims



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the Collector and Superintendent of Police of Nayagarh district to submit separate reports on allegations of police ‘excesses’ against tribal people and the filing of false cases at the behest of an influential person from Bhubaneswar. Acting on a petition filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak, the OHRC has asked the authorities to submit factual reports to the Commission by November 18.

In his petition, Nayak alleged that May 5, 2025, Chandpur Police in Nayagarh district falsely arrested around 30 members of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) com-

30 MEMBERS OF ST COMMUNITY
ARRESTED FOR OPPOSING LAND
MAFIA IN NAYAGARH, SAYS
RIGHT ACTIVIST HIMANSHU
SEKHAR NAYAK

ACTIVIST ALLEGES LAND
MAFIA ASSOCIATES ATTACKED
TRIBALS IN KUSUPALLA
VILLAGE FOR RESISTING LAND
ENCROACHMENT

ACTIVIST CLAIMS CHANDPUR
POLICE ARRESTED TRIBALS ON
FALSE CASE FILED BY LAND
MAFIA INSTEAD OF ACTING ON
THEIR COMPLAINT

munity for opposing land mafias involved in encroaching government land and illegally excavating minor minerals in the area.

He further stated that an influential person from Bhu-

baneswar’s Patia area had purchased a few acres of land in Kusupalla Mouza under Chandpur Police limits in Nayagarh district.

“However, he has illegally encroached upon hundreds of acres of tribal and government land, which is highly objectionable,” alleged Nayak.

The activist also complained that May 3, some associates of the alleged land mafia attacked tribal residents of Kusupalla village who resisted attempts to encroach on their land.

“When the innocent tribals resisted, the mafia attacked them with deadly weapons in full public view. It has become a pattern to falsely implicate tribals in cases and assault them brutally,” alleged Nayak.

He claimed that when the tribals went to the Chandpur police station to file a case against the accused persons, the police instead arrested the tribals based on the false case lodged by the ‘land mafia’.

After coming to know about the incident, the activist approached the OHRC demanding a judicial probe into the incident and financial compensation to the victim tribals.

State intensifies efforts to boost irrigation

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha government has intensified its efforts to enhance irrigation capacity and modernise water management across the state, official sources said Tuesday. Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary of Water Resources department Anu Garg chaired a high-level review meeting with senior officials here and finalised the roadmap for implementation. The review meet emphasised the timely completion of ongoing projects to achieve targets set under the state’s Five-Year Irrigation Plan. As part of the directive, five major, 15 medium, and 100 minor irrigation projects have been identified for accelerated execution.

Guv backs PMMY link for dairy farmers

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Tuesday suggested linking dairy farmers to the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) to help them access bank loans and secure funds to start or expand their businesses.

He said such initiatives would encourage dairy farming and significantly boost milk production in the state.

The Governor emphasised the need for close coordination with banks to ensure timely financial support for farmers.

“Timely support from banks will motivate and encourage farmers,” Kambhampati remarked during his visit to the OMFED Mega Dairy Plant at



Govindpur, Arilo, Cuttack.

The Governor pointed out that many farmers face difficulties in arranging the personal contribution required under subsidy schemes. Linking them to PMMY, he said, would provide access to bank loans and bridge this gap.

He directed OMFED authorities to share a detailed list of beneficiaries under the Mukhya Mantri Kamdhenu Yo-

jana with banks to streamline the loan process.

“This will also help bridge the gap between milk production and demand, ensuring that the growing requirements are met,” he added.

Assuring full support, the Governor said OMFED authorities could approach him directly if any issues arise, and he would take up the matter with the banks.

During the visit, the Governor inspected various sections of the Mega Dairy Plant, including the laboratory, ghee section, and product gallery. OMFED officials also made a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the plant’s operations, management, marketing strategies, and product range.

OPTAS opposes Sishu Sevika appointments

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: Members of the Odisha Pre-Primary Teacher Aspirant Association (OPTAS) staged a protest at Lower PMG Tuesday, opposing the appointment of Sishu Sevikas in Sishu Vatikas.

Carrying placards and banners, the protestors raised slogans in support of their demands, opposing the state government’s move to appoint Sishu Sevikas in place of trained pre-primary teachers in schools.

According to the protestors, many had completed certified training in Early Childhood Care and Education (DECE) through IGNOU and have been waiting for years for recruitment under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. They pointed out that the policy



clearly mandates the presence of trained teachers in every Sishu Vatika to provide foundational education to children.

However, the Odisha government has recently approved the creation of Sishu Sevika posts, which aspirants allege are merely helper roles and not recognised in any other state implementing NEP 2020. In

July, a delegation of pre-primary aspirants met School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond, urging him to reconsider the decision. The minister, however, reportedly told them that the state government would not recruit pre-primary teachers and that existing teachers would handle foundational classes.

The aspirants later submitted their grievances at the Chief Minister’s grievance cell and also met School and Mass Education Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit, but their proposal was again rejected. They then approached the Orissa High Court, which directed the state to act in line with NEP 2020 guidelines within eight weeks.

Despite the court’s directive, the government proceeded with the recruitment of Sishu Sevikas, which the association claims is a violation of the order and amounts to contempt of court. Condemning the move, the outfit has announced statewide protests from September 6, demanding cancellation of the Sishu Sevika appointments and recruitment of qualified pre-primary teachers.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Alok Soni, S/o. Late Damodar Prasad Soni, resident of Ward No. 45, M-285, Padmanabhpur, District: Durg, Chhattisgarh, PIN - 491001, do hereby declare that my correct and full name is Alok Kumar Soni. Hereafter, I shall be known as Alok Kumar Soni for all purposes.

LOST

I, Satrughana Sahu, S/o. Damodar Sahu, Permanent resident of Vill/P.O./G.P.: Langaleswar, P.S.: Khallikote, Dist.: Ganjam, Mob. No.: 7077730942 declare on my affidavit vide Sl. No. 2357/23.08.2025 that I have lost on 01.07.2020 my original Khatian No. 136/50, Plot No. 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214 & 215 total 8 plots area Ac.1.800 Dec. of Mouza: Badamala Panchakania, Balarampur under RI: Khojapalli in Khallikote Tahasil while shifting furnitures of my house from Karapadara Sahi to Machhua Sahi, Langaleswar. I was not able to get my above original Khatian No. 136/50 on my best efforts. I have reported the matter before Bhejiput Police outpost under Khallikote Police Station vide No. 05/23.08.2025. If any person get my Original Khatian No. 136/50, please return to me or if any person miss utilize my Original Khatian. I am not responsible for the same, it will be declared as illegal. Sd./- Satrughana Sahu

EPFO holds session on PM-VBRY at KIIT varsity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: The Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) organised an interactive session on “Pradhan Mantri-Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana” (PM-VBRY), the Central Government’s flagship employment-linked incentive scheme, at KIIT University here Tuesday.

The programme aimed to guide employers and employees in availing scheme benefits to boost formal employment and economic growth, with special emphasis on the manufacturing sector. Deepika Kachhal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, chaired the session and urged employers and employees in the state to fully utilise the scheme, describing it as a key pillar of the Prime Minister’s mission for a Viksit Bharat.

Uma Mandal, Zonal Head & Additional Central PF Commissioner, briefed stakeholders on the key features of the PM-VBRY scheme. Rajarshi Chakma, Regional PF Commissioner-I



& OIC of EPFO Bhubaneswar, delivered the welcome address and introduced the scheme, while Debashis Bandyopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor of KISS University, highlighted its benefits. Gourav Mohanty, Regional PF Commissioner-II, gave a detailed presentation on eligibility, technical processes, and the incentive structure under PM-VBRY.

He further informed that the scheme, launched on August 1, 2025, will run until July 31, 2027. Under it, first-time EPFO-registered employees earning up to ₹1 lakh per month will receive incentives of up to ₹15,000 in two installments through DBT via the Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS). Employers, on the other hand, will receive up to ₹3,000 per month for each additional employment through their PAN-linked account.

Rajat Kar remembered on 92nd birth anniversary



BHUBANESWAR: The 92nd birth anniversary of Padma Shri Rajat Kumar Kar, hailed as the ‘guardian of Odia language and literature,’ was observed at Gita Govinda Sadan. Organised by Odisha Sahitya Academy and Rajat Kumar Kar Smriti Sansad, the event celebrated his contributions as speaker, writer, and cultural ambassador. Kar’s 62-year commentary on the Rath Yatra, promotion of Pala and Bhanja literature, and efforts to strengthen Odia education were fondly recalled. His first short story collection, Alpa Dinara Galpa, was released. Speakers highlighted his unmatched legacy, while the memorial trust pledged to publish his timeless works.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: Seven persons, including three home guards and a woman, were arrested for allegedly looting ₹9 lakh from a businessman in Rayagada district, a police officer said Tuesday.

The three home guards are posted in Bissamcuttack and Kalyansingpur police stations in the district.

The arrested woman served as a maid in the businessman’s home, police said.

According to police, the victim, identified as T Umma Reddy, was coming to Rayagada from Jeypore with his friends and a driver. Midway, near Rafukana Square, he stopped the vehicle for a discussion with another woman, Radhika Halwa.

At that moment, the seven accused intercepted the businessman and forcefully took



him and Radhika in their four-wheeler, saying, “Let’s go and meet the SP”, the complainant alleged.

After a while, Radhika was allowed to get off the vehicle.

The accused then threatened the businessman with police action and allegedly looted ₹9 lakh from him, said Amulya Dhar, additional superintendent of police, Rayagada.

They later left the businessman on the road and fled the spot, he said.

Following the incident, Reddy filed a complaint at Rayagada police station alleging that he had been robbed. Following the complaint, police investigated and arrested the seven accused, Dhar said.

Police have seized ₹2.83 lakh cash, a Bolero car, a bike and six mobile phones from the accused, he added.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.26 ▼ 0.06	SENSEX	80157.88 ▲ 206.61	GOLD	₹105,535 ▼ ₹72
EURO	102.9 ▼ 0.85	NIFTY	24579.60 ▼ 45.45	SILVER	₹122,550 ▼ ₹0.07

Over 100cr people globally face mental health issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: More than 100 crore people globally live with a mental health disorder, and women account for over 53 per cent, according to new data released by the World Health Organization (WHO) Tuesday. The WHO reports World Mental Health Today and Mental Health Atlas 2024 stated that conditions such as anxiety and depression inflict immense human and economic tolls and called for greater investment and action to scale up services to protect and promote people’s mental health. “Transforming mental health services is one of the most pressing public health challenges,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

“Investing in mental health means investing in people,



communities, and economies – an investment no country can afford to neglect. Every government and every leader has a responsibility to act with urgency and to ensure that mental health care is treated not as a privilege, but as a basic right for all,” he added.

The reports showed that anxiety and depressive disorders are the most common types of mental health disorders among both men and women. However, women are disproportionately impacted overall.

Overall, more females (581.5

million) than males (513.9 million) live with a mental disorder.

“Mental disorders were found common among pregnant women and women in the year after birth, often with severe impacts for both mothers and babies. Worldwide, more than 10 per cent of pregnant women and women in the year after birth experience depression. In low- and medium-income countries (LMICs), this figure is estimated to be substantially higher,” the reports said.

Further, the report showed that suicide remains a devastating outcome, claiming an estimated 7,27,000 lives in 2021 alone. It is a leading cause of death among young people across all countries and socioeconomic contexts, and progress in reducing suicide mortality is too low.

ICAR-CIFA workshop on aquaculture, genetics

BHUBANESWAR: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the Asian Fisheries Society Indian Branch (AFSIB), Mangalore, organised a two-day national workshop on “Species Prioritisation in Aquaculture and Genetic Improvement” at ICAR-CIFA campus here on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. The workshop, which concluded Tuesday, brought together about 50 policymakers, scientists from ICAR, hatchery owners, progressive fish farmers, and representatives from state fisheries departments across the country. The workshop deliberated on priority species across freshwater, brackish-water, cold-water, and marine aquaculture sectors to guide future research and development in Indian aquaculture. This initiative is crucial for aligning genetic improvement strategies with national aquaculture goals.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.7°	33.2°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thundershower.
Min Temp	26.4°	23.4°	
Humidity	95%	98%	
Rainfall	2.2mm	34.2mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-SaiAudio & 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.

