

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You have been too busy with work and social obligations. It is high time you took a break and did something for yourself. Your health may need attention. Ganesha says, everything else should take a back-seat if you're stressed out.

TAURUS
You will manage to achieve all short-term goals that you had set today and your focus will now shift to setting long-term ones. Work pressure will continue but you will make it a point to find some time to renew your leisure activities. Family and friends will also figure in your scheme of things, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today will prove to be an emotional and engaging day for you, predicts Ganesha. Fortune will favour you, though your emotions may cloud your reasoning and slow down your progress. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods to make the best use of your knowledge.

CANCER
You may get a gift from your life partner. Ties with business partners will be good and you will get a good news from them. Time to make new plans for the future with spouse. You will feel greater companionship with spouse, giving you joy.

LEO
Maybe it is the weather, or just one of those days, but today, you are extremely prone to wild mood swings, says Ganesha. You must remember that nothing is permanent, except change. So go with the flow and do not get caught in the undercurrent of the changes that are taking place all around you. Take it as a warning that works to your advantage, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Mundane, everyday routine will get on your nerves today, warns Ganesha. Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill. All said and done, you won't let anything affect your zest to work. You will break new ground to win the hearts of others, feels Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you will be able to see a huge change in your personal and social status. Ganesha says that this may be due to medium like television or due to your innovative ideas in your work place. People will be praising you and your work today. You will be more interested in the fine arts.

SCORPIO
You shall groom yourself all prim and proper today. The thought of how you look dominates your mind today. You are likely to capture the imagination of people – both at work and at social gathering. Cash will exit left, right and centre from your pockets on account of fun and entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS
Your temper is as hot as a fireball today, foresees Ganesha. Not for nothing they say that anger may destroy the world. Don't axe your own feet by your aggressive behaviour. Cool down and think before you act. There are chances that you may experience financial crunch, handle it carefully, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Certain revelations about a relationship will draw your attention; you will find it intriguing and will spend a good amount of time trying to solve the mystery, says Ganesha. Besides, your impressive communication power will help dissolve conflicts that may have risen because of misinterpretation.

AQUARIUS
It is your lucky day today! Whatever you will wish for, it will fall into your lap, be it name, fame, money or love. During the second half of the day, you will keep yourself occupied with your hobbies like reading, writing, playing active role in discussion groups or research, says Ganesha.

PISCES
You are unlikely to be your calm and lucid self today. You will likely catch yourself worrying unnecessarily and putting in more efforts than required at work. However, some leisure time will come your way in the evening wherein you will regain your usual perspective, says Ganesha.



JESSICA ALBA HEALS IN COMPANY OF FRIENDS

Hollywood actress Jessica Alba is having a gala time with her gang of girls. Sharing a note she sai, “Laughing until your stomach hurts. Dinner with people you love. Learning something new. Sunlight on your skin. Letting yourself rest. Strength training. It’s all medicine.”

SABRINA DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A TV IN HER ROOM

Singer Sabrina Carpenter, who has described herself as being “disconnected and old school”, revealed that she doesn’t have a TV in her apartment. Asked if she’s a ‘TV girl’, Carpenter told Interview magazine: “I’m not. I don’t even have a TV in my apartment.”



SHWETA'S LIMITATION

Mumbai: Actress Shweta Tiwari revealed that there was a moment during the shoot of *Do You Wanna Partner* when she had to deliver a scene with strong language, and she was shaking while performing it.

Stepping into Laila’s skin in the upcoming series came with a rawness Shweta hadn’t faced before. While filming the show, one particular scene pushed her to the edge, requiring her to go all in—and deliver a full-throated “gaali”, something essential to bring authenticity to her character.

Shweta narrated: “There was a moment when I had to deliver a scene with strong language — I had to abuse, say a proper ‘gaali’ — and honestly, I was shaking. I just couldn’t get myself to do it. I kept trying, but somehow it just wasn’t coming out.” Shweta’s co-star Tamannaah Bhatia stepped in and helped her say the word. “That’s when Tamannaah came over. She held my hand and started shouting that one word out loud with me, pushing me to let go and feel the moment. She kept saying, ‘Say it, ma’am, say it!’ She didn’t have to do that, but she did anyway — and that moment of pure support and sisterhood, I’ll never forget. It was truly special for me,” she said. IANS



Rakul shares her way of unwinding

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh simply knows how to unwind even while at work.

The actress recently shared a video of herself turning her green room almost in to a karaoke studio. The actress was seen singing along with her mobile playlist songs. From actress Kajol’s *Awaara Bhanware* to Ahaan Pandey’s latest hit, *Saiyaara*, Rakul was seen singing them all.

The actress was seen getting ready. In the video you can see Rakul Preet’s hairdresser setting her hair while Rakul was seen turning the hairbrush into a mic and singing. The *Aiyaary* actress

knows the game to unwind and never misses out on the moment to turn stressful moments into joyous ones.

Just a few weeks ago the actress was also seen enjoying a relaxing swimming session post-pack-up on day one of the shoot of an upcoming project. Rakul Preet took to her social media account in sharing a picture of herself posing in the pool. She wrote, “Day 1 of shoot... Managed a swimpost packup, along with a red heart emoji.”

On the professional front, Rakul will be seen reprising her role as Ayesha Khurana in the highly anticipated sequel, *De De Pyaar De 2*. She will be seen paired opposite to Ajay Devgn for the second time, who will esay the role of Ashish Mehra yet again in the movie. IANS

“In the midst of many stresses of work and life, I know this experience will be a burst of creative stimulus, it’ll be nourishing. Can’t wait to watch good films in a pin drop dark hall and have the most exciting jury deliberations after. I look forward to the films, the people, the food, the conversations with other filmmakers and filmlovers...and meeting wonderful friends yet again from all over the world.” The *Zwigato* director has promised to share details of her experiences in Busan with fans back home. IANS

Nandita on jury panel of Busan Film Festival

Chennai: Well known director, actor, writer and producer Nandita Das is all set to head to the prestigious Busan Film Festival where she will be a part of the jury panel this year.

Taking to her Instagram page to make the announcement, the actress wrote, “Excited to be back in Busan, one of my favourite film festivals in the world and the best in all of Asia. But this time I am not going as an actor, director or an awardee. I am on the jury!” The actress, who is known for her hard hitting films, believes that her trip to the highly rated film festival will be nourishing.

Seeking to explain her feelings on the invitation to be a part of the jury, she



Manoj breaks typecast myth

Mumbai: Acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee reflected on whether he has been typecast in middle-class characters during his career.

During an exclusive conversation with this agency, Bajpayee shared that he likes embracing real-life, middle-class characters that resonate deeply with audiences.

The *Family Man* actor added that observing everyday personalities brings authenticity to his roles, making acting a rich and fulfilling experience.