Justice delayed as cops sit on complaints

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 2: Several high-profile criminal cases - including murders, firing incidents and even serious charges against cops - being buried under bureaucratic rigmarole in this district have significantly eroded the citizens' faith on police administration. While unresolved cases leave victims waiting for justice for eternity, the men in khaki face tough challenges in maintaining peace and harmony, according to reports.

Instances of cops in this district sitting tight on pending files are many.

In a recent incident, Ajay Sahu, a havildar posted at Kudanagari police station, had allegedly made unsolicited romantic advances towards a vulnerable woman under Mar-shaghai police station. The cop also threatened her with life, if she refused to buzz. Audio and video recordings of the incident had gone viral on social media. A complaint was lodged but action was too little - Sahu was only suspended and was not arrested till date. The fence-eating-the-crop incident has not only raised concerns about women's safety, but also put a question mark on police accountability.

Similarly, a tragic case unfolded in Kathiapada village under Pattamundi rural police station August 6, when a student, Sangita Parida, died by self-immolation. While the



Rita Jena, Namatara police firing incident victim

police are yet to conclude the probe, they have arrested her male friend Pramod Behera from Terohi village. He was remanded to judicial custody after obscene videos were found on his mobile phone. However, critical questions linger - the source of the petrol used in the incident, the cause of Sangita's death, and whether Pramod is the prime accused. An assistant sub-inspector from the police station, accused of negligence, was merely transferred to district headquarters, inviting public criticism over lenient action.

In yet another instance of unresolved cases, the death of Kasturi Samantaray, a tal-

ented student and athlete from Sanaadhanga under Derabish police station, still remains a mystery. Kasturi died in November 2017, the day after returning from a sports camp in Rajkanika. Allegations had come to the fore about the misconduct by a sports teacher and a staffer during the camp. The incident sparked protests by social activists and other organisations. An investigation led by then-Inspector General Soumendra Priyadarshi is yet to yield results, leaving Kasturi's death an enduring enigma.

Moreover, on International Women's Day, March 8 in 2015, seven Dalit women and a student in Namatara village under Rajkanika police station were allegedly shot and beaten by police during protests against illegal liquor sales. Over 200 others were reportedly assaulted. The state government ordered an inquiry by the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC), but despite recording of statements of eyewitnesses seven years ago, the report is yet to be published. More so, the victims are yet to receive any compensation.

The prolonged delays in resolving these cases have fuelled public frustration, with many questioning the effectiveness of the district's law enforcement and judicial processes. As investigations stall, victims and their families continue to await justice and closure.



BURNING ISSUE: Farmers of Padmapur sub-division in Bargarh district stand in a long queue to buy urea fertilizer from Jamla Service Cooperative Society Tuesday

Heavy rain floods Balasore town

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 2: Normal life was thrown out of gear and traffic came to a standstill after heavy downpour late Monday night accompanied by thunderbolts left Balasore city waterlogged Tuesday.

The rain began around 2am Monday and continued for nearly four hours. Several low-lying areas, arterial roads and intersections were submerged under three to four feet of water, creating a flood-like condition. Residents said knee-deep water overflowed on the roads, making movement nearly impossible.

Rainwater entered many houses and shops, forcing businesses to shut down for the day. Officials estimated that losses ran into several crores as hundreds of shops remained closed Tuesday.

Heavy rainfall led to waterlogging in several areas, including Chidia bridge, Salt Tax Colony, Gopalgaon, Manikhamba, Suelpur, Cinema Square, Congress Lane, Motiganj, Pandhuapada, ITI Square, Telenga Sahi, Shobharampur, Proof Road, ITR Colony, Khapara-pada Square, Central School Square, Arad Bazaar, Ranipa-



tna, Nuasahi, Gudipada, Ekta Nagar, Dwarika Nagar and Haripur. Traffic was disrupted as rainwater flowed knee-deep and in some places waist-deep through the streets.

Residents in low-lying areas were unable to step out as rainwater entered homes. Several mud houses collapsed due to the incessant rain.

The district emergency office reported 605 mm rainfall across Balasore district, including 128 mm within the town.

At Nuasahi Square, water levels rose to as high as 4 feet, inundating roadside homes and shops. Police closed parts

of the route after traffic snarls worsened.

Sub-Collector Shiv Malaviya and executive officer of Balasore Municipality Nirlipta Mohanty visited affected areas to assess the situation. Meanwhile, residents voiced frustration over poor drainage, saying the civic administration's failure worsened the crisis.

A tree branch broke and fell on an ambulance on the road behind the district headquarters hospital Monday night, officials said. Firefighters rushed to the spot, cut the tree and cleared the road, restoring traffic movement.

Body found in rock cavity; 3 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

R Udayagiri, Sept 2: Police have arrested three persons in connection with the killing of a villager whose body was found hidden inside a rock cavity near Kadamuli under Purunapani panchayat in Gajapati district.

The victim was identified as Shiba Nayak of Dhepsankarakhali village under Digapahandi police station in Ganjam district. According to police, Nayak was murdered last week following a drunken altercation. The accused allegedly crushed him to death with stones and later concealed the body in a rock cavity on a nearby hill.

When Shiba did not return home, his family searched for him at various places but found no trace. His brother then lodged a complaint at R Udayagiri police station. Acting on the complaint, police questioned several villagers, leading the suspects to confess. They also pointed out the location where the body had been hidden.

The body was subsequently recovered, and the three accused were taken into custody, police said.

11kg gold, 5kg silver seized; four arrested

Kendrapara: In a major crackdown, police have arrested four persons, including three dacoits, and recovered 11kg gold, 5kg silver, ₹9.45 lakh in cash, and a country-made gun from their possession. DIG (Central Range) Satyajit Naik said the arrested are aged between 22 and 32 years. Two of them belong to Khurda district, while one each is from Cuttack and Nayagarh. According to the FIR lodged August 24 by 50-year-old Arundhuti Sahu of Sarapari village under Jankia police limits, eight unidentified culprits wearing helmets stormed her jewellery shop, Sai Sonu Alankar, at Chhanagiri. The gang hurled bombs, threatened staff at gunpoint, assaulted them, and decamped with over 11 kg of gold and 5 kg of silver ornaments, collectively valued at more than ₹11 crore. Based on her complaint, Jankia police registered a case under Section 310(2) BNS, Sections 25/27 of the Arms Act, and Section 5 of the Explosives Substances Act, and launched an investigation. The probe was carried out under the direct supervision of DIG Naik, Khordha SP Vivekanand Sharma, and Additional SP Srinibas. With support from Balugaon, Banapur, and Tangi police, raids were conducted at different hideouts, leading to the arrest of four accused and recovery of the stolen ornaments.

₹4cr scam: Jamda tehsildar arrested

Baripada: The Economic Offenses Wing (EOW) Tuesday arrested suspended Jamda tehsildar Madhusmita Singh of Mayurbhanj district on charges of embezzling government funds. Singh had already been suspended by the state government following allegations that she misappropriated more than ₹4 crore. Sources said that the irregularities took place when Singh was posted in Belpahar of Jharsuguda district, where she was accused of siphoning off more than ₹4 crore. Initially, Belpahar police registered a case and arrested the then-accountant Bibhuti Sahu. Later, while serving as executive officer of Belpahar municipality, Singh was convicted by Vigilance Court for financial irregularities. Following the fresh allegations, the Revenue department had suspended her August 30.

MISUSE OF FUNDS

DMF office renovated twice in 3 months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar/Hatadihi, Sept 2: Another instance of alleged irregularities has surfaced in Keonjhar District Mineral Foundation (DMF) as records show that the DMF office rooms were renovated twice at a cost of ₹37,53,951 within just three months, while another ₹4,30,285 was spent on interior decoration of the hall.

Large sums from the DMF contingency fund have also been used for repairs, decorations and furniture purchases, raising questions about misuse of funds. Former legislator Subarna Naik, engineer Binod Bihari Nayak, Pradyumna Das, Ashok Jena and Kishore Sethi have demanded an impartial probe and strict action against the persons responsible for fund misuse.

The DMF office operates from the first floor of the three-story Keonjhar Zilla Parishad office (DRDA), comprising four rooms. According to the case (Record No. 66/2024), the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division was paid ₹19,99,457 October 20,

2020 and ₹17,54,494 May 2, 2021 for renovation of DMF office rooms.

Earlier, Keonjhar Sadar BDO had received ₹4,95,489 for similar renovation work August 9, 2018. For interior decoration of the DMF hall, the BDO was also paid ₹2,44,400 November 22, 2017, and ₹1,85,885 February 23, 2018

The BDO was paid ₹4,67,632 for furniture for the DMF office October 3, 2018. Additional expenses of several lakhs were also incurred from the contingency fund for the purchase of electrical appliances, equipment and other materials for the office. Allegations have surfaced that such expenditures were shown on paper to misappropriate DMF funds. A complaint regarding this was filed August 20 with the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, state Finance department, Planning and Convergence department, and Keonjhar Collector's office. The complaint also noted that proper records, documents and related papers of these expenditures were missing from the DMF office, and it called for an investigation and action.

Man murdered over witchcraft suspicion



POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Sept 2: A 74-year-old man was allegedly killed at Manastara village under Bishwanathpur police station in Kalahandi district on suspicion of practising witchcraft. Police have arrested three villagers and produced them in court.

The victim, identified as Ekuna Majhi, had gone missing August 28. His son lodged a missing complaint the same day, prompting the police to start an investigation. Four days later, the cops discovered that three local youths had allegedly killed him and hanged the body from a tree in a nearby forest.

A police team led by Kesinga SDPO Sandeep Kumar Majhi and officers from Lanjigarh and Bishwanathpur stations recovered the body August 31 and detained the suspects. During interrogation, the accused - Naresh Majhi, 26, Chakra Majhi, 22, and Murali Majhi, 28 - confessed to the killing, police said.

The body was sent for postmortem Monday before being handed over to the family. A case (57/25) has been registered under sections 103(1) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The three men were denied bail and sent to judicial custody.

Body building: Bronze for Balasore sexagenarian

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP



Balasore, Sept 2: Proving age is just a number, Manoj Bihari Das, a 65-year-old man from Balasore, achieved an extraordinary feat by securing bronze medal at 57th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in the Masters' Category held in Bangkok (Thailand) from August 22 to 24.

The championship witnessed the participation of a total of 18 athletes from across the Asian countries. The first position was secured by a contestant from Thailand and the second position was secured by an athlete from Kerala while Manoj clinched the third position.

To compete for the Asian championship, Manoj qualified the Mister India bodybuilding championship securing third place. The championship was organised at Chhattisgarh in May this year.

Manoj, a retired government officer, dedicated his victory to

his family and trainer for their guidance and support. He emphasised the need for discipline in life.


"My family and my coach selflessly supported me in this journey in every possible way. I worked for 6-7 hours daily to build my physique. Now, I have also been selected for Mister World Championship. However, I'm yet to decide whether I will participate or not. Hard work and dedication can make everything possible and the youth should also be passionate towards their health and fitness," he said.

Medical student alleges ragging

Berhampur: A second-year MBBS student of MKCG Medical College here alleged ragging by the seniors in the college hostel, a charge denied by the institute. The student has complained to the anti-ragging cell that his seniors tortured him by making him kneel down for several hours for disobeying their orders. The seniors also played music in the hostel, which disturbed his studies, he alleged. The anti-ragging committee of the college held its meeting under the chairmanship of Principal Suchitra Dash, where the superintendent, senior professors and police personnel were present. The panel found the allegation of ragging to a second year student by the seniors in the hostel was fabricated, said a member of the anti-ragging committee. "We have asked several second-year students and also the senior students. During the discussion, all have denied such an incident in the hostel," the member said. "We have thoroughly inquired, but all have denied the allegations," said Durga Madhab Satapathy, superintendent of the medical college and hospital. During the meeting, it was decided to conduct inspections of the hostels by the committee members frequently to avoid such type of incidents. Police officers asked the students to directly telephone them if they face any type of torture by the seniors.

NALCO oustees meet Koraput Collector

Koraput: Members of NALCO Land Losers' Association Welfare Committee have recently met Koraput Collector Manoj Satyawan Mahajan and submitted a memorandum demanding jobs for the legal heirs of landowners who lost their land during the establishment of NALCO's Damjanjori unit. Led by committee president Suraj Kumar Sriharia, the delegation highlighted the long-standing grievances of displaced families. They alleged that despite repeated assurances, many land losers have not been provided with jobs as promised during land acquisition, leaving many such families in distress. The members further pressed for withdrawal of what they described as "false cases" filed by NALCO against land losers over protests in the past. The Collector assured that their grievances would be communicated to higher authorities. He also promised to review the issues and take appropriate steps to address them.



Chola

Enter a better life

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India
Branch Office : 2nd Floor, Plot No. 394, Bomikhal, Near Santoshi Maa Temple, Cuttack Road, Rasulgurh, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 010

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(1) - FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned the account calling upon the respective Borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the Property mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the date mentioned against the account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under. The Borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with property mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned against the account along with Interest and other charges.

Loan Account Nos. : HE02BHU00000001347, X0HEBHU00003225960, X0HEBHU00004675742, X0HECUK00002551229	Description of the Immovable Property : All that Piece and Parcel of the Land Mutation Khata No. 277/748, Plot No. 396/1741, Area Acre 0.090 Decimal with Status - Stitiban, Kisam - Stitiban, situated at Mouza - Sanapalla, SRO - Khorda, P. S. - Khorda, P. S. No. 122, Tehsil & District - Khorda, Odisha.	Date of Demand Notice : 05.06.2024
Name and Address of Borrower / Co-borrower : Applicant : Gaurab Kumar Mahapatra, Pallahat, Near Old Petrol Pump, Palatotapada, District - Khorda, Odisha -752056 Co-Applicants : 1. Debendra Kumar Mahapatra , Pallahat Near Old Petrol Pump, Palatotapada, District - Khorda, Odisha -752056 2. Swarnakshi Mohapatra , Pallahat, Near Old Petrol Pump, Palatotapada, District - Khorda, Odisha -752056 3. Maa Bayani Kisan Seva Kendra , Plot No. 638/47, Somanathpur, Near Chhak 98, Near Petrol Pump, Khordha, Odisha - 752055 4. Maa Bayani Agency , Plot No. 396/974, Khata No. 277/748, Sanapalla, Near Kanta Chhak, Pallahat, Khorda, Odisha - 752056		Outstanding Amount : Rs. 1,11,80,181.00 (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakh Eighty Thousand One Hundred Eighty One Only) as on 05/06/2024 and interest thereon
Date : 03.09.2025 Place : Khordah (Odisha)		Date of Symbolic Possession: 31.08.2025

Authorised Officer,
Cholamanaalam Investment and Finance Company Limited



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, HEAD WORKS DIVISION, SAMAL
At/P.O.: Samal Barrage Township, Dist.: Angul (Odisha)
Phone No.: 06760-266315, E-mail ID: ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com
'e'-Procurement Notice No. SE-HWD-03/2025-26
1st Corrigendum Notice to the Bid Identification No. SE_HWD-03/2025-26
No. A-567: Column No. 08 and 09 of the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) may be read as follow:

8	Date and time of availability of bid document in the website	From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.06.09.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.15.09.2025 in the website: (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
9	Date, time and place of opening of online tender	Dt.16.09.2025 at 11.30 A.M. in O/o the Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Head Works Division, Samal

OIPR-32020/11/0018/2526

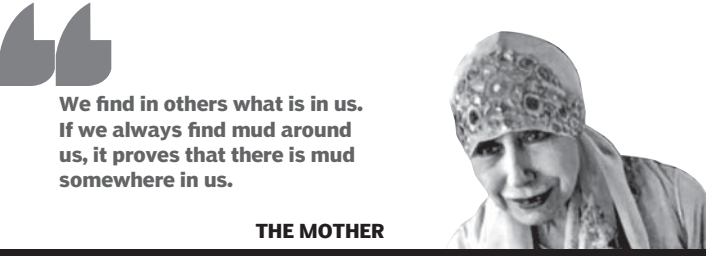


WORKS DEPARTMENT No. B-462
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RAIRANGPUR (R&B) DIVISION
e-mail: eerbrairangpur@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SE 22 of 2025-26

1.	Nature of Work	: Road Work
2.	Number of Works	: 1 (One)
3.	Amount put to Tender	: Rs.26,90,600.00
4.	Class of Contractor	: C & B Class
5.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: Dt.04.09.2025 at 10.00 A.M.
6.	Last date/time of receipt of bid in the portal	: Dt.10.09.2025 upto 04.00 P.M.
7.	Date of Opening of bid	: Dt.11.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
8.	Name & address of the Office Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur (R&B) Division
9.	The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in". All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.	

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

OIPR-34041/11/0014/2526



Thai Soup

It is claimed by many that dynastic politics is a bane for democracy in many countries, including India, as the interests of a family become far more important for the rulers than those of the people at large and their country. If judicial overreach is added to such politics, the result becomes an unmitigated disaster. Like in India, this is what has also happened in Thailand where the country’s Constitutional Court recently removed yet another Prime Minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, a scion of the Shinawatra family, from office. The reason for what can be called a judicial coup is a leaked phone call she had in June with the veteran Cambodian leader Hun Sen. In it Paetongtarn could be heard being conciliatory towards Hun Sen over their countries’ border dispute and disparaging one of her own army commanders, who, she said, stood in the way of improvement of relationship between the two countries. She defended her conversation saying she had been trying to make a diplomatic breakthrough with Hun Sen, an old friend of her father Thaksin Shinawatra, and said the conversation should have remained confidential.

The leak proved her undoing as it sparked calls for her to resign. It also saw her biggest coalition partner walk out of the government, leaving her with a slim majority. In July, seven out of the nine judges on the court voted to suspend Paetongtarn, a margin which suggested she would suffer the same fate as her four predecessors.

In this sense, the court’s final verdict was only expected. Paetongtarn becomes the fifth Thai PM to be removed from office by this court, all of them from administrations backed by her father. This has given rise to a widespread belief in Thailand that the court nearly always rules against those seen as a threat by conservative, royalist forces. The judiciary is dominated by these forces. The court has also banned 112 political parties, many of them small, including two previous incarnations of Thaksin’s Pheu Thai party and Move Forward, the reformist movement which won the last election in 2023. In few other countries political life hangs in the balance in a similar manner with an excessively proactive judiciary.

The phone call caused such an upheaval across the Thai-Cambodian borders that a five-day war broke out in August that killed more than 40 people.

Thaksin staged a comeback in Thailand politics after having been in exile for years through a deal with the conservatives and royalists. He fielded his young daughter for regaining political space. But the inexperienced Paetongtarn failed to make any impression on her people or establish any real authority over the country, with most Thais presuming that her father was making all the big decisions.

But his famed political acumen seems to have deserted Thaksin Shinawatra. Pheu Thai party’s signature policy at the last election, a digital wallet which would put B10,000 (\$308) in the pocket of every Thai adult, has stalled and is widely criticised as ineffective.

Other grand plans such as legalizing casinos and building a “land-bridge” linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans have gone nowhere. On top of it, at a time when Thai nationalist sentiment has been fired up over the border war with Cambodia, the Shinawatra family’s long-standing friendship with Hun Sen has strengthened suspicion in conservative circles that they will always put their business interests before those of the nation. The party’s popularity has nosedived after having been an unbeatable electoral force in Thai politics for over two decades. A similar situation has evolved in India over the past decade that has showed people in top power positions taking extreme steps to benefit only a very few business persons’ interests above that of the country.

Paetongtarn’s aunt Yingluck Shinawatra was removed from office before the military seized power in a 2014 coup and her father went into self-imposed exile in 2006 for more than 15 years to escape corruption charges after the military toppled his government. Her uncle Somchai Wongsawat served briefly as PM in 2008 but was removed in a court ruling.

A fresh period of instability now stares Thailand in the face. If the ousted PM’s party – Pheu Thai – fails to put forward a new PM, the most likely possibility would be new elections. One solution to the country’s long-standing political problem could be reforming the entire system in which the conservative and royal and military forces are relegated to the background. This is exactly the agenda of the opposition Move Forward which was outmaneuvered to come to power last time even after getting the maximum popular ratings. In the near future, the possibility of relegating those powerful forces to the background seems very unlikely.

WISDOM CORNER

We're all going to die, all of us; what a circus! That alone should make us love each other, but it doesn't. We are terrorized and flattened by trivialities. We are eaten up by nothing.

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.

DALE CARNEGIE

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.

TS ELIOT

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ **1609:** English navigator Henry Hudson, in a quest for a passage to India on behalf of the Dutch East India Company, sailed into the harbour of present-day New York City and up the river that now bears his name.

■ **1752:** Day skipped in the British Empire. The British Empire skipped 11 days starting September 3 when it adopted the Gregorian calendar.

■ **1783:** The Treaty of Paris (part of the Peace of Paris) was signed between Britain and the United States.

■ **1894:** Labor Day was celebrated as a legal holiday in the United States for the first time.

■ **1962:** American poet and painter E.E. Cummings—who first attracted attention, in an age of literary experimentation, for his unconventional punctuation and phrasing—died at age 67.

■ **1971:** Qatar gains independence. The Persian Gulf state gained its independence after 55 years of British rule.

■ **1976:** After a nearly yearlong journey, NASA’s robotic spacecraft Viking 2 landed on Mars this day in 1976 and began relaying information about the planet’s atmosphere and soil as well as colour photographs of the rocky surface.

FOCUS

POLITICS

TRUMP’S SHOCK THERAPY



For all the administration’s efforts to confront the ‘deep state,’ some MAGA enthusiasts are already complaining that it is making compromises with establishment elites

The consensus in rich countries – and perhaps globally – is that a world in turmoil requires some kind of radical intervention. That is what US President Donald Trump promised, and though he is widely unpopular (with his public disapproval at home steadily rising), even his opponents share his belief that politics as usual will no longer do. But it is worth asking how shock interventions end. History’s answer is “badly.” This is true even in cases where the economic effects of “shock therapy” appeared positive at first, as in Central Europe after the collapse of communism.

The problem is that systemic policy shocks create poisonous narratives whose potency increases over time. There are always suspicions that a conspiracy produced the shock, and about the involvement of foreign powers. Regardless of the therapy’s initial benefits, these narratives ultimately polarize society and undermine the political order. The Trump administration is open about its radicalism. Shock therapy is its solution to every global problem, from Gaza and Iran to Ukraine and Sudan. Trump wields tariffs like a man holding a cattle prod, shocking anyone (friend or foe) who does not immediately bend to his demands. Supposedly, this approach – which features in its domestic application purges of the civil service and the military’s leadership, as well as a war on universities – will strengthen the US economy, usher in a new American golden age, force NATO into line, stop India from buying Russian oil, and contain China’s AI-fueled industrial and military surge.

Thus, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent argues that any tariff-induced pain Americans feel is part of a “detox period.” Trump, indeed, talks of tariffs as an “operation” and as “medicine.” To achieve its desired

shock effects, the administration is deliberately capricious. Why else would two close, well-behaved allies like South Korea and Japan unexpectedly be hit with new 25% tariffs? According to the White House press secretary: “It’s the president’s prerogative, and those are the countries he chose.”

Most of the “deals” that Trump has announced are secret, having been negotiated behind closed doors. The same methods were used in Central Europe and the former Soviet Union as communism disintegrated. Mikhail Gorbachev’s programs – glasnost (openness) and perestroika (economic liberalization) – were about systemic change. But implementation was necessarily opaque, because the goal was to replace a powerful, corrupt status quo. Some involvement by those within the system was inevitable, though (for example, parts of the intelligence services were needed to provide information about how the old system worked). The effort ultimately came to be perceived as a corrupt deal with privileged parts of the old apparatus.

Similarly, Poland’s current political polarization is rooted in its post-communist transition some 35 years ago. The issues that divide the liber-

al-centrist Civic Platform and the illiberal, populist Law and Justice (PiS) party concern an historical event that is hardly known outside Poland: a September 1988 meeting between part, but not all, of the opposition Solidarity movement and the regime in a “special facility” in Magdalenka, on the outskirts of Warsaw.

The second problematic narrative concerns foreign involvement. With the post-communist liberalizations, Germany was a convenient demon, owing to the painful memories of its crimes in World War II. I still recall visiting Moscow in 1992 and being shown pictures of the head of Deutsche Bank smiling and embracing Gorbachev.

What kinds of conspiracy theories will the Trump shock treatment produce? Some elements are already discernable. There will be some winners, but also many losers, not least because Trump’s MAGA revolution is coinciding with a technological one. Insofar as AI creates new employment patterns, large parts of the MAGA base are sure to be displaced, and they will quickly develop a victim narrative.