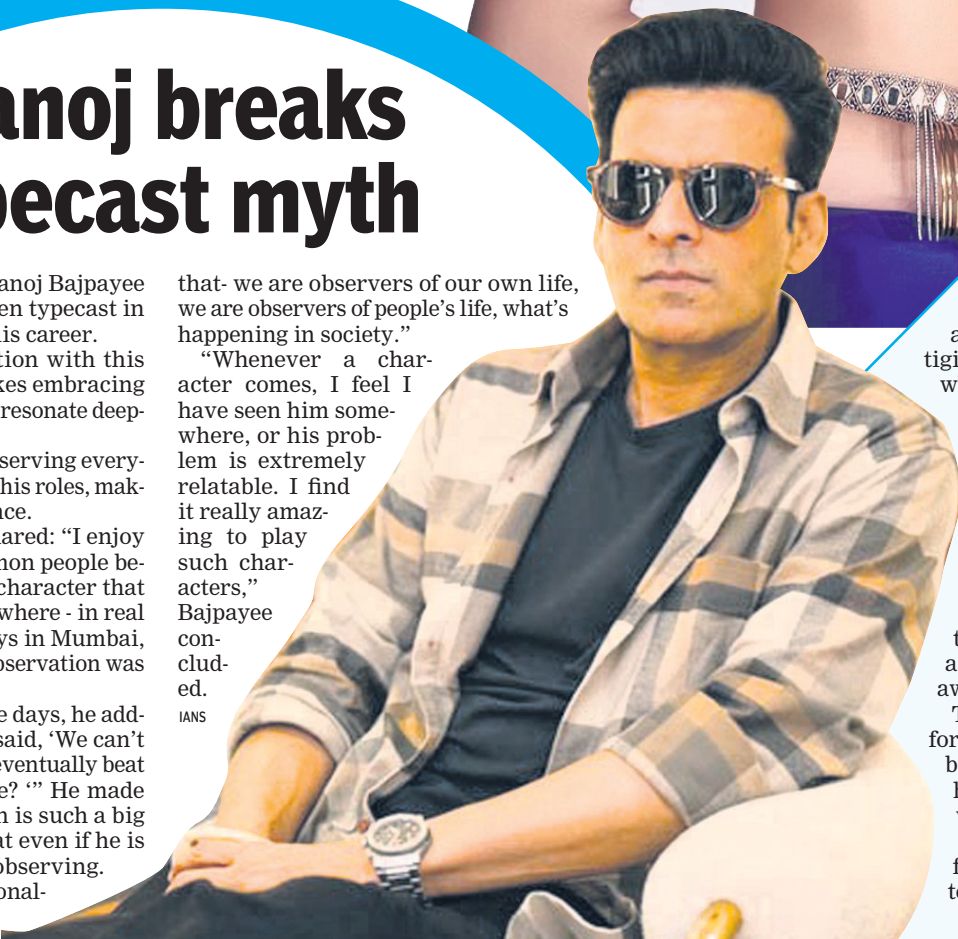
Speaking to the agency, Bajpayee shared: “I enjoy doing these roles, I enjoy playing common people because I relate to them. Each and every character that I read, I feel like I have seen them somewhere - in real life, in a documentary, in my initial days in Mumbai, in the train. When we were in theatre, observation was a big, big exercise for us.”

Sharing an incident from his theatre days, he added: “Once I spoke to a director and I said, ‘We can’t be observing all the time, people will eventually beat us up - Why are you looking at me?’ ” He made it very easy, he said, “Observation is such a big part of an actor’s personality that even if he is not looking at someone, he is observing.

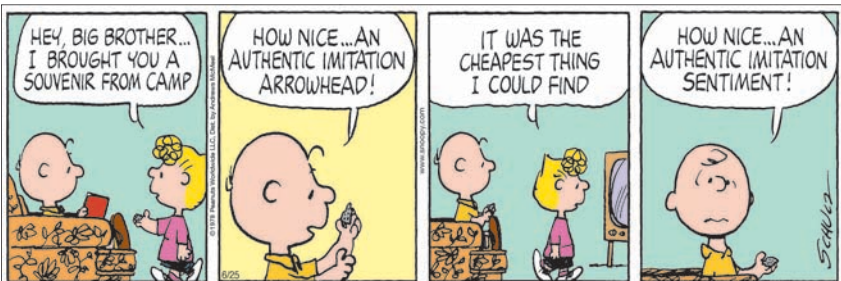
So, make it a part of your personality.” So we actors are like

that- we are observers of our own life, we are observers of people’s life, what’s happening in society.”

“Whenever a character comes, I feel I have seen him somewhere, or his problem is extremely relatable. I find it really amazing to play such characters,” Bajpayee concluded. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

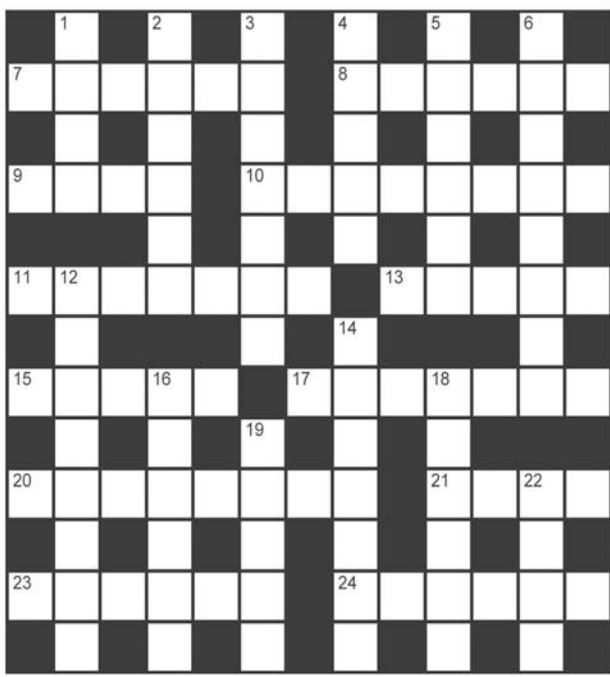


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 7 Telescope name
- 8 Romeo and Juliet, e.g.
- 9 Kon-Tiki Museum site
- 10 Outstanding!
- 11 Incoherent
- 13 Break off
- 15 Hard wood
- 17 Drashti Dhami, for one

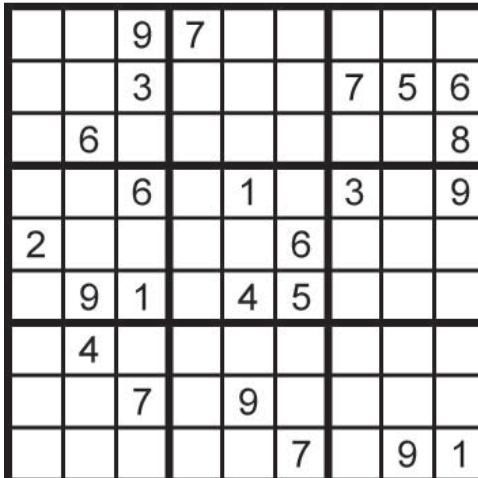
Down

- 1 Razorbills
- 2 Soak up
- 3 Liberate (3,4)
- 20 Horror movie beast
- 21 Shipshape
- 23 Spotted wildcat
- 24 Tree droppings

- 4 Crystal ball
- 5 Develop
- 6 Riding breeches, e.g.
- 12 Atmosphere
- 14 Minor fight
- 16 Tease
- 18 Wicker material
- 19 Adolescence
- 22 Face-off, of sorts

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.

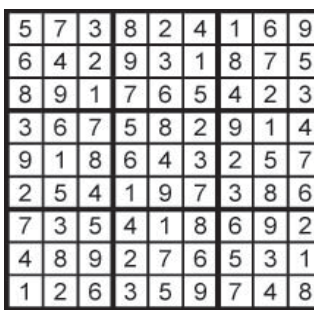


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

‘IFS officers can play key role in industrial devpt’

Guv for fire safety audits in colleges



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain has underlined the pivotal role of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers in projecting Odisha’s industrial growth story on the global stage.

“As India’s economic diplomats, you can effectively promote the opportunities available in Odisha and encourage potential investors to tap into these prospects,” Swain said, while interacting with IFS officers Manoj Kumar Mahapatra, Amit Narang, and Gloria Gangte at Lok Seva Bhawan

- Minister Sampad Chandra Swain urged IFS officers to project Odisha’s industrial growth globally and attract foreign investment
- He highlighted Odisha’s Industrial Policy 2022 and World Skill Centres as key initiatives creating a globally competitive workforce
- Swain said IFS officers can also help create overseas job opportunities for Odisha’s skilled youth

Briefing the officers on the government’s initiatives, the minister highlighted the Odisha Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR)-2022, which has brought in fast-track decision-making, an effective single-window system, transparent governance, and an investor-friendly climate. These reforms, he noted, are designed to attract investments and boost ease of doing business.

Swain further pointed to Odisha’s extensive network of World Skill Centres, supported through collaboration with ITE Singapore, which have enhanced the quality of technical training in ITIs and polytechnics. By adopting modern training modules and global best practices, the state is nurturing a workforce that is employable, globally competitive, and ready to take on entrepreneurship challenges.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday urged the Fire and Emergency Services department to carry out preventive fire audits in all Higher Education institutions, with special focus on those having large auditoriums.