For all the administration’s efforts to confront the “deep state,” some MAGA enthusi-

asts are already complaining that it is making compromises with establishment elites. The persistence of the Jeffrey Epstein sex-trafficking scandal is only part of the problem. As with the post-communist transformations, those in power are working closely with titans of global finance and international capital. The administration’s alliance with the crypto world is fully out in the open, exemplified by Bessent’s insistence that stablecoins will be the key to generating demand for large sovereign-debt issuances. Against this backdrop, as soon as there is some financial scandal or wider crisis, the conspiracy theories will consume the movement.

Moreover, the administration has no shortage of foreign entanglements. Trump’s bizarrely obsequious summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska has once again raised questions about their relationship. Many now worry that Trump will try to force through a “territorial exchange” that simply gives Russia the Ukrainian regions of Luhansk and Donetsk. Meanwhile, for many in MAGA world, Trump is making too many concessions to the Europeans and Ukrainians when it comes to security guarantees.

As for Putin, who is obsessed with reversing the collapse of the Soviet empire, the lessons of Russia’s engagement with shock therapy are clear. His propaganda machine will play up all the possibilities, spreading insinuations about backroom deals and foreign links to deepen the divisions between Americans. The poison of polarization will continue to corrode the US system. It is Russia’s revenge for the role that America supposedly played in subverting the Soviet Union.

The writer is Professor of History and International Affairs at Princeton University.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Don’t forget to celebrate World Samosa Day

If you love samosas like I do, you’ll be glad to know that World Samosa Day is just around the corner. Every year on 5 September, samosa-lovers get together to enjoy the world’s greatest snack and introduce it to people who’ve never had it before. World Samosa Day was started in 2017 and the number of people celebrating this special day has grown from two in 2017 to seven in 2024. That’s a whopping 250 per cent growth!

Actually, I do not know how many people celebrate World Samosa Day — it hasn’t been widely publicized — but samosas are extremely popular in some parts of the world, including South Asia and East Africa. Whenever my wife and I serve samosas at parties in our home, they disappear so fast that my wife has to set aside one for herself; otherwise she would have to steal one from the guy who has three on his plate, though she doesn’t consider it stealing to take food from a spouse.

In honor of World Samosa Day, I have decided to answer seven frequently asked questions about this delectable snack.

1. **What exactly is a samosa?** As every Indian knows,

a samosa is a triangular pastry, often fried, with a savory filling that most commonly consists of spiced potatoes, onions and peas. Samosas do not have to be triangular; in some parts of the world, they’re crescent-shaped or conical, though samosa connoisseurs frown upon this.

2. **Did samosas originate in India?**

No, samosas originated in the Middle East about 700 to 1,000 years ago, and were known in Arab cookery books by names such as “sanbusak,” “sanbusaq” and “sanbusaj.” Spelling variations continue to this day, as do differences in pronunciation. Some people say “sa-moo-sah,” others say “some-saah,” while I prefer Oliver Twist’s version in his famous query: “May I have some-more-sir?”

3. **When were samosas introduced to India?**

It is believed that samosas were introduced to the Indian subcontinent sometime in the 13th or 14th century by chefs who came from the Middle East and Central Asia to cook

in the royal kitchens of the Delhi Sultanate. They grew in popularity not just because of taste, but also portability, with princes and princesses saying to the chef, “May I have my samosas to go, please?”

4. **How should I celebrate World Samosa Day?**

The best way to celebrate is to have a samosa tasting party: invite a group of friends to taste a variety of samosas that they have thoughtfully brought to your home.

You may also call your favorite restaurant and urge the owner to celebrate World Samosa Day by offering free samosas all day. If you are unsure which restaurant to call, write to me and I will give you the name and number of a restaurant near my home. I promise to eat a samosa on your behalf.

5. **Should I wear anything special on World Samosa Day?**

You may wear a World Samosa Day T-shirt, or any samosa-themed outfit, perhaps one bearing a message such as “I’m Just Here for the Samosas,” “Who Ate the Last Samo-

sa?” and “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Samosas.”

6. **How healthy are samosas?**

Gulnaaz Shaikh, chief dietitian at KIMS Hospitals in Thane, India, told Mid-Day newspaper that samosas are high in saturated fat and calories, and that “regular consumption can contribute to weight gain, high cholesterol, and other health issues if not balanced with a nutritious diet.” In other words, your doctor will never say to you, “You need to eat more samosas.”

7. **What is the Samosa Caucus?**

The Samosa Caucus is the name given to a group of Indian-American lawmakers in Congress, currently numbering six. They are the final authority on any samosa-related legislation in America. It is because of them that the 2015 Samosa Act was passed, mandating that all samosas be sold in brown paper bags, reducing the risk of a samosa robbery. There is nothing worse than buying samosas and looking forward to eating them, only to run into a masked gunman who says, “Your samosas or your life!”



Melvin Durai

WORLD SAMOSA DAY WAS STARTED IN 2017 AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CELEBRATING THIS SPECIAL DAY HAS GROWN FROM TWO IN 2017 TO SEVEN IN 2024

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Humanitarian crisis

Sir, The powerful earthquake that struck Afghanistan poses a big logistical challenge for the Taliban government, which has isolated itself from much of the world by introducing hardline Islamist rules. The disaster has only compounded the miseries for Afghanistan, which has already plunged to new depths. Much of the Western world, including the US, has severed ties with the Taliban regime and halted financial assistance, so the country remains gripped by a humanitarian crisis, and it is one of the poorest nations in the world now. The current disaster will further stretch the resources of the war-torn nation’s Taliban administration. Sadly, Afghanistan’s vulnerability to natural disasters is increasing the country’s instability and worsening the humanitarian crisis there.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Digital safety

Sir, Your card details are a goldmine for fraudsters. But what if you could lock them away and still pay with a single click at your requirements alone. For decades, debit and credit cards have been at the heart of commerce. From swiping at a local store to entering details online, we have grown comfortable using them daily. But in today’s digital-first world, this convenience comes with a serious risk: the exposure of sensitive card data. This is where tokenization steps in—a game-changing technology that is transforming how we pay and safeguarding our financial lives. Each time you use your debit or credit card, you share: A 16-digit Primary Account Number, the expiry date, a CVV code. If intercepted, these details can enable fraud. While merchants and payment gateways implement security systems, storing this “Card-on-File” data remains a major vulnerability—turning businesses into attractive targets for data breaches. Tokenization replaces your actual card details with a unique, randomly generated code called a token. The token has no intrinsic value. It cannot be reverse engineered to reveal the card number. During payments, the token—not your card details—is transmitted and processed. This simple yet powerful substitution makes storing and using card details far safer for both consumers and merchants.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Kolkata enters new metro era

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 2: Lakhs of commuters from Kolkata and its sub-urbs have ditched road transport to choose a hassle-free, seamless metro ride, leading to huge rush at important stations where authorities grapple to manage the massive flow.

Inauguration of the complete stretch of Kolkata Metro's East-West corridor connecting West Bengal's two busiest railway stations – Howrah and Sealdah – and IT hub Salt Lake Sector 5, and its connectivity with the North-South corridor at Esplanade has slashed commuting time for many people, who till now had to face massive jams during office hours while travelling on auto-rickshaws and buses.

At the terminal Howrah Maidan railway station on the East-West route, serpentine queues are seen at ticket vending machines, while Metro employees manning the booking counters face a harrowing time, issuing paper tickets and recharging metro cards to the unending line of commuters.

"We witness such a massive rush till late evening hours," a booking clerk manning a ticket counter said.

Howrah Maidan, which is India's deepest metro station at 33 metres below the surface, has escalators, lifts and stairs leading to the turnstile gates and platforms.

"Now, we scan around 4,500-5,000 backpacks every day at the metal detectors. The number was around 1,500-2,000 when only the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section was



operational," a guard manning the entry point at the turnstile. Commuters, despite the rush, are glad that the metro corridor has opened, enabling them to travel to most parts of Kolkata much quicker than by road.

"Gone are the days of inordinate delays on buses or being at the mercy of drivers. It used to take no less than an hour-and-a-half to reach Sealdah from Howrah Maidan on slow-moving buses. Sometimes, I remained stuck in traffic for hours and missed important events, for which I was hauled up by my office," Anjan Patra, a middle-aged private firm employee who was waiting at the platform said.

As a train arrived and doors opened, a mad scramble ensued as thousands trooped into the compartments.

Among the commuters were office-goers bound for Mahakaran, Esplanade, Sealdah and Salt Lake Sector 5 stations, besides students of Calcutta University, colleges adjacent to Sealdah and educational institutions in Salt Lake.

Ankita Tripathi, who works

at a restaurant in BBD Bagh area in central Kolkata, said, "I used to travel by bus from Howrah Maidan, and it used to take around an hour to reach my workplace on Old Court House Street. Now, I reach there in 10 minutes. Yes, there is rush in the metro, but the ride saves a lot of time."

A group of young men and women, who were on the way to a Left student organisation's rally at College Square, discussed animatedly how the metro has massively reduced their travel time from Howrah station to College Street.

Sujoy Basu, who took a train for Karunamoyee station in Salt Lake, said that bus rides took long hours and app two-wheeler rides were both risky and burnt a hole in his pocket.

"Not anymore!" he exclaimed. Arup Dasgupta, who boarded the train at Sealdah station to reach his office in Salt Lake, said he was happy that doors were opening on both sides of the compartment at important interchanging stations such as Howrah, Esplanade and Sealdah to ease the ingress and

egress of commuters.

Srinjoy Chanda, a student of a college at Sector 5, however, missed the earlier days when he could easily get a seat at Sealdah station after reaching there on a local train from his home in Agarpara.

"However, nowadays, the metro trains come packed from Howrah, and we struggle to get inside the coaches at Sealdah, and sometimes miss trains during peak hours," he said.

Before the entire Howrah Maidan-Sector 5 stretch was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 22, truncated services were run along two disjointed sections – Howrah Maidan to Esplanade and Sealdah to Sector 5 – as work was delayed along the Esplanade-Sealdah stretch due to the bursting of an aquifer and sinking of ground during tunnelling in the Bow Bazaar area.

Kolkata Metro is, meanwhile, urging commuters to buy tickets from 'Aamar Kolkata Metro' app, or use smart cards or vending machines to reduce pressure on counters.

The metro is also offering a five per cent discount on fares if tickets are bought through the app.

"Most of us have smartphones, so we are encouraging commuters to make the switch," a metro official said.

"We have noticed an overwhelming response from commuters at major stations such as Howrah, Sealdah, Salt Lake Sector 5, Dum Dum and Esplanade in the last 10 days," he said. The official said 1.43 lakh commuters used the Green Line (East-West corridor) till 6 pm Monday.

REVAMPING UP

Operation Kayakalp, Project Alankar transform schools

Beyond academics, students also benefit from playgrounds, open gyms, multipurpose halls, art and craft rooms, and vocational training facilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 2: Operation Kayakalp and Project Alankar, led by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, have transformed council and secondary schools across the state, giving them a new identity, an official statement said Tuesday.

Launched in 2018, Operation Kayakalp aims to make council schools modern, safe, and fully equipped.

Under this campaign, 97 per cent of basic facilities in schools have been developed. Previously, many schools lacked toilets, water, electricity, and furniture, but they have now been converted into modern institutions with gated boundary walls, tiled toilets, painted premises, and solar lighting, the statement read.

NITI Aayog has recognised Operation Kayakalp as a model initiative for the entire country.

Similarly, the Department of Secondary Education launched Project Alankar, which mapped 2,295 schools across 27 parameters to improve their infrastructure.

To strengthen secondary education, these schools have been upgraded with smart classes, computer labs, Wi-Fi, laboratories, libraries, and modern furniture, the statement said.



Beyond academics, students also benefit from playgrounds, open gyms, multipurpose halls, art and craft rooms, and vocational training facilities. Core infrastructure has been enhanced with principal and staff rooms, boundary walls, office spaces, cycle stands, and drinking water facilities.

Safety and sustainability have been prioritised through the installation of fire safety equipment, CCTV surveillance, biometric attendance, rainwater harvesting, and solar panels.

Together, Operation Kayakalp and Project Alankar have given government schools in Uttar Pradesh a new identity, turning them into modern, inclusive, and future-ready institutions, the statement read.

The statement noted that village schools have become vibrant and fully equipped centres of the Gram Sabha. With modern facilities, safe campuses, and a welcoming environment, parents' trust in these schools has grown manifold.



A child immerses an idol of Lord Ganesha during the 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festivities, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
PTI PHOTO

WB fixes time limit for burning firecrackers

ON THE OCCASIONS OF KALI PUJA AND DIWALI, TWO HOURS HAVE BEEN ALLOTTED FOR BURNING ONLY GREEN FIRECRACKERS, AND THE TIME LIMIT IS BETWEEN 8 PM AND 10 PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 2: The West Bengal government Tuesday specified time limits for burning firecrackers during the forthcoming festival season, starting from Durga Puja.

The time limits for burning firecrackers during different festival days were specified on the floor of the West Bengal Assembly on the second day of the special session of the House, by West Bengal Finance Minister (Independent charge) and Environment Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya.

Bhattacharya claimed that the state government has fixed the time limits for burning firecrackers on different festival days based on the Centre's guidelines.

According to Bhattacharya, on the occasions of Kali Puja



and Diwali, two hours have been allotted for burning only green firecrackers, and the time limit is between 8 pm and 10 pm.

During Chhath Puja, two hours have been allotted for burning firecrackers, and the time is between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. According to Bhattacharya, for both Christmas and

New Year's Eve, only 40 minutes have been allotted for burning firecrackers between 11.55 pm to 12.35 am.

Violation of these time limits would be considered a punishable offence. In case anyone has any complaint about the noise pollution, they would be able to report it directly to the state

government through a dedicated helpline number, said Bhat-tacharya.

In January, the Supreme Court extended the effect of orders passed by the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments, imposing a complete ban on firecrackers in areas falling under the NCR region.

The Supreme Court had asked the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to impose a ban on firecrackers in the same terms as imposed in Delhi.

In November 2024, after Diwali, the Supreme Court remarked that the ban on firecrackers was hardly implemented in the national capital and pulled up the Delhi government. It suggested that the premises of sellers of firecrackers should be sealed, apart from enforcing a ban on importing firecrackers from neighbouring states.

UP Cabinet approves ECMP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 2: The Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday approved an Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy (UP ECMP) with an investment target of Rs 5,000 crore to promote production of 11 key components such as displays and camera modules.

The policy, aligned with the Centre's Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), will come into effect from April 1, 2025, for a period of six years, according to an official statement.

UP ECMP-2025 aims to promote the production of 11 key electronic components including displays, camera modules, and multilayer PCBs, with an investment target of Rs 5,000 crore and the potential to create lakhs of jobs, it stated.

Under the scheme, entrepreneurs will receive state incentives in addition to central benefits, helping strengthen UP's electronics ecosystem and supply chain. The policy will be implemented through a nodal agency, guided by a policy implementation unit and an empowered committee at the government level.

The government believes UP ECMP-2025 will not only boost

component manufacturing but also encourage innovation and reduce import dependence, firmly establishing the state as a key player in the global electronics industry, it added.

Principal Secretary Anurag Yadav stated, "Unprecedented progress has been made in electronics manufacturing in the country over the past eight years. While only two units were producing mobile phones in 2015, today 300 units are operational. Production of electronic goods has increased from Rs 1.9 lakh crore to over Rs 11 lakh crore. Mobile phone exports have risen from Rs 1,500 crore to Rs 2 lakh crore.

"UP has become the epicentre of this revolution, producing more than half of the country's mobile phones. This policy will take UP to new heights of economic growth and self-reliance, while also creating employment opportunities for the youth."

This policy will position UP as a global manufacturing hub while boosting the state's self-reliance nationally. With an estimated investment of Rs 5,000 crore, it is expected to generate lakhs of direct and indirect jobs, making UP a preferred destination for investment and accelerating industrial growth, the statement added.

MUSHAKAT-E-MUSHAIRA

Javed Akhtar's Kolkata 'mushaira' postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 2: The West Bengal Urdu Academy has postponed a 'mushaira' (poetic symposium) featuring noted lyricist Javed Akhtar following protests by some Muslim groups.

The Muslim organisations claimed that certain comments made by Akhtar have hurt the religious sentiments of the community.

The four-day event, organised by the academy, was scheduled to be held in Kolkata from September 1.

The state-run academy, however, did not cite any official reason for the postponement.

"Due to some compelling reason, the four-day 'mushaira' had to be postponed. We will announce the new dates later," the academy's secretary Nuzhat Zainab said.

He, however, did not clarify whether Akhtar would be among the guests when the rescheduled programme is held.

Jamiat-e-Ulema's state unit general secretary Mufti Abdus Salam Qasmi said, "Certain recent comments made by Javed Akhtar have hurt the sentiments of a section of Muslims. We are of the view that as a



minority institution, the West Bengal Urdu Academy could invite someone else who had not hurt the sentiments of ordinary devout Muslims."

Mufti Shamail Nadvi of the Wahyain Foundation said, "Javed Akhtar is an erudite personality and is immensely gifted as a creative figure. But many of his recent comments have hurt the emotions and sensibilities of the community. As an academy looking after the well-being and protecting the values and sentiments of the Muslim community, the Minority Affairs Department should have been more careful in choosing guests."

Akhtar, who had in the past

regularly attended literary meets in Kolkata, has time and again raised his voice against fundamentalism in all religions.

Protesting the postponement of the event, several Left student organisations extended an open invitation to Akhtar to speak on the role of Urdu in Hindi cinema in Delhi.

"On behalf of the representatives of Left student organisations – SFI, AISF, AISA, AIDSO, AISB, PSU – we strongly condemn the undemocratic attack by Islamist fundamentalist groups on the West Bengal Urdu Academy... the event was shamefully postponed by the TMC government after opposition from groups like Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind and Wahyain Foundation, which objected to Akhtar's atheist views. Instead of resisting such regressive threats, the government chose capitulation," a joint statement said.

"This attack is not just on an individual but on secularism, art, culture, intellectual freedom and scientific temperament... As Left progressive students, we refuse to accept any compromise with fundamentalist forces of any religion," it added.

UP unveils e-buses for Lucknow, Kanpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 2: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Tuesday approved a proposal to introduce privately operated electric buses on select routes in Lucknow and Kanpur, in a move aimed at improving public transport connectivity in and around the two cities.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said 15 of the 16 proposals placed before the Cabinet were approved. One proposal, belonging to the agricultural sector, was dropped, he said, without elaborating on it.

Energy Minister A K Sharma said the electric bus project, approved as a pilot initiative, will run on a "net cost contract model," where private operators will bear all operational expenses and risks without government subsidy.

"This service will initially operate on 10 routes each in Lucknow and Kanpur. The government will retain the power to fix fares," he said.

The project involves a 12-year contract with private

operators, who will be selected through a tendering process, Sharma said.

"The lowest bidder will be chosen, and operators will bear all costs, including the purchase of buses, driver and conductor salaries, and charging infrastructure," he added.

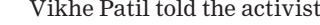
Each electric bus will cost around Rs 10 crore, excluding charging costs, Sharma said.

The identified Lucknow routes include Charbagh-Barabanki, Kamta-Airport, Balaganj-Mohanlal-ganj, Balaganj-Viraj Khand, Ghantaghar-Maal police station, Scooter India-Engineering College, Charbagh-Deva, Charbagh-Kursi, Durga-Ganganj, and Ghantaghar-Sandia.

In Kanpur, routes include Ramadevi-Jahanabad, Fazal-ganj-Rura, Ghantaghar-Akbarpur, Kanpur Railway Station-Bindki, Kanpur Railway Station-Bithoor, Kanpur Railway Station-IIT, Kanpur Railway Station-Ghatampur, Ghantaghar-Moosanager, and Kanpur City-Circular Road.

Sharma said one electric bus will operate initially on each route, with plans to scale up the service later.

The court has fixed September 8 as the next date of hear-



The government resolution

The UK directed that persons from the Maratha community who or whose ancestors held agricultural land prior to November 21, 1961, or earlier, must produce evidence such as old land records or extracts from relevant registers. Based on these records, the designated committee would conduct local enquiries and certify the claimants accordingly.

The PAC's meeting agenda was to discuss a CAG audit report on "revenue sharing by telecom service providers with government. After the meeting, Venugopal said, "We thoroughly discussed the issues related to common public grievances." Noting that the CAG had flagged the loss of revenue due to the Department of Telecom-

report had flagged underassessment of revenue worth 2463.67 crore, which the department is in process of recovering from various operators. Officials told the committee that the DoT revenue, including licence fee plus spectrum usage charges, has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 9.39 per cent since 2020-21, rising to ₹30,261 crore from ₹21,133 crore. They also pointed out that a host of policy initiatives have helped the BSNL turn a net profit. A source said that most MPs were of the view that public sector operators needed to expand and boost its infra and services.

Reacting to the Congress government announcing a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project built during the previous BRS regime, Kavitha on September 1 said some who are close to KCR have benefited in many ways by making use of his name and he was getting defamed because of their “misdeeds”. She had alleged that Harish Rao and Santosh Kumar were responsible for KCR getting the taint of corruption in the Kaleshwaram project issue. While KCR focused on helping people, they sought to increase their wealth through clandestine dealings with contractors, she had alleged.

Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav made the observation while hearing an appeal filed by gym trainer Nitin Saini from Meerut, who has been accused of using a caste-based slur against a woman client. The court has fixed September 8 as the next date of hearing.



In its order dated August 27, the court observed, “It is a matter of serious concern that presently male gym trainers

“Considering the aforesaid circumstances, the Investigating Officer of Police Station Brahmपुरi, Meerut is directed to file a personal affidavit indicating that whether the gym operated by the appellant was duly registered under the law. Whether the appellant has been arrested in connection with the present case or not, and whether in the gym, trainers are female or not,” the court said.

of the day

quote


HERE NOW

The West has spent decades trying to wean India away from its Cold War attachment to Soviet Union Russia, and cautioning India on the threat posed by China. Donald Trump has shredded decades of efforts with his disastrous tariff policy



JOHN BOLTON | FORMER US NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

The threat from the Russians is increasing every day. Let's not be naïve about it: this might also involve one day Luxembourg, it might come to the Netherlands



MARK RUTTE | SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

The self-righteous European countries that are being manipulated by Hamas — at the end they'll discover terrorism on their own flesh



ITAMAR BEN GVR | ISRAEL'S NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

French actor to face trial for rape

Paris: French movie star Gérard Depardieu was summoned to trial before a criminal court in Paris over allegations of rape and sexual assault against actor Charlotte Arnould. “I feel relieved,” Arnould wrote on Instagram Tuesday after receiving the investigating judge's indictment order. “The order restores a form of judicial truth. I think I'm having trouble realising how huge this is.” Arnould's lawyer, Carine Durrieu-Diebolt, was not immediately available for comment. She told Franceinfo media she was “extremely satisfied” and described the decision as a “moment of judicial truth in this case.” The case dates back to 2018, when prosecutors in Paris opened a preliminary investigation after Arnould accused Depardieu of raping her at his home. “The acts of rape and sexual assault have been acknowledged,” Arnould said. “Now, we await the next steps.” Prosecutors submitted a request last year for the case to proceed to trial. Depardieu was convicted earlier this year of sexually assaulting two women on a film set and received an 18-month suspended prison sentence in a case that was widely seen as a post-#MeToo test for the country's film industry.

Burkina Faso bans homosexuality

Ouagadougou: Burkina Faso's parliament has passed a law banning homosexuality with offenders facing two to five years in prison, the state broadcaster reported late Monday. The amended family code was approved by the parliament Monday in an unanimous vote that puts the code into effect more than a year after it was approved by the military government of Capt. Ibrahim Traore. Burkina Faso joins the list of more than half of Africa's 54 countries that have laws banning homosexuality with the penalties ranging from several years in prison to the death penalty. The laws, though criticised abroad, enjoy popularity in the countries where locals and officials have criticised homosexuality as behaviour imported from abroad and not a sexual orientation. The new law goes into effect immediately with individuals in same-sex relationships risking prison sentences as well as fines, Justice Minister Edasso Rodrigue Bayala said during a briefing broadcast by the state TV. He described homosexual acts as “bizarre behaviour.”



I think at the end of the day, two great countries (India and the US) will get this solved. But the Indians have not been great actors in terms of buying Russian oil and then reselling it, financing the Russian war effort in Ukraine

SCOTT BESSENT | US TREASURY SECRETARY

VIETNAM NATIONAL DAY

Vietnam marked its National Day Tuesday with its largest military parade in decades, as thousands packed the streets of the capital, Hanoi, after many camped overnight to witness the grand display marking 80 years of independence. The parade unfolded at Ba Dinh Square, the site where revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh declared independence from French colonial rule Sept. 2, 1945.