He made the remarks during a presentation on Disaster Preparedness and Response by the Fire and Emergency Services department at Raj Bhavan’s conference hall. The session highlighted the department’s equipment, staffing, training programmes, and future plans.

The Governor stressed the importance of conducting preventive fire audits in educational institutions, saying such inspections help identify risks and enable timely corrective measures. He noted that addressing hazards in advance ensures safer evacuation routes, reduces the chances of injuries or fatalities, minimises property loss, and strengthens overall emergency preparedness while fostering a culture of safety among staff and students.

During the presentation, officials showcased the department’s modern equipment, including Robotic Monitors, Advanced Rescue Tenders, Incident Command Vehicles, Hydraulic Platforms, and other advanced machinery. Governor Kambhampati also sought updates on the procurement of additional equipment and the



department’s plans for future upgrades.

The Governor was briefed on the National Water Rescue and Watermanship Centre at Ramchandi, Puri, and informed about the deployment of the K-9 Squad, making Odisha the first state to set up such a unit.

He appreciated initiatives like the fully online fire licensing system, third-party agency engagement, and Odisha’s disaster preparedness, noting that the state has become a model for others. The Governor also inspected the Command Vehicle and its advanced features.

Karunesh Bajaj elected as ABC chairman for 2025-26

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Executive Vice President – Marketing and Exports at ITC Ltd Karunesh Bajaj was unanimously elected as the Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2025-2026.

With a distinguished career spanning close to three decades in brand building, marketing strategy, and leadership across FMCG and retail sectors, Bajaj brings a wealth of expertise to guide the council in its next phase of growth and governance.

Bajaj has been instrumental in steering some of India’s most iconic brands and strengthening ITC’s market standing. Over his 25-year tenure at ITC, he has held several senior roles including Marketing general manager, product development, supply chain and group brand head – biscuits, shaping brand portfolios that resonate with millions of consumers in India.

Prior to ITC, Bajaj served as Brands head at Bharti Retail Limited (Bharti-Walmart JV), where he led brand strategy during a critical phase of modern retail development in India. Outside of his professional pursuit, Karunesh is an avid golfer



and an enthusiastic follower of Formula 1, interests that mirror his appreciation for precision, strategy and high performance.

An alumnus of The Wharton School (management programme in Business Strategy), Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (MBA – Marketing), and Delhi University (Economics), Karunesh combines academic rigor with hands-on leadership experience.

His career began with Shriram Industrial Enterprises Limited (SIEL Ltd), where he was Corporate Communications manager, laying the foundation for a lifelong commitment to impactful communication and marketing leadership. Bennett Coleman and Co Ltd Chief Operating Officer (Publishing) and Executive Director Mohit Jain was unanimously elected as the deputy chairman of the bureau for the year 2025-2026.

Training held for forest staff on Horseshoe Crab conservation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Balasore, Sept 3: A capacity building training programme for frontline forest staff of Balasore Wildlife Division was organised in collaboration with Bikash Saathi, Wildlife Trust of India, and Fondation Segré, aimed to strengthen the knowledge and skills in conserving the endangered Horseshoe Crabs along the coastal belt.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Prafulla Mallick attended the event and shared his field experiences with the participants, stressing the importance of regular monitoring and patrolling. KKS Women’s College assistant professor Jyotirmayee Pradhan discussed various conservation issues, and challenges related to Horseshoe Crabs. Biswajeet Panda conducted sessions on rescue protocols, community engagement, and brainstorming exercises, while Digant Sovan Chand highlighted the ecological importance of Indian Horseshoe Crabs.

Joining virtually, NIO Goa former scientist Anil Chatterji enriched the participants with his extensive research findings and insights on Horseshoe Crabs.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: A state-wide awareness campaign titled “Jeevan Zindabad” will be launched across all 30 districts of Odisha from September 10, coinciding with World Suicide Prevention Day, to curb suicidal tendencies among youth.

The initiative, spearheaded by Naman Foundation in collaboration with Odisha Police and the Sports and Youth Services department, will feature over 70 artists, singers, comedians, and motivational performers sharing real-life stories of resilience and success.

The decision was taken Wednesday at a high-level meeting chaired by Higher Education Minister Suryabansi Suraj at Lok Seva Bhavan. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, DGP YB Khurania, actor Sabyasachi Mishra, music director Premanand, and other senior officials.



Minister Suraj said the campaign would be a joint initiative involving multiple departments, including Higher Education, Women & Child Development, and Home.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja underscored the role of district administrations in the campaign and suggested organising speech and essay competitions in schools and colleges to spread awareness.

Actor Sabyasachi Mishra added, “When we think of suicide, we think of youth. This programme aims to instill hope and positivity.”

The campaign comes in the wake of the August 11 suicide

of a Balasore college student, which led to a pilot event in Bhubaneswar. Following its success, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi recommended expanding the initiative across the state.

Each event will run for three hours in the largest district auditoriums, accompanied by an awareness walk with participation from students, volunteers, NCC, Scouts, and Guides. The campaign will begin September 10 at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology Auditorium, Bhubaneswar, and conclude in Cuttack with an award ceremony.

‘Road repairs to be over by Sept 20’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Law, Works and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Wednesday assured that ongoing road repair works in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar will be completed by September 20, ahead of the Puja season. The assurance comes amid growing public concern over the deteriorating condition of roads in both cities, especially during the monsoon.

A high-level meeting has been scheduled for September 6 with the participation of MLAs from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, Mayors, Commissioners, and senior PWD officials to finalise a comprehensive roadmap for road repair and maintenance ahead of the festive season.

Minister Harichandan said all repair work will be over by September 20 to ensure smooth travel for citizens and visitors during the Puja period.

With the Puja festival expected to draw huge crowds, timely completion of road repairs has become crucial to ensure hassle-free travel and public safety.

OPF flags safety lapses in TRW schools in state

Federation cites pregnancies, abuse cases in tribal residential welfare schools; seeks urgent state action to protect girl students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Odisha Parents’ Federation (OPF) has expressed serious concern over recurring safety lapses in Tribal Residential Welfare (TRW) schools across the state, particularly affecting girl students.

In a letter to ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department Commissioner-cum-Secretary B Parameswaran, the Federation urged urgent intervention



to prevent further incidents of abuse and negligence.

The letter, written by OPF president Basudev Bhatt, cited disturbing cases of pregnancies and sexual abuse involving minor girls in state-run tribal schools. One recent case in Chitrakonda, Malkangiri (Feb 2025) involved a 15-year-old girl who delivered a premature baby on the hostel rooftop shortly after her board exams.

Officials reportedly failed to detect her pregnancy for eight months, pointing to severe supervision lapses. The headmaster, hostel matron, and a nurse were suspended, and a case was filed under the POCSO Act.

Another incident in Rayagada, where a minor girl became pregnant, has once again raised questions over hostel safety and monitoring. Government data shows 21 pregnancy cases and

- OPF cites disturbing cases, including a Feb 2025 Malkangiri incident where a 15-year-old delivered a premature baby on a hostel rooftop
- Another pregnancy case in Rayagada highlights hostel safety lapses; govt data shows 21 pregnancies and 16 abuse incidents in TRW schools since 2010

16 sexual abuse cases in TRW schools since 2010.

“Our daughters are not safe in these hostels. These are not isolated incidents but signs of a broken system,” said Bhatt. The Federation has accused the department of ignoring scheduled grievance redressal meetings, including one September 1, calling it an “unfortunate attempt to avoid discussion.”

Among its demands, the

Federation has urged the state government to immediately convene a stakeholder meeting, enforce CCTV surveillance, appoint female wardens, conduct regular health screenings, and establish confidential student grievance mechanisms. It also called for mandatory training for staff on the POCSO Act and stricter accountability protocols.

The OPF stated that it seeks no personal gain but is committed to protecting the safety and dignity of marginalised SC and ST girl students. It has requested a written response and meeting with the Commissioner within two weeks to discuss a concrete action plan.

With public outrage mounting, the state government faces rising pressure to take decisive action to safeguard students in residential schools.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.140 ▼ 0.12	SENSEX	80567.71 ▲ 409.83	GOLD	₹106,887 ▲ ₹1.09
EURO	102.85 ▼ 0.02	NIFTY	24715.05 ▲ 135.45	SILVER	₹123,708 ▲ ₹1.0690

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.0°	28.6°	Generally cloudy sky
Min Temp	24.5°	23.2°	
Humidity	97%	95%	
Rainfall	45.26mm	13.0mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Probe ordered into DMF fund bungling

POST NEWS NETWORK

FOCUS SOCIAL SECURITY

THE STALLED 8TH CPC



Above all, pensioners must be protected from any discriminatory treatment, for they have already given the best years of their lives to the service of the nation

January 1997, and the recommendations were implemented with effect from 1 January 1996 retrospectively. Each Commission required close to two years for deliberations. Thereafter, the government took further time to examine the recommendations, secure Cabinet approval, and notify their implementation.

It is also important to note that the Finance Act 2025 has armed the Union government with the authority to decide the date of implementation of Pay Commission recommendations. This means that even if the 8th CPC is eventually constituted and submits its report, the government retains discretionary power to postpone the date of implementation. Such a move would be catastrophic for employees and pensioners already battling relentless inflation. One cannot ignore the possibility that the recommendations due from 1 January 2026 may be delayed under one pretext or another, pushing millions into further economic uncertainty.

Adding to the unease is the passage of the Validation of Central Civil Services Pension Rules as part of the Finance Act 2025. This legislation validates the government's authority to make distinctions among pensioners based on factors such as Pay Commission recommendations and date of retirement, with effect from as far back as 1 June 1972. Pensioners, who built the foundations of today's India with decades of loyal service, now live under an air of suspicion and fear that the principle of equal treatment may be diluted. The Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers has rightly taken exception to this divisive provision, affirming that there must be no differentiation among pensioners—past or present.

The larger picture reveals an unsettling pattern. The same government that refuses to restore the Old Pension Scheme, that withheld Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief for 18 months during the pandemic citing “financial constraints,” now delays the constitution of the 8th CPC despite knowing fully well the timeline required for its work. In sharp contrast, the salaries and perks of Members of Par-

liament and State Legislatures are revised at will, without any Commission, without any debate on affordability, and without any delay. Is the message not loud and clear—that justice is timely for lawmakers but expendable for those who serve the nation?

The government must realise that denial or delay of justice is the breeding ground of resentment. To keep crores of employees and pensioners in a state of prolonged suspense is a recipe for alienation. A democratic government cannot afford to alienate its own workforce, for governance itself depends upon their dedication and morale. It is time, therefore, the government acts with sincerity and urgency. The 8th CPC must be officially constituted without further delay, given adequate resources to complete its work, and directed to submit its recommendations within a time-bound framework. The Finance Act's provision to arbitrarily defer the date of implementation must be reconsidered, for it erodes the credibility of the entire exercise. Above all, pensioners must be protected from any discriminatory treatment, for they have already given the best years of their lives to the service of the nation.

The message to the government is unequivocal: crores of employees and pensioners are not expendable. They are the very hands and minds that keep India running. Let not history record that in the age of rising prices and rising inequalities, the government of the day chose silence over justice.

The writer is a service union representative and a columnist.

When millions of government employees and pensioners anxiously wait for justice in their pay and pension revision, the silence of the government reverberates louder than any official statement. Inflation is burning through household savings, medical costs are skyrocketing, and living with dignity is becoming a daily struggle for pensioners. Yet, while the elected people's representatives revise their own salaries and allowances without delay or hesitation, the workforce that keeps the administrative machinery of this nation alive is forced to wait indefinitely. The delay in the constitution of the Eighth Central Pay Commission (8th CPC) is not just bureaucratic lethargy—it is a betrayal of trust.

On 3 December 2024, the government officially informed the Rajya Sabha that there was “no proposal” to constitute the 8th CPC. But within six weeks, in a press briefing after the Cabinet meeting held on 16 January 2025, it was proudly declared that the Prime Minister has approved its constitution. Letters were issued, suggestions were sought from the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM), and meetings were conducted in February to finalise the Terms of Reference. Yet, seven long months have passed, and no tangible action has emerged.

The urgency of the matter cannot be overstated. The recommendations of the 8th CPC are due to take effect from 1 January 2026. But past experience is testimony that a Pay Commission takes nearly 18 to 24 months to complete its report. Illustratively, the 5th CPC, constituted in April 1994, submitted its report in



Bruhaspati Samal

THE DELAY IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EIGHTH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION IS NOT JUST BUREAUCRATIC LETHARGY—IT IS A BETRAYAL OF TRUST



Kaushik Basu

Selective prosecution and targeted intimidation can trigger a cascade effect. As the experiences of Hungary and Turkey have shown, what starts as retaliation against a handful of perceived political opponents can quickly escalate, destabilising society and undermining democratic governance

The Incarceration Game

In a 2022 paper, I introduced an allegory I called the Incarceration Game – an academic exercise that explores how authoritarian leaders, when their popularity falters, consolidate power through increasingly oppressive tactics. My analysis drew inspiration from a 1948 paper on the so-called “surprise test paradox,” which showed how rational expectations can unravel under certain conditions. US President Donald Trump, grappling with waning public support, seems determined to follow this authoritarian playbook.

The most striking example is the administration's attempt to bring mortgage fraud charges against prominent critics – most notably Federal Reserve Board of Governors member Lisa Cook, Democratic US Senator Adam Schiff, and New York Attorney General Letitia James. At the center of these efforts is Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Bill Pulte, a major Trump donor who now oversees the US mortgage industry.

Naturally, much of the debate in the US has focused on whether these allegations have any merit. Yet the more pressing issue is the Trump administration's systematic search for incriminating evidence against its political opponents. As Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren has observed, Pulte “is using access to individual records of Donald Trump's perceived enemies” to settle personal and political scores.

Selective prosecution and targeted intimidation can trigger a cascade effect. As the experiences of Hungary and Turkey have shown, what starts as retaliation against a handful of perceived political opponents can quickly escalate, destabilising society and undermining democratic governance. With the Incarceration Game, I sought to illustrate how authoritarianism entrenches itself, in the hope that legal and constitutional safeguards might be designed to prevent such outcomes.

At the heart of the game lies a simple thought experiment. Imagine a country with a population of 1,000 adults, all of whom oppose the leader. If even half of them take to the streets, the leader would be deposed. They feel so strongly that, short of being certain they will be jailed, they are prepared to go out and protest. The leader's problem is that the prisons can hold only 100 dissenters. With 1,000 people ready to protest but space for just 100 behind bars, the risk of any one person being jailed is small enough that fear no longer deters dissent. In such a scenario, the leader appears to have no way to suppress the opposition.

But a shrewd leader could devise a workaround: divide the population into ten distinct groups of 100 people each – opposition leaders, media commentators, trade unionists, academics, and others. The leader then instructs loyal operatives to gather compromising information on the first group and announces that only members of this group will be jailed if they protest. If fewer than 100 people from that category come out to protest, the authorities will move on to the second category, then the third, and so on, until 100 dissenters have been arrested and the prisons are full.

Using this mechanism, the leader can silence all 1,000 citizens. Since no one will dissent if imprisonment is certain, opposition leaders – the first group – will remain quiet. Knowing they will be next if they protest, media figures will also stay home. And with both opposition leaders and the media silent, trade union leaders will follow suit.

This backward-induction process will ensure that no one protests or expresses dissent. Individuals will carry on their daily routines in silence, while the country drifts deeper into authoritarianism.

Belarus offers valuable insights into how such a dynamic can play out in real life. There was a time, not too long ago, when it seemed that the vast majority of Belarusians opposed President Aleksandr Lukashenko's regime and were prepared to take to the streets in protest. But whether by deliberate design or by sheer happenstance, Lukashenko managed to turn a population of would-be protesters into a society of repressed dissenters who conceal their anger while performing ritual displays of loyalty.