Afghanistan quake toll crosses 1,400



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jalalabad, Sept 2: An earthquake of magnitude 5.5 shook southeastern Afghanistan Tuesday, sparking fears of further damage and destruction almost two days after a quake of magnitude 6 killed more than 1,400 people and injured thousands more in the same region. Tuesday's quake occurred at a relatively shallow depth of 10 km (6 miles), the same as the one that struck at midnight on Sunday. That was one of Afghanistan's worst quakes in years, flattening houses in remote villages. It was unclear immediately how much damage Tuesday's new quake had caused. The difficult terrain has badly hindered rescue workers' relief efforts in the isolated villages of the mountainous region.

The death toll from the major earthquake in eastern Afghanistan passed 1,400 Tuesday, with more than 3,000 people injured, Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban government spokesman, said on social platform X.

Rescuers are scrambling in a “race against time” to reach the mountainous and remote area devastated by Sunday's powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake, a UN official said, warning of an exponential rise in the number of casualties.

The quake struck in several provinces, causing extensive damage. It flattened villages and trapped people under the rubble of homes that were constructed mostly of mud bricks and wood and were unable to withstand the shock. Rough terrain is hampering rescue and relief efforts.

“We cannot afford to forget the people of Afghanistan who are facing multiple crises, multiple shocks, and the resilience of the communities has been saturated,” said Indrika Ratwatte, the UN's resident coordinator for Afghanistan.

He urged the international community to step forward. “These are life and death decisions while we race against time to reach people.”

It is the third major earthquake since the Taliban seized power in 2021, and the latest crisis to beset Afghanistan, which is reeling from deep cuts to aid funding, a weak economy, and millions of people forcibly returned from Iran and Pakistan.

Ratwatte said that when the walls of wooden and mud homes collapse, the roof falls on to the occupants, causing injury or death. While the area was low-density, the earthquake struck when everybody was asleep.

“If you were to model it based on what has happened before, clearly there's no question that the casualty rate is going to be rather exponential,” he said.

The Taliban government, which is only recognised by Russia, has appealed for assistance from foreign governments and the humanitarian sector.

However, help for Afghanistan is in short supply due to competing global crises and reduced aid budgets in donor countries.

There is also opposition toward the Taliban government's restrictive policies on Afghan girls and women, including a ban on them working for non-governmental organisations. Earlier this year, the US gutted aid money to Afghanistan, partly due to concerns that money was going to the Taliban government.

Kate Carey, who is the deputy head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan, said more than 420 health facilities had closed or were suspended due to the “massive reduction” in funding, with 80 of them in the eastern region, the heart of Sunday's quake.

“The consequence is that the remaining facilities are overwhelmed, have insufficient supplies and personnel, and are not as close to the affected populations as the more local facilities at a time when providing emergency trauma care is needed in the first 24 to 72 hours of the earthquake response,” said Carey.

Xi hosts ‘old friend’ Putin, Kim in challenge to West

REUTERS

Beijing, Sept 2: China's President Xi Jinping convened his Russian and North Korean counterparts in Beijing for the first time Tuesday, a show of solidarity with countries shunned by the West over their role in Europe's worst war in 80 years.

Xi hosted Vladimir Putin for talks at the Great Hall of the People and then at his personal residence, calling him his "old friend".

A few hours later, Kim Jong Un's armoured train was spotted by a Reuters witness arriving in the Chinese capital. North Korean state media confirmed Kim's arrival, saying he was greeted by Chinese officials including foreign minister Wang Yi and expressed his thanks to Xi for his hospitality.

The three are set to take centre stage at a massive military parade Wednesday, where the Chinese president will flaunt his vision for a new global order as US President Donald Trump's "America First" policies strain Western alliances.

Beyond the pomp, analysts are watching whether the trio may signal closer defence relations following a pact signed



by Russia and North Korea in June 2024, and a similar alliance between Beijing and Pyongyang, an outcome that may alter the military calculus in the Asia-Pacific region.

It would also be a blow for Trump, who has talked up his close relations with Putin, Xi and Kim and touted his peace-making credentials as Russia's three-and-a-half-year war with Ukraine has raged on.

In a thinly veiled swipe at this rival across the Pacific Ocean Monday, Xi told a summit of more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries: “We must continue to take a clear

stand against hegemonism and power politics.”

Xi also held talks Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, whose country has been targeted by Trump over its purchases of Russian oil seen as helping finance Putin's war effort.

Trump's Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called the summit “performative” and accused China and India, the biggest buyers of Russian crude, of being “bad actors” by fuelling Russia's war.

As Putin and Xi met, Russia's Gazprom and China National Petroleum Corpora-

Landslide in Sudan leaves 1,000 dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Sept 2: A landslide wiped out a village in Sudan's western region of Darfur, killing an estimated 1,000 people in one of the deadliest natural disasters in the African country's recent history, a rebel group controlling the area said late Monday.

The tragedy happened Sunday in the village of Tarasin in Central Darfur's Marrah Mountains after days of heavy rainfall in late August, the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army said in a statement.

“Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated to be more than one thousand people. Only one person survived,” the statement read.

The village was “completely levelled to the ground,” the group said, appealing to the UN and international aid groups for help to recover the bodies.

Footage shared by the Marrah Mountains news outlet showed a flattened area between mountain ranges with a group of people searching the area.

The tragedy came as a dev-



astating civil war has engulfed Sudan after tensions between the country's military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in April 2023 in the capital, Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

Most of the Darfur region, including the Marrah Mountains, has become mostly inaccessible for the UN and aid groups given crippling restrictions and fighting between Sudan's military and the RSF.

The Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, centred in the Marrah Mountains area, is one of multiple rebel groups active

in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. It hasn't taken sides in the war.

The Marrah Mountains are a rugged volcanic chain extending for 160 kilometres southwest of el-Fasher, an epicentre of fighting between the military and the RSF. The area has turned into a hub for displaced families fleeing fighting in and around el-Fasher.

The conflict has killed more than 40,000 people, forced more than 14 millions to flee their homes and left some families eating grass in a desperate attempt to survive as famine swept parts of the country.

Gaza City offensive: Israel starts calling up reservists

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah, Sept 2: Israel began mobilising tens of thousands of reservists and repeated evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive in Gaza City, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

The beginning of September call-up, announced last month, comes as ground and air forces press forward and pursue more targets in northern and central Gaza, striking parts of Zeitoun and Shijaiyah — two western Gaza City neighbourhoods that Israeli forces have repeatedly invaded during the nearly two-year war against Hamas militants.

Zeitoun, once Gaza City's largest neighbourhood with markets, schools and clinics, has been transformed over the past month, with streets being emptied and buildings reduced to rubble as it becomes what Israel's military last week called a “dangerous combat zone”.

Gaza City is Hamas' political and military stronghold and, according to Israel, still

home to a vast tunnel network, despite multiple incursions throughout the war. It's also one of the last refuges in northern Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of civilians are sheltering, facing the twin threats of combat and famine.

Israel Tuesday repeated earlier warnings to Palestinians who have remained in Gaza City, unconvinced that another displacement will keep them safe.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee warned that combat operations would soon be expanding, and that services would be made available in Muwasi, a makeshift tent camp south of Gaza City.

At least 47 people have been killed across the Gaza Strip since dawn Tuesday, according to hospitals.

In Gaza City, Israeli strikes killed at least 26 people, who arrived at Shifa hospital since Tuesday morning, an official there told The Associated Press.

A strike on a residential building in Tel al-Hawa wounded 28 people on Tuesday, ac-



cording to al-Quds Hospital, a day after overnight strikes in the neighbourhood.

Overnight, a strike on a residential building in the neighbourhood killed 15 people including at least 3 children. AP journalists saw rescue workers pull a bloodied infant alive from beneath rubble, then placed the dead under white

Chicago: 8 killed in dozens of shootings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago, Sept 2: Eight people were killed and 50 others were wounded in dozens of shootings in Chicago over the Labour Day weekend, according to police.

Between Friday night and Monday night, a total of 58 people were shot in 37 separate shootings in the nation's third-largest city, according to preliminary information from police. Most involved one victim, but multiple people were injured in three of the shootings. Most victims were in good or fair condition, but several were listed in serious or critical condition. In a handful of cases, police said a person of interest was being questioned, but in most, no suspect was in custody. Over Labour Day weekend last year, seven people were killed, six of them by gunfire, and more than 20 others were wounded in shootings over the holiday weekend, police said. The number of shootings reflects a common occurrence in Chicago, particularly over long holiday weekends in summer, when some areas on the city's West and South sides, in particular, experience localised gun violence with higher crime rates.

with her family, told the AP. “We woke up to see what happened to us and check in on our children and discovered that everyone around us is dead.”

Shifa Hospital's morgue confirmed 15 deaths from the Israeli strike, one of several lethal strikes on the neighbourhood.

Further south, Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis and Awda Hospital in Nuseirat said they received 22 casualties killed by Israeli airstrikes and gunfire near distribution sites and in a corridor frequented by UN convoys.

In recent months, more than 2,300 aid seekers have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The toll includes Palestinians who have sought aid in areas where UN convoys have been overwhelmed by looters and desperate crowds, and where people have been fatally shot while heading to sites run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation or GHF, an Israeli-backed American contractor.

Israel's military and GHF didn't immediately respond to questions about the latest

“We were sleeping safe and sound in our home, and then we suddenly woke up to the sound of banging and rising smoke,” Sana Drimli, a woman who lived in the building



of the day

quote

About 83 per cent of green energy transition is funded domestically and sectors need to figure out how to unlock international finance

MADHAV PAI | CEO, WRI INDIA

The second version of India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 will provide support not just for chip manufacturing projects but also to the ecosystem partners who play key roles in their production

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

I think, three things – good monsoon, given the fact that GST will get rationalised and generally inflation has come down – will help consumer sentiment

VINEET AGRAWAL | CEO, WIPRO

SHORT TAKES

Suzlon's wind turbines record lowest CO2e

New Delhi: Renewable energy solutions provider Suzlon Tuesday said its 'Made in India' wind turbine model, S144, has recorded the lowest product carbon footprint of 6.17 gCO2 per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated. This achievement has been independently verified by Indian Register Quality Systems (IRQS), a certification and testing organization, a company statement said. Recently, TÜV SÜD Poland, a globally renowned 150-year-old certification and testing organization, also verified S144 as a low-carbon footprint wind solution, the statement added. Suzlon has redesigned the turbine to cut steel use by 2.5 times, incorporating recycled steel and scrap, while sourcing 83.25 per cent of components locally from Tier-1 Indian suppliers. The use of low-carbon steel and renewable energy in manufacturing has further reduced emissions drastically, it said. Additionally, Suzlon has been able to enhance the product lifecycle to 25 years, delivering long-term performance and advancing India's clean energy goals.

UC, boAt, 11 others get SEBI nod for IPO

New Delhi: As many as 13 firms, including Urban Company, which offers mobile app-based beauty and home care services, and Imagine Marketing, the parent company of wearables brand boAt, have received Sebi's approval to raise funds through Initial Public Offerings (IPO), an update with the regulator showed Tuesday. Others obtaining the regulatory clearance are -- Juniper Green Energy, Allchem Lifescience, Omnitech Engineering, KSH International, Ravi Infrabuild Projects, Mouri Tech, Priority Jewels, Corona Remedies, Om FreightForwarders, Jain Resource Recycling and Pace Digitek. These companies, which filed their preliminary IPO papers between March and June, obtained Sebi's observations during August 1-29, the update showed. In SEBI's parlance, obtaining its observations means go ahead to launch public issues. Urban Company is looking to mobilise ₹1,900 crore through its proposed IPO. This includes raising ₹429 crore through selling new shares, and existing investors plan to sell stakes worth ₹1,471 crore, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). Imagine Marketing filed draft papers with Sebi in April for an IPO through a confidential pre-filing route. The route allows the company to withhold public disclosure of details under the draft red herring prospectus until later stages. All these companies would list their shares on the BSE and NSE.