That is precisely the danger that the US must guard against. The rule of law demands equal treatment: If Cook is punished for mortgage fraud, then all others guilty of the same offense must face the same consequences. Otherwise, justice turns into a tool of oppression.

Admittedly, this may sound like a purely academic concern. But as John Maynard Keynes famously observed, ideas, both when they are right and when they are wrong, “are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else.” If Trump is allowed to erode the principle of equality before the law, the idea of selective justice will take root, corroding democracy from within.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

I find hope in the darkest of days, and focus in the brightest. I do not judge the universe

DALAI LAMA

Peace in the world starts with peace in oneself. If everyone lives mindfully, everyone will be more healthy, feel more fulfilled in their daily lives and there will be more peace

THICH NHAT HANH

It is through gratitude for the present moment that the spiritual dimension of life opens up

ECKHART TOLLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1781: Los Angeles founded. On this day in 1781, Spanish settlers laid claim to what became Los Angeles, now the second most populous U.S. city and the home to Hollywood, whose name is synonymous with the American motion-picture industry.
- 1870: Napoleon III, who ruled France first as president (1850–52) and then as emperor (1852–70), was deposed and the Third Republic proclaimed.

SPECTRUM HISTORY

Auschwitz to Amritsar: Rethinking atrocities

World War II (WWII) is often interpreted primarily through the lens of the Western powers. As an amateur mathematician, I believe that world history should be approached impartially and, where necessary, rewritten to confront fundamental truths and consequences. Historical narratives must not favour one side or selectively highlight certain events while ignoring others. Instead, history should be examined objectively, with a commitment to uncovering the full scope of events, their causes, and their impacts. Only through such balanced and honest reflection can we truly learn from the past.

It was Germany that started the war, yet this fact is often overshadowed by an exclusive focus on Nazi atrocities. Germany invaded Poland on 1 September, 1939. Britain and France declared war on Germany reacting to German aggression and Germany declared war on the US in December 1941. WWII is frequently viewed through a Western-centric perspective, focusing largely on the roles of Europe and the US. Highlighting Nazi savagery somehow eclipses the colonial atrocities, which was a frustrating reality. The intriguing question is



Dr Srimanta Misra

HISTORY SHOULD BE EXAMINED OBJECTIVELY, WITH A COMMITMENT TO UNCOVERING THE FULL SCOPE OF EVENTS, THEIR CAUSES, AND THEIR IMPACTS

whether it is a deliberate attempt to erase the colonial past.

One of the most significant and far-reaching consequences of the WWII was the acceleration of decolonisation across Asia and Africa. The war fundamentally weakened European colonial powers—both economically and politically—while simultaneously inspiring and empowering independence movements in colonised nations. In this sense, WWII marked a major turning point in global history, not only as a military conflict but also as a catalyst for the dismantling of colonial empires and the emergence of newly independent states.

During colonial rule, there were several massacres and events that can be considered atrocities or mass killings. While not always on the scale of the Holocaust (which involved the systematic extermination of six million Jews), there were events during colonial rule that caused immense human suffering and death, both through direct violence and through policy-driven neglect. A few notable examples are i) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919) -- While official British figures stated that 379 were killed, Indian estimates range from 1,000 to

over 1,500 killed and thousands injured in the massacre in Amritsar, Punjab on 13 April, 1919; ii) Bengal Famine (1943) – an estimated 2.1 to 3 million people died due to a combination of wartime policies, crop failure, and British mismanagement. Winston Churchill's wartime cabinet diverted food supplies from India to support the war in Europe. Churchill is reported to have made racist remarks blaming Indians for “breeding like rabbits” when asked to send food aid; and iii) Massacres during the 1857 Sepoy Revolt -- After Indian soldiers revolted against British officers, a brutal crackdown followed. The British retaliated with mass executions of rebels and civilians, especially in Delhi, Kanpur, and Lucknow. Entire villages were burned and thousands were killed in reprisal massacres. Precise numbers remain unknown, but tens of thousands are estimated to have died.

While the Holocaust was a systematic, industrial-scale genocide based on race, the colonial atrocities were largely driven by imperial policy, racial superiority, economic exploitation, and military suppression — not extermination per se. However, the scale of suffering and loss of life in

events like the Bengal Famine does lead many scholars and historians to compare British colonialism to crimes against humanity. There is a thoughtful and controversial question — whether Winston Churchill's actions during the Bengal Famine justify a posthumous revocation or restitution of his Nobel Prize in Literature (which he won in 1953, not for peace or politics, but for his writings). It's noteworthy to mention that Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood as a protest to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. In the 21st century, re-evaluating past racial comments and actions through a modern ethical lens calls for a serious reconsideration—even restitution—of honours such as the Nobel Prize.

Each of these acts of violence was unique regardless of its magnitude of seismicity. An impartial account of history serves as a vital lesson for future generations - reminding them of consequences of war and guiding them towards the pursuit of peace and betterment of humanity.

The writer is a Consultant Haematologist, Troyes General Hospital, Troyes, France.

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, Rasulgah Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Chip powerhouse

Sir, This refers to “Chips are digital diamonds: Modi,” Orissa POST, Sept 3. There are encouraging tidings for India in the high-stakes global semiconductor race. The Semiconductor Laboratory of ISRO has achieved a remarkable breakthrough by developing the country's first fully indigenous 32-bit micro-processor. This achievement not only underlines India's growing technological capabilities but also signals the nation's intent to reduce reliance on foreign technology. The chip, hailed as a significant step in India's digital journey, will be rolled out from the pilot facility at Sanand in Gujarat. The development coincides with a broader national effort to establish India as a semiconductor powerhouse. At present, 10 semiconductor projects involving investments of over \$18 billion are underway across the country, aimed at creating a vibrant ecosystem spanning design, manufacturing, and testing. These initiatives are part of the government's strategic vision to make India a trusted hub in the global supply chain, especially at a time when chip security has become a pressing concern worldwide. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has voiced confidence that India's smallest chip could someday drive the world's biggest change. With its combination of policy support, investment momentum, and indigenous innovation, India is positioning itself as a credible challenger in the semiconductor sector, offering both economic promise and strategic strength..

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

‘Sat-Chi’ show

Sir, Indian doubles badminton pride, world number nine, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have done the country proud by bagging the bronze medal at the recently concluded World Badminton Championships at Paris. It was a sweet revenge for the Indians as they beat the Malaysian stars Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik for the medal. The Malaysian pair had put paid to Satwik-Chirag's hopes of winning an Olympic medal at the same venue a year ago. Although the Indian pair lost in the semifinals, their bronze medal winning effort made them two-time medal winners at the World Championships joining the illustrious league of India's multiple medal winners, PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal. For long, Indian badminton glory lay in its singles prowess. However, since 2022, the “Sat-Chi” combination has turned heads.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Maratha quota push sparks dissent

JARANGE EXULTS, BHUJBAL SULKS: MINISTER SKIPS CABINET MEET, SAYS WILL CHALLENGE MARATHA QUOTA GR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 3: Maharashtra minister and prominent OBC leader Chhagan Bhujbal Wednesday skipped a cabinet meeting and later expressed displeasure over a government order on granting Kunbi status to eligible Marathas for quota, indicating he will mount a legal challenge.

A day after ending his fast in Mumbai and claiming victory in his fight seeking reservation in jobs and education for Marathas under the other backward class category, activist Manoj Jarange expressed confidence about his community members getting quota benefits following Tuesday's government resolution (GR) on issuance of Kunbi (OBC) caste certificates to them.

After buying peace with Jarange by accepting most of his demands, the BJP-led Mahayuti government moved to placate Other Backward Classes, whose members are opposed to any move to disturb the existing quota for them, as it set up a nine-member cabinet sub-committee to expedite the welfare measures for OBCs and resolve issues related to reservation.

The emotive Maratha quota issue appears to be far from settled after Jarange's latest agitation as Bhujbal openly expressed his displeasure over the GR issued by the government for expediting the grant of Kunbi caste certificates to eligible Marathas, which will



pave the way for community members to get reservation.