The government is looking to expand benefits under the design linked incentive (DLI) to support larger domestic companies as well as enhance grants provided under it

S KRISHNAN | IT SECRETARY

TACC COLLABORATES WITH CGT TO DRIVE GRAPHENE REVOLUTION

Carbon materials manufacturer TACC Ltd Tuesday said it has signed a technical collaboration agreement with Ceylon Graphene Technologies (CGT) to jointly accelerate the commercialisation and large-scale adoption of graphene and its derivatives. Under the collaboration, CGT will bring its decade-long expertise in graphene, technology scale-up, and application development to support TACC in building graphene production capabilities, according to a statement



Intraday limit for index options

In simple words, SEBI new rule would oversee large trading positions held by individual entities during the trading day. This will help in preventing excessive risk-taking and maintaining market order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



has been restricted at ₹10,000 crore, the same as the existing end-of-day limit. This applied separately to long and short positions, it added. The framework, effective from October 1, would facilitate market-making activity on all trading days while putting a check on creation of outsized intraday position on the expiry day for orderly trading. Additionally, it provides predictability, operational clarity, and a fair balance between ease

of trading and risk management, the board said. The framework will be restricted to index options only, which generally dominate the derivatives landscape. In simple words, SEBI new rule would oversee large trading positions held by individual entities during the trading day. This will help in preventing excessive risk-taking and maintaining market order. The new rules have been issued after the board had

AA ecosystem to unlock new frontiers: Finmin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem is poised to unlock new frontiers in formal credit access, especially for MSMEs and personal lending, contributing meaningfully to India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday. The Account Aggregator (AA) framework was officially launched on September 2, 2021, establishing a secure, consent-based system for financial data sharing. In 2016, the Reserve Bank of India issued the Master Directions for the AA ecosystem. On the occasion of the 4th anniversary, the ministry in a statement said, the AA ecosystem has grown rapidly and is witnessing accelerated adoption across banking, securities, insurance and pension sectors, strengthening India's DPI (digital public infrastructure). As on date, 112 Financial Institutions have gone live both as Financial Information Providers (FIP) and Financial Information Users (FIU), while 56 have gone live solely as FIP and 410 as FIU, it said. Over 2.2 billion financial accounts are now enabled for secure, consent-based data sharing through the AA framework, with 112.34 million users having already linked their accounts, underscoring the growing scale and trust in this transformative initiative, it said. The AA Framework allows

Account Aggregator ecosystem has grown rapidly across banking, securities, insurance and pension sectors, strengthening India's DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure)

users to aggregate their financial information (like bank accounts, investments, loans, etc.) from multiple sources and share it with service providers (e.g., lenders, wealth managers) for services like loan applications or financial planning. AAs act as intermediaries, ensuring data privacy and user control through encrypted, permission-driven data sharing. During the G20 India Presidency in 2023, AA was recognised as a foundational DPI serving as the data exchange layer, complementing the identity (Aadhaar) and payments (UPI) layers, it said. The role and impact of AA have been acknowledged in key G20 documents, including the 'Policy Recommendations for Advancing Financial Inclusion and Productivity Gains through Digital Public Infrastructure' (2023), it said. Its significance is also detailed in the 'Report of India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure' released in July 2024, it added.

Sugar mills, distilleries to make ethanol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: The government Monday permitted sugar mills and distilleries to produce ethanol without any quantitative restrictions in the 2025-26 marketing year starting November. Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) runs from November to October. "Sugar mills and distilleries are allowed to produce ethanol from sugarcane juice/sugar syrup, B-heavy molasses as well as C-heavy molasses during ESY 2025-26 without any restrictions," the food ministry said in a notification. It said the department in consultation with the petroleum ministry would periodically review the diversion of sugar to ethanol production in order to ensure a smooth supply of sweetener in the domestic market. During the current ESY 2024-25, the government has permitted the diversion of 40 lakh tonnes of sugar for ethanol production. The Centre has been promoting blending of ethanol in petrol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell ethanol blended with petrol. During the ongoing ESY 2024-25, OMCs have achieved an average ethanol blending of 19.05 per cent as July 31, 2025. The National Policy on Bio-fuels 2018, as amended in 2022, inter alia advanced the target of 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol from 2030 to ESY 2025-26.

Gold rate surges



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: Gold price stayed firm for the seventh consecutive session and added ₹400 to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,06,070 per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday amid unabated chase for safe-haven assets triggered by sweeping US tariffs and tumbling rupee against American currency. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at ₹1,05,670 per 10 grams Monday. The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity also increased ₹400 to hit a new record of ₹1,05,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Tuesday. It had settled at ₹1,04,800 per 10 grams in the previous market session. The yellow metal has added ₹5,900 per 10 grams in the past seven sessions. Gold prices have risen 34.35 per cent in the current calendar year, climbing from ₹78,950 per 10 grams December 31, 2024. Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont, said, "Gold prices gained to hit record highs on Tuesday after a US appeals court last week upheld a decision that the White House's so-called reciprocal tariffs were unlawful." The court said the tariffs could remain in place

Fitch, S&P rate SBI's US Dollar Bond

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: Fitch Ratings Tuesday assigned a 'BBB- (EXP)' rating to State Bank of India's proposed US dollar-denominated bond issuance. Separately, S&P Global Ratings has also assigned its 'BBB' long-term issue rating to the US dollar-denominated senior unsecured notes that the London branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) proposes to issue. The rating agencies did not specify the amount that the London Branch of State Bank of India (SBI) will raise through the issuance of dollar-denominated bonds. However, S&P said the bond issuance represents a drawdown from SBI's \$10 billion medium-term notes programme. "The rating on the notes is equal to the long-term issuer credit rating on SBI (BBB/Stable/A-2). Our ratings on SBI reflect the bank's dominant market position and strong deposit franchise. SBI's market leadership and India's good economic growth momentum support its loan growth, asset quality, and profitability," an

S&P statement said. Last month, S&P had upgraded India's sovereign rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-', citing robust growth. Subsequently S&P also raised long-term issuer credit ratings of India's largest bank, SBI. The notes will constitute SBI's direct, unconditional, unsubordinated, and unsecured obligations and will, at all time, rank pari passu among themselves and with all of SBI's other unsubordinated and unsecured obligations, Fitch said. "Fitch Ratings has assigned State Bank of India's (SBI, BBB-/Stable) proposed senior unsecured notes an expected rating of 'BBB-(EXP),' the agency said in a statement. The senior unsecured instruments are rated at the same level as the bank's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR), in line with Fitch's criteria. SBI's IDR is driven by its Government Support Rating (GSR) of 'bbb-', which reflects Fitch's expectation that SBI is highly likely to receive extraordinary support from the Indian sovereign (BBB-/Stable), if required.

Markets end lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 2: Reversing its early gains, benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 206 points Tuesday due to last-hour profit-taking in banking and auto shares amid caution ahead of the GST Council meeting. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 206.61 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 80,157.88 with 16 of its components ending lower and 14 with gains. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 45.45 points or 0.18 per cent to 24,579.60. Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors and Larsen & Toubro closed with losses. However, Power Grid, NTPC, Tata Steel and Hindustan Unilever were the major gainers. The GST Council is meeting in New Delhi for two days beginning September 3 to discuss the proposed pruning of rates. The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.64 per cent and mid-cap index went up by 0.27 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, bankex dropped the most by 0.68 per cent, followed by telecommunication (0.59 per cent), financial services (0.44 per cent), teck (0.28 per cent) and consumer durables (0.13 per cent). Power jumped 1.62 per cent, followed by utilities (1.47 per cent), FMCG (1.12 per cent) metal (0.90 per cent), realty (0.67 per cent) and energy (0.65 per cent). Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,429.71 crore Monday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought worth ₹4,344.93 crore, according to exchange data.

Removing cotton import duty to bridge quality and supply gap

Duty-free access to premium cotton allows domestic producers to offer high-quality yarns and fabrics at globally competitive price points

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 2: India's decision to eliminate import duty on raw cotton was driven by urgent supply, quality, and competitiveness concerns in the textile value chain. It is a strategic move initiated to address raw material shortages, reduce input costs for textile mills, curb inflationary pressures, and uphold India's competitive edge in global textile trade. Textile and apparel exports account for a significant share of India's foreign earnings. Duty-free access to premium cotton allows domestic producers to offer high-quality yarns and fabrics at globally competitive price points, reinforcing the "Make in India" brand and helping retain market share in key destinations such as Europe and North America.



In terms of global trade, India is the sixth largest exporter of textiles, with a 3.91 per cent share in world textile exports. According to the Textile Ministry, the sector provides direct employment to over 45 million

people, making it the second largest employment generator in the country, next only to agriculture. However, the country's cotton production fell from about 35 million bales in 2020-21 to

some 31 million bales in 2024-25 due to adverse weather conditions and pest attacks. The Department of Agriculture said in a recent statement that as of August 15, total cultivation area for cotton has reduced, with acreage falling by 3.24 lakh hectares in (2025-26) compared to the previous year (2024-25). The government's duty waiver stems from concerns about cotton shortages. Industry groups had warned about higher yarn prices, leading to an increase in textile prices ahead of the festival season. Duty-free access to premium cotton allows domestic producers to offer high-quality yarns and fabrics at globally competitive price points. India's 2024-25 cotton crop was dominated by medium-staple varieties, while many spinning mills require long and

extra-long staple fibres to meet higher-end yarn specifications. Various spinning mills usually stockpile lower-grade domestic cotton to blend with imports, tying up substantial working capital. Industry estimates suggest that duty relief can cut raw-material financing needs by 15-20 per cent, immediately improving cash flows, especially for small and medium-sized spinning units grappling with post-pandemic demand volatility. Thus, allowing duty-free imports plugs this quality and quantity shortfall immediately, ensuring uninterrupted production for value-added textile units. Removal of import duty would ease the pressure on domestic textile mills by stabilising raw material costs ahead of the festive season when garments are in high demand. Concerns over farmers be-

ing affected are addressed through the minimum support price (MSP) mechanism. For the marketing season 2025-26, growers get ₹7,710 per quintal for medium staple variety, while for long staple; it is ₹8,110 per quintal. The Cotton Corporation of India continues to procure unsold crops at MSP levels, with any losses on stock clearances financed via the federal budget, ensuring farmers are insulated from market fluctuations. Meanwhile, the calibrated relief measure can defuse trade tensions with Washington, which is pushing for broader market access in bilateral trade. It may signal India's willingness to use targeted tariff relief as a bargaining chip in broader agricultural and industrial talks.

INDIA READY FOR KOREAN CHALLENGE

AGENCIES

Rajgir, Sept 2: The unbeaten Indian men's team is all set to take on Korea in the first Super 4s match Wednesday here at the Hockey Asia Cup. Drag-flick sensation Harmanpreet Singh-led side has comfortably won their pool stage matches, having beaten China 4-3, Japan 3-2 and Kazakhstan 15-0 to top Pool A.

Meanwhile, Korea come into this game with a 7-0 win against Chinese Taipei, 1-4 loss against Malaysia and 5-1 win against Bangladesh.

Speaking about the upcoming tie, India's chief coach Craig Fulton said, "It is nice to get through the pool phase without any injuries. Especially in a game like the one yesterday (against Kazakhstan) but two good games in the afternoon, in warm conditions, changes when we come back to play at night. The energy is really high in the team. Back-to-back wins, I think, were refreshing for everyone."

"Now we are on to the next challenge in the tournament. We will have a fresh approach



for this phase. We play Korea first. We scored some really good goals against Kazakhstan, leading the game from the front, which was most important," explained Fulton.

On any concerns specific to their playing style from the first three games here, he said, "We had enough training in the areas we wanted to improve; this game (against Kazakhstan) came at the right time because it gave us a lot more focus on the final third. Players are feeling a bit more

confident and have a bit more feel for working together. That was lacking, I think, in the other two games."

In their second Super 4s match September 4, India will take on Pool B toppers Malaysia, who were the finalists of the previous edition of Asia Cup held in Jakarta 2022. In their last Super 4s match, they play China September 6.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh, talking about the Super 4s, said, "All of them are tough opponents in this tournament.

Although we have not played Malaysia and Korea a lot in the past one year, we did get a good game against Malaysia in practice match ahead of the tournament. We obviously played against China and know what they can bring to the table. We are fast learners, which is good. So, when we play a team twice, it is good for us. It's just about preparing well against Korea. The only focus is one game at a time."

TEAMS:

INDIA: Krishan B Pathak (GK), Suraj Karkera (GK), Sumit, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Harmanpreet Singh (C), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Mandeeep Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Dilpreet Singh. **KOREA:** Daehan Ang (GK), Jihun Yang, Cheoleon Park, Jinkang Rim, Dain Son, Jungjun Lee (C), Jongsuk Bae, Seyong Oh, Jaewon Sim, Sunghyun Baek, Soung Min Bae, Jaehan Kim (GK), Geonhyo Jin, Hyeonhong Kim, Seungwoo Lee, Min Su Cheon, Yoonho Kong, Hyeseung Lee.

Mitchell Starc retires from T20Is, to focus on Test, ODI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brisbane, Sept 2: Australia's fearsome fast bowler Mitchell Starc has announced his retirement from T20Is in a strategic move to keep him battle-ready for upcoming major events like the Ashes, IPL, Test series in India, and the ODI World Cup in two years' time.

Known for his explosive pace, prodigious swing, deadlily yorkers and mean bouncers, Starc bows out of the T20 International format with 79 wickets in 65 matches, which makes him the second most successful Australian bowler in the format after Adam Zampa (130 wickets from 108 games).

"I have loved every minute of every T20 game I have played for Australia, particularly the 2021 World Cup - not just because we won but the incredible group and the fun along the way," Starc said.

"Looking ahead to an away Indian Test tour, the Ashes and an ODI World Cup in 2027, I feel this is my best way forward to remain fresh, fit and at my best for those campaigns."

"It (his retirement) also gives the bowling group time to prepare for the T20 World Cup in the matches leading into that tournament," he said. The T20 World Cup is scheduled

to be held in India early next year.

Choosing longevity in Tests and ODIs means the 35-year-old will be in much better shape as he gears up for an intense international schedule over the next two years, including the Ashes, Indian Premier League, where he has delivered some incredible performances for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals, and the Test series in India next year.

Starc wants to maintain peak physical fitness for all the marquee events lined up in the coming times, prompting him to give up playing T20Is.

One of the modern game's most formidable fast bowlers, Starc has always been in great demand in the IPL. The left-arm pacer was sold for a record price of Rs 24.75 crore in IPL 2024 and was instrumental in KKR's title triumph, delivering some match-winning performances with the ball.

Recognising his ability to singlehandedly turned the complexion of the game in high-pressure situations, Delhi Capitals spent Rs 11.75 crore to bring him for the IPL 2025.

Starc was one of the few overseas players who decided against returning to India after the India-Pakistan border conflict,

which forced the organisers to suspend the IPL for a week. Starc's announcement came Tuesday morning, with Australia naming the squad for their series in New Zealand in October as a build-up to T20 World Cup.

The New South Welshman played a pivotal role in Australia's triumphant ODI World Cup campaign on home soil in 2015 and shone once again in the 2023 World Cup in India, where Australia defeated the hosts in the final.

He is now targeting the rare distinction of becoming only the fourth Australian, after Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist and Glenn McGrath, to win three ODI World Cups.

Australian chief of selectors George Bailey paid glowing tributes to Starc for his contribution in the shortest format for Australia.

"Mitch should be incredibly proud of his T20 career for Australia. He was an integral member of the 2021 World Cup winning side and, as across all his cricket, had a great skill for blowing games open with his wicket taking ability," Bailey said. "We will acknowledge and celebrate his T20 career at the right time, but pleasingly he remains focused on continuing to play Test and ODI cricket for as long as possible," he added.

Madhav Gopal Kamath crowned World Youth Scrabble Champion 2025

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 2: In a historic moment for Indian Scrabble, 14-year-old Madhav Gopal Kamath from Delhi has won the 2025 World Youth Scrabble Championship (WYSC), becoming the first Indian ever to claim a major global Scrabble title.

Madhav, India's highest-ranked Scrabble player in the world and the reigning national champion, emerged victorious among 218 under-18 players from 18 countries at the 20th edition of the annual tournament held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, organised by the World English-Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA).

Madhav clinched the championship in the penultimate round, finishing with an impressive 21 wins from 24 rounds. Like every year, India sent a strong contingent to WYSC, comprising 12 of the country's best youth Scrabble players, seven boys and five girls, mentored by Mumbai-based player and coach Neeta Bhatia.

Among them, 15-year-old Suyash Manchali from Bengaluru, runner-up at last year's edition in Sri Lanka, secured fifth place with 17 wins.

The Indian contingent was supported by the Essar Foundation, in partnership with the Scrabble Association of India (SAI) and Wordaholic.

Madhav started playing Scrabble when he was just six years old. His extraordinary aptitude and ingenuity on the board have propelled him into the ranks of the world's top players, with the potential to break into the global top five before turning 15.

As Scrabble continues to gain recognition as a sport in India, these achievements highlight the immense potential of the country's competitive youth Scrabble circuit.

Man City signs Donnarumma; Ederson leaves for Fenerbahce

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 2: Manchester City signed Gianluigi Donnarumma from Paris Saint-Germain after selling long-time goalkeeper Ederson Moraes to Fenerbahce Tuesday, in a switch that seems at odds with the playing approach by the once-dominant Premier League team.

Donnarumma — one of the world's best shot-stoppers — was a key figure in PSG's run to the Champions League title last season but was deemed surplus to requirements at the French club following the signing of Lucas Chevalier from Lille last month.

City has moved for the 26-year-old Donnarumma even though his strength isn't passing the ball



out from the back — typically a key requisite for goalkeepers in teams coached by Pep Guardiola.

That's what Ederson excelled at, helping to revolutionise the goalkeeper position in English soccer with his uncanny calmness under pressure with the ball at his feet and ability to start attacks from deep. The Brazil international had seven assists in the Premier League — two more

than any other goalie — thanks to his long, raking passes. Donnarumma is now the future for City, though, after signing a five-year deal in what he described as a "special and proud moment." "This is a club every player in world football would love to join," the Italy international said.

"I have admired watching Manchester City for many years — so to now be able to play for the club is a huge honor and a privilege."

Donnarumma was arguably the best goalkeeper in Europe last season because of his inspired shot-stopping in the Champions League's knockout stages. He had one year left on his contract at PSG, which wasn't prepared to let him leave for free.

Sinner back in quarters by routing Bublik

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 2: World No 1 and defending US Open champion Jannik Sinner humbled Alexander Bublik to storm into the quarterfinals, setting up a showdown with fellow Italian Lorenzo Musetti.

Sinner completed the 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 triumph in just 81 minutes against his Bublik, who committed 13 double faults—the last one on match point—among 31 unforced errors.

Sinner has now reached at least the quarterfinals at eight consecutive Grand Slam tournaments. The last time he was defeated before that stage was at the 2023 US Open, when he fell in the fourth round to Alexander Zverev. There will be an all-Italian men's singles quarter-final at a major for the first time when Sinner takes on 10th seed Musetti. The World No. 1 will carry a 2-0 ATP Head2Head advantage into their showdown.



"It's great to see. Italian tennis is in great form now. We have so many players, so many different game styles," Sinner said. "Lorenzo is maybe one of the biggest talents we have in our sport, so I'm looking forward for this one. From an Italian point of view it's great to have for sure one Italian player in the semis." Sinner maintained pace in the battle for No 1 in the PIF ATP Rankings with Carlos Alcaraz. He must

outperform the Spaniard at the US Open to retain World No. 1.

OSAKA & SWIAOTEK ROLL INTO THE QF

Naomi Osaka and Iga Swiatek rolled into the quarterfinals at the US Open, showing off what once made each of them the top-ranked women's tennis player in the world.

Osaka dominated Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-2 in their highly anticipated showdown Monday in

Arthur Ashe Stadium. Swiatek rallied from down 3-1 in the first set to beat Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-3, 6-1.

The No 8-seeded Anisimova reached her first US Open quarterfinal by beating No 16 Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-0, 6-3.

US OPEN

VENUS WILLIAMS ENTERS WOMEN'S DOUBLES QF

Venus Williams is into the US Open women's doubles quarterfinals with Leylah Fernandez and now wants her old partner to come back. She says it's time for Serena Williams to come see a match.

Williams made the plea for her younger sister to show up after she and Fernandez beat the 12th-seeded duo of Ekaterina Alexandrova and Zhang Shuai 6-3, 6-4 in their third-round match Monday in front of a capacity crowd at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

BCCI invites bids for Team India's title sponsor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: The BCCI Tuesday invited bids for the Indian cricket team's title sponsorship rights after fantasy sports giants Dream 11's pullout and barred companies dealing in real money gaming and cryptocurrency from the process due to a government ban on such entities.

Dream 11 recently shut down its real money games due to the 'Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025', which states that "no person shall offer any, aid, abet, induce, indulge, engage in offering online money gaming services nor shall involve in any advertisement which directly or in-

directly promotes any person to play any online money game."

Dream 11 and My11Circle jointly contributed about Rs 1,000 crore to the BCCI through title sponsorship of the Indian cricket team and Indian Premier League.

"Bidder, including any of its Group companies: (i) should not be engaged in online money gaming, betting or gambling services or similar services in India or anywhere in the world; (ii) should not provide any online money gaming, betting or gambling services or similar services to any Person in India; and (iii) should not have any investment or ownership interest in any Person engaged in betting or gambling services



in India," stated a press release from the BCCI.

The last date for the purchase the IEOI is September 12, while the date of submission of the bid documents is September 16.

"To clarify, a bidder, including any of its Group companies, engaged in any activities/business that is prohibited under the Pro-

motion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 is not permitted to submit a bid," it added.

Also barred from applying are tobacco, alcohol and any entity "which is likely to offend public morals such as, including but not limited to, pornography." The Board also made it clear that some brand categories will also be "blocked on account of the BCCI having existing sponsors within the said categories."

These include Athleisure and Sportswear Manufacturers, Banks, Banking and Financial Service and Non-Banking Financial Companies, Non-Alcoholic Cold Beverages, Fans, Mixer Grinders and Safety Locks and Insurance.

The brands in these categories

that are associated with BCCI right now are Adidas, Campa Cola, IDFC First Bank, and SBI Life, among others.

Dream11 had won the rights for of USD 44 million (Rs 358 crore) for the period of 2023 to 2026. They are exiting with almost a year still left in the contract but are unlikely to be penalised for it.

"The BCCI fully understands one of our sponsorship partner's plight. It is not their fault and unlike other issues of payment default, there won't be any penalty levied on Dream11. This is a government rule and full compliance is required and in the current scenario, there business will be impacted," a top BCCI official had told.

Praggnanandhaa eyes Candidates berth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Sept 2: India's top-ranked Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa will be keen to seal his Candidates tournament 2026 berth, taming a strong field in the FIDE Grand Swiss that begins here Wednesday.

The 11-round tournament, which carries a total prize pool of USD 625,000 in the open section and USD 230,000 in the women's section, will see the top two players entering the Candidates in the open and women's categories.

Praggnanandhaa is almost assured of his place in the Candidates thanks to a healthy lead that he enjoys in the performance category qualifier for 2025.

Fabiano Caruana of the US has already made it to the Candidates thanks to his brilliant run in 2024. While World Champion D Gukesh will also be participating, it does not hamper Praggnanandhaa's chances.

Arjun Erigaisi would have been closer to a Candidates' berth had Praggnanandhaa been not in picture as the best performer in 2025, but the Indian ace still has a few more events to prove himself a worthy contender for the event.

Vidit Gujrathi, who had qualified for the previous Candidates as a Grand Swiss winner in 2023, needs to find his peak form here after a few below par outings. There are a host of other Indians in the open section like P Harikrishna, Nihal Sarin and Pranav Venkatesh and they will be banking upon some good results in this strong tournament.

Divya Deshmukh, who recently won the women's World



FUJAIRAH GLOBAL SUPERSTARS

Venkatesh wins with record performance

Fujairah (UAE): World Junior Champion Pranav Venkatesh scored a crushing victory over Grandmaster Alan Pichot of Spain to win the Fujairah Global Superstars chess tournament here. Pranav scored seven points out of a possible nine and finished a full point lead over nearest rivals Brandon Jacobson of United States, Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara of Mexico and Amin Tabataba'i of Iran who all tied for the second spot scoring six points apiece. Pranav remained undefeated during the nine-round tournament scoring five victories and four draws in all.

Cup has decided to play in the open section and has been given a wild card. Divya and Koneru Humpy have already qualified to the women's Candidates after their virtuoso performance in the World Cup where they met in the title clash.

However, Humpy has decided not to play in the Grand Swiss as it does not affect her chances.

In the women's section, the Indian challenge will be spearheaded by D Harika who has the company of last edition's winner R Vaishali and Vantika Agrawal.