The NCP stalwart, who did not attend a cabinet meeting earlier in the day, said in the evening he would move the court against the GR.

"OBC leaders have doubts about the GR...as to who won after Jarange's agitation. We are seeking legal opinion on whether the government is authorized to change people's caste," the veteran leader told reporters.

Asked if he himself would approach the court against the GR, Bhujbal, who has been named in a new cabinet sub-committee on OBC welfare, replied in the affirmative.

He also skipped a meeting of party leaders called by Na-

Maharashtra government Wednesday set up a nine-member cabinet sub-committee to expedite the welfare measures for the OBCs and resolve issues related to reservation

The move came a day after activist Manoj Jarange called off his five-day-long hunger strike in Mumbai with the state government accepting most of his demands, including granting eligible Marathas Kunbi caste certificates, which will make them eligible for reservation benefits available to the OBCs

tionalist Congress Party (NCP) president and deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said

CM Devendra Fadnavis will talk to Bhujbal and explain the facts to him.

Bhujbal will be placated after knowing the facts, he added.

"The decision (on GR) taken by the government is in accordance with law. No injustice has been done to any other community while taking the decision," Shinde told reporters.

Jarange, who has been demanding that Marathas be recognised as Kunbis so that they get the benefit of reservations, ended his five-day fast on Tuesday after the Mahayuti government agreed to issue a GR to resolve the issue.

The Kunbis are a traditional farming community included in the OBC category in Maharashtra. But OBC communities

are opposed to the inclusion of Marathas in the category.

Speaking to reporters in a hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhaji-nagar, Jarange said the Maratha community in Marathwada and western Maharashtra will now get reservation.

"We have scored a victory, and the credit goes to the Maratha community. Maratha people from Marathwada and western Maharashtra will now get quota," he said.

The 43-year-old activist,

who returned from Mumbai after ending his fast, is receiving medical care in a private hospital. "No Maratha in the Marathwada region will be left out of quota," Jarange said.

On Bhujbal skipping the cabinet meeting, the activist said, "That means he is a clever leader. It also means the Maratha community has succeeded in getting reservation." Jarange claimed attempts to take the matter to court will fail as the "GR cannot be challenged".

More than 125 tonnes of garbage collected during 5-day-long protest

More than 125 metric tonnes of garbage was collected from Azad Maidan and its surrounding areas in south Mumbai during the five-day-long Maratha quota agitation, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Wednesday. Azad Maidan was the ground zero of the Maratha reservation protest launched by activist Manoj Jarange. His protest drew thousands of Maratha community members from across the state. The nearby Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and area around the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarter building virtually became the camping sites of these protesters, many of whom were seen cooking, consuming food, sleeping and even bathing on pavements and roads. All this generated large amounts of garbage at the protest site and the surrounding areas. Heaps of garbage, including leftover food items, mineral water bottles, wrappers, paper plates and cups were seen in the area. Talking to PTI, a senior BMC official said, "On the first day of the agitation on August 29, four metric tonnes of solid waste was collected from the ground, followed by seven metric tonnes the next day." Thirty tonnes of garbage was collected on August 31 and September 1 each, and 57 tonnes - the highest during the protest - on September 2, he said. A total of 466 civic staffers, including 438 labourers, 16 head supervisors, 11 supervisors and one assistant head supervisor, were involved in ensuring that the protest site and nearby areas remain clean, the official said.



Maharashtra extends work hours from 9 to 10 in private sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 3: The Maharashtra cabinet Wednesday gave its approval to amend laws that will allow increasing the maximum daily working hours for private sector employees from the present nine to 10 hours.

The move is aimed at attracting investments, generating employment and safeguarding workers' rights, an official statement said.

The state cabinet, during its meeting presided over by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, cleared the changes recommended by a central task force, bringing Maharashtra in line with states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura, which have already implemented similar reforms. The amendments will be done to the Factories Act, 1948 and the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017, it said.

The amendments will allow industries to function without disruption during peak demand or labour shortages while ensuring that workers receive proper overtime compensation.

Kerala tackles rare brain infections

World's first survivor of a dual case of amoebic meningitis, fungal infection owes life to Kerela doctors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 3: Kerala's health sector has achieved a rare feat by successfully treating a 17-year-old boy who was simultaneously infected with amoebic meningoencephalitis and Aspergillus flavus, Health Minister Veena George said Wednesday.

She said this was the first known case in the world where a patient with both infections had been treated successfully and made a full recovery.

"The boy was under treatment at Alappuzha Medical College Hospital for three weeks and was then shifted to Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. The neurosurgery team conducted surgeries on the patient, and he has now completely recovered after three months of treatment," George told reporters.

The microbiology lab at Alappuzha identified the disease-causing amoeba and fungus from the patient's spinal flu-



id, following which treatment was initiated in line with government guidelines, she said.

An MRI scan showed pus in the brain, and the patient was shifted to Thiruvananthapuram, where a neurosurgery team operated. As his condition worsened, a second surgery was performed, after which the boy began to recover.

"We also used five drugs for the treatment as both infections are fatal. We reviewed the patient three weeks after discharge, and he is perfectly normal now," said Dr Aravind, Associate Professor, Depart-

ment of Infectious Diseases, Thiruvananthapuram Medical College.

George said that while several cases of patients with both amoebic meningitis and Aspergillus flavus infections had been reported worldwide, none had survived.

"This is the first time such a patient has been brought back to life. I would like to congratulate the medical teams in both Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram medical colleges for this achievement," she added.

She credited treatment guidelines formulated by the govern-

ment three years ago for helping save the boy's life.

"Such cases—either amoebic meningitis or Aspergillus flavus infections—carry around 99 per cent mortality worldwide. In Kerala, in the past two years, 86 cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis have been reported, with 21 deaths. This is a mortality rate of around 23 to 24 per cent," the minister said.

On whether such infections were rising in Kerala, she said: "The answer is that we have been able to identify the cases early. In post-mortem studies of meningitis deaths where the cause of infection was not identified earlier, about 11 per cent were due to amoeba."

She said Kerala has responded effectively to such cases, undertaking preventive measures with the help of other departments and local bodies, including chlorination of wells.

The health department has also issued advisories and run awareness campaigns on preventing amoebic infections.

The extremely lethal central nervous system infection, amoebic meningoencephalitis, is caused by free-living amoebae. This deadly infection is typically contracted from freshwater sources such as lakes, rivers, and streams.

vegetables grown by them.

"Harvesting is still continuing. We got really good profit through flower farming this year. We are getting up to ₹150 for one kilogram of jamanthi," Maruthi said in a Tamil-tinged Malayalam.

How a women's collective is making Kerala self-reliant for Onam

State government has set aside ₹14cr to support Kudumbashree initiatives this year by giving them incentives and interest-free loans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 3: The sun beats down on a one-acre plot at the edge of Attappadi, a tribal village in Kerala's northern Palakkad district.

Here, Maruthi is hard at work, moving through rows of vibrant jamanthi and vadamulla- marigold and globe amaranth- her hands swiftly gathering the bright blossoms.

Nearby, a group of local flower merchants wait patiently, watching as Maruthi and her friends fill sack after sack with the freshly picked flowers.

"We used to send our flowers to the market in Coimbatore," Maruthi said, pausing for a moment.

"But now, with Onam here, it's become a challenge to keep



A total of ₹30 crore in returns is expected through various Kudumbashree initiatives during the season, including ₹12-15 crore through vegetable and flower sales alone

up. The local vendors are coming straight to the farm to buy- the demand is that high," she told PTI.

Maruthi is one of the hundreds of women who play a key role in the crores of rupees of the Onam market in Kerala.

Their work is helping put the state on a path towards self-reliance, supplying a significant portion of the flowers, vegeta-

bles, and fruit needed for the harvest festival.

They are part of Kudumbashree, a government-backed poverty eradication mission made up entirely of women. With 48 lakh members across the state, this network has made a major intervention in the festival markets through its diverse initiatives.

Thousands of Joint Liabil-

ity Groups of Kudumbashree have carried out vegetable and flower farming on a massive scale across Kerala, reducing its immense dependency upon neighbouring states, especially Tamil Nadu, to a great extent.

According to figures, a total of 13,879 Kudumbashree JLGs, comprising four to 10 women, have indulged in vegetable farming in 8,913.13 acres of land across Kerala, eyeing the Onam market. Flower farming has been carried out on 1,820.52 acres of land under the aegis of 4,531 groups in the state ahead of the harvest festival, it said.

In Attappadi alone, the all-women network carried out vegetable farming in 25 acres and flower farming in six acres this year, authorities said.

Marigold, Jasmine, globe amaranth, lotus and so on were among the major flowers harvested by Kudumbashree members targeting the huge demand for the preparation of "pookkalam" (floral carpet).

Long beans, okra, tomato, green chilli, bitter gourd, pumpkin, ash gourd and bottle gourd were among the major

Kerala govt sets up first Senior Citizens Commission in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 3: The Kerala government has set up the country's first Senior Citizens Commission to protect the rights of the elderly and address issues such as "neglect and abuse."

K Somaprasad has been appointed chairperson of the Thiruvananthapuram-based Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission, state Ministers for Higher Education and Social Justice R Bindu said in a Facebook post Wednesday.



Amaravila Ramakrishnan, E M Radha, KNK Namboothiri, and Lopes Mathew have been appointed as members of the Commission, she added. The Commission will address growing concerns about the "hardships faced by the elderly, including neglect, exploitation, and orphanhood," the minister said.

The Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission has been constituted under the Kerala Senior Citizens Commission Act, 2025, passed by the state legislature in March.

The Commission will work for the welfare and protection of the elderly and provide guidelines and assistance for their rehabilitation, the minister added. The members were felicitated by the minister at a ceremony held at the Secretariat Durbar Hall Wednesday.

DOUBLE DELIGHT

50 pairs of siblings grace Pune's first Twins' Meet



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Sept 3: Identical smiles, mirrored gestures, matching outfits and twin-themed songs from popular films lit up an event where more than 50 pairs of siblings came together for Pune's first Twins' Meet.

The unusual congregation saw twins of all ages - from toddlers in playful costumes to silver-haired seniors - joining in the celebration of their unique bond during the meet, held as part of the 37th Pune Festival Tuesday.

The sight of so many identical pairs turned the Bal Gandharva Rang Mandir into a spectacle of doubles, with clowns welcoming participants in a fun-filled manner.

"It was a rare and fascinating experience. The programme presented both constitutional and scientific perspectives about twins," said noted litterateur Dr Shripal Sabnis, who inaugurated the event where entertainment and awareness about such siblings blended seamlessly.

Participants ranged from one-year-old toddlers to septuagenarians.

"The objective of the Twins' Meet was to celebrate togetherness, identity and joy of twins and their families," said Pravin Walimbe, the brain behind the initiative.

"Besides entertainment, the meet also focused on scientific awareness about twins. We invited siblings from Pune as well as special guests - Thasleena and her brother - from Kodinhi village in Kerala, popularly known as the World Capital of Twins," he added.

The event featured both light-hearted moments and serious discussions. Clowns from the Rambo Circus greeted twins at the entrance, while the cultural programme included short films on twins, an audio-visual presentation of some of the iconic twin-themed songs from Bollywood films like "Ram Aur Shyam", "Seeta Aur Geeta", "Judwaa", "ChaalBaaz" and "Angoor", and a feature film on Kodinhi village.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, KALIMELA
At/Po-Kalimela, Dist:-Malkangiri, PIN-764047 (ODISHA), Ph.No.:06850-272217, E-mail:ori-kalimela@nic.in
No.3993/ IX-77/2025 (Dev.)
Date:02.09.2025


TENDER CALL NOTICE No.01/2025-26
No.i-295:The Block Development Officer, Kalimela invites Percentage Rate bids in Single cover System for the civil work as detailed in the following table from eligible class of contractors as mentioned under column-8(eight) registered with the State Governments and Contractors of equivalent Grades/Class Registered with Central Government/MES Railways. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing of the agreement for the following works eventually to be drawn up in the P.W.D, P-2 forms in conformity with the Detailed Tender Call Notice.

Sl. No.	Name of the G.P.	Name of the Work	Amount put to Tender (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)	E.M.D. (in Rs.) (1%)	Work Completion Period	Class of Contractor
1	Chintalwada	Construction of Office Building with market complex for G.P. Level Federation at Chintalwada G.P.	24,25,549.94	6,000/-	24,255/-	6 (Six) Months	"C & B"
2	Venkatapallam	Construction of Office Building with market complex for G.P. Level Federation at Venkatapallam G.P.	24,25,549.94	6,000/-	24,255/-	6 (Six) Months	"C & B"
3	Maharajpally	Construction of Office Building with market complex for G.P. Level Federation at Maharajpally G.P.	24,25,549.94	6,000/-	24,255/-	6 (Six) Months	"C & B"

Sale of tender paper: The tender documents can be seen from the Govt. website malkangiri.odisha.gov.in. only from 03.09.2025 to 22.09.2025 (upto 05.00 PM) No Tender paper will be sold by the Block Office, Kalimela or any other offices. Interested bidders will download the bid documents from the same website only i.e. malkangiri.odisha.gov.in. **Place and date of receipt of tender paper:** Panchayat Samiti, Kalimela, 03.09.2025 to 22.09.2025 (upto 05.00 PM) through Registered/Speed Post only i.e. Indian Postal Services (office hour from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM, Except Sunday and public holidays). **Place and date of opening of tender paper:** Panchayat Samiti, Kalimela on dt.23.09.2025 at 11.00 AM. **Mode of receipt of tender paper:** Registered/Speed Post only (India Post). **Name of the Scheme:** Mission Shakti Grant for the year 2023-24. **The authority reserves the right to reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The detailed information/corrigendum on Tender Call Notice can be available in the District website malkangiri.odisha.gov.in only. N.B.: All should go through the terms and conditions of Tender Call Notice and Detail Tender Call Notice before submission of Tender Papers.**

OIPR-19252/11/0007/2526
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Kalimela

Qualified candidates suffered discrimination, and appointments were reduced to political bargaining



YOGI ADITYANATH

UTTAR PRADESH CM


The main aim is to discuss the problems faced by the 'Janajati' (tribal) community and to explore how our party and the government can jointly work to resolve these issues in the coming days, sending a strong message to all Janajatis in the state



MANIK SAHA

TRIPURA CM

Wadepuhl assured me that Germany would put its full weight behind the FTA negotiations with the European Union



S JAISHANKAR

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Jewellery store robbed at gunpoint

Jamshedpur: A jewellery store was robbed at gunpoint in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur town Wednesday afternoon, police said. The incident happened near Gudri Bazar in the Sonari police station area, they said. Around six armed men entered the store as customers and looted gold jewellery worth ₹6 lakh, after attacking the owner with a pistol butt, a police officer said. The store is undergoing treatment at the Tata Main Hospital.

Man held for stealing cash from temple

Thane: Dombivli police has arrested a 25-year-old man hours after he allegedly broke into a temple in the district and stole cash from the donation box. Police also recovered ₹37,000 from Sambhaji Ram Birajdar, the accused, said an official. The arrest was made within four hours after the crime came to light, he said.

Five Naxals held, explosives seized

Sukma: Five Naxalites, one of them carrying a reward of ₹1 lakh, were arrested and explosives were seized from their possession in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh, police said Wednesday. Madvi Rakesh, Kamlu Deva, Kuhram Budhra, Madkam Muya and Kawasi Poije were apprehended Tuesday by security forces from a forested patch near Rawaguda village under Chintalnar police station limits, said an official.

Man found hanging in lock-up

Itanagar: A man detained for questioning in a rape case was found hanging in police lock-up in Arunachal Pradesh's West Siang district, following which local people stormed the Aalo women's police station and vandalised it, an officer said Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Nyummar Bagra (48), a resident of Higi Bagra village in the district and was found hanging in lock-up on Tuesday night.

Bhutanese PM in India

New Delhi: Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and the Je Khenpo, Trulku Jigme Choedra, the Chief Abbot of Bhutan, are visiting India for the consecration ceremony of the Royal Bhutan Temple at Rajgir in Bihar September 4, the Ministry of External Affairs said. In an official statement Wednesday, the MEA also said that following the consecration ceremony, Prime Minister Tobgay will also visit the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The land for the temple has been provided by the government of Bihar.



Delighted to meet German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl. India and Germany are celebrating 25 years of Strategic Partnership

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

INDIA ASKS GERMANY TO SEND BACK BABY ARIHA

India Wednesday called upon Germany to ensure early return of Indian baby girl Ariha Shah who has been living in a foster care in Berlin for nearly four years



Flood situation worsens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: The downpour across north India showed no signs of easing Wednesday as a rain-triggered landslide and structural collapse claimed four lives in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, pummelled regions already on edge and forced the suspension of classes, flights, trains and even cremations.

In the east, a fresh low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is likely to bring heavy showers in Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand Thursday, while heavy rain continued to batter Odisha for the third consecutive day Wednesday with no respite in sight.

In Himachal Pradesh, rain fury continued as four more bodies were retrieved from the debris of a landslide near Sundernagar in Mandi district, taking the toll to seven.

Two people, including an NDRF jawan, were feared dead after two houses collapsed in Kullu district, while two women died and 15 passengers were injured after rolling boulders fell on a private bus near Kalimitti in the Kumarsein area of Shimla.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed the Chamba administration to immediately evacuate stranded Manimahesh Yatra pilgrims and coordinate with the Air Force



to deploy about six MI-17 helicopters.

Jammu and Kashmir too faced devastation as torrential rains claimed the lives of a woman and her daughter in a house collapse, while 40 people were trapped in a flooded village in Akhnoor.

In Chhattisgarh's Balrampur district, four people were killed and three went missing after a portion of the Lutti dam collapsed late Tuesday after a spell of heavy rain, triggering flash floods that swept through houses and fields.

Delhi was lashed by intermittent showers for the third consecutive day Wednesday as overcast conditions persisted in the city, which is predicted to receive more rain in the next few days. Waters from a raging Yamuna submerged homes, destroyed shop goods and disrupted traffic in several areas and throwing life out of gear

‘21 river sites in severe flood, 33 above normal’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Twenty-one monitoring stations, including one in Delhi, have reported rivers in "severe flood situation," while 33 others are flowing above the normal level, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said Wednesday.

The nationwide flood alert comes amid heavy rainfall forecasts for several states in the coming days. Of the 21 severe flood locations, nine are in Bihar, eight in Uttar Pradesh and one each in Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, and Jharkhand.

The 33 above-normal sites are spread across Uttar Pradesh (9), Bihar (7), Assam (7), Uttarakhand (2), Odisha (2), Telangana (2), and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

In Delhi, the Yamuna at the railway bridge site is in severe

flood conditions. Northern hill states remain on high alert.

In Jammu and Kashmir, flooding risks are high in the Chenab, Tawi, Jhelum and Indus basins, particularly in Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Anantnag, and Pulwama districts. Punjab and Haryana are bracing for inflows in the Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Ghaggar and Yamuna rivers, while in Uttar Pradesh, the Ganga, Yamuna, Ghagra, Ramganga, and Sharda rivers are expected to continue rising in multiple districts.

In Bihar, several stretches of the Ganga, Kosi, Gandak, and Burhi Gandak remain in severe flood, particularly in Bhagalpur, Patna, Khagaria, and Siwan. Assam is witnessing above-normal to severe conditions in the Buridehing and Beki, while Jharkhand has reported a severe flood in the Ganga at Sahibganj. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh are reporting rising levels in the Tapi, Narmada, Mahi, Krishna, and Mahanadi basins.

Major reservoirs such as Ukai, Sardar Sarovar, Tehri, Hathnikund, Koyna, and Hirakud are expected to receive above-threshold inflows.



Army personnel wade through flood waters from a swollen Chenab river after heavy rainfall in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

Another newborn bitten by rats dies at Indore hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Sept 3: A second newborn girl, bitten by rats at Indore's government-run Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital (MYH), died Wednesday with the medical facility's administration attributing the cause to septicemia (blood poisoning or blood infection).

MYH Deputy Superintendent Dr Jitendra Verma told reporters that the baby, who was recently attacked by rats at the

hospital, died during treatment.

He said the girl, weighing just 1.60 kgs, was suffering from different congenital deformities, including intestinal malformation. Verma said the girl was operated upon seven days ago, but her condition was critical due to septicemia. She eventually died due to septicemia, an infection that occurs when bacteria enter the bloodstream and spread. The hospital deputy superintendent said as per wishes of the girl's family

members, her post-mortem examination was not conducted and the body was handed over to them.

He said the girl was bitten by rats on two fingers of her left hand, causing 'mild scratches'.

Earlier, another newborn girl, who was also a victim of rat attack at MYH, died Tuesday. This girl was also suffering from different congenital deformities and died due to 'pneumonia infection', hospital officials had said.

A ‘School of Drone Warfare’ was inaugurated by Border Security Force (BSF) director general Daljit Singh Chawdhary at the officers’ training academy of the force in Tekanpur, Madhya Pradesh, Tuesday

important role apart from some other battles and the strategic takeaways from Operation Sindoor conducted by India against Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, a senior officer said.

Chawdhary also spoke about the role of AI and machine learning (ML) in combat, proactive and weaponised drone use for decisive outcomes, the



force spokesperson said.

“The institute will prepare drone commandos and drone warriors through five special courses that include unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations, anti-drone warfare and surveillance and intelligence gathering,” he said.

The school has simulators and live drone flying zones, facilities for payload integration

in the UAVs and night operations, tools for radio frequency (RF) jammers and kinetic interceptors, apart from linked hardware and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

The BSF DG, after the inauguration of the school, addressed the trainee officers and spoke about the ongoing three-year-long Russia-Ukraine war, where drones have played an

2 students from Telangana killed in UK car crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London/Hyderabad, Sept 3: Two students from Telangana have been killed in a two-car road collision at a major roundabout in Essex, south-east England, while five others sustained serious injuries, local police have said.

While Chaitanya Tarre, 23, died on the spot, Rishi Teja Rapolu, 21, succumbed to his injuries in hospital soon after the accident at the Rayleigh Spur roundabout early Monday.

The deceased, who were from Hyderabad, were pursuing higher studies in the UK, their family members said.

Rapolu's uncle R Nagender told PTI Videos Wednesday that his nephew was studying MBA first-year in London.

He said the Telugu Association in London, and some of their relatives were following up to bring the mortal remains to India as early as possible.

He said Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy instructed the authorities concerned for repatriation of the body. Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar also wrote letters to the authorities to complete the formalities to bring the body, he added.

Tarre's family members and relatives told TV channels that he had left for the UK in February this year to pursue an MS degree. They said initially they got information that there was a road accident and Tarre was in serious condition. Later his friends told them he had passed away, the family members said.

According to a relative, they got information that the accident occurred when Tarre was returning after attending Ganesh idol immersion. The family appealed to the Central and state governments to help in bringing his body to the city at the earliest.

Essex Police said two other men from east London who were driving the cars at the time of the crash were arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving before being released on bail.

Haryana’s most wanted criminal repatriated from Cambodia held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Gurugram, Sept 3: A notorious criminal wanted by Haryana Police, Mainpal Dhilla, was arrested after he was extradited from Cambodia in an operation coordinated by the CBI in collaboration with the state police, Union home ministry and external affairs ministry, officials said Wednesday.

Dhilla, who also goes by the alias of Maipal Badli and Sonu Kumar, has several serious cases, including that of murder, registered against him and was serving life term. He is also accused of committing a murder while in jail. He was released on parole July 17, 2018, after which he escaped abroad on a fake identity.

On a request from Haryana Police, the CBI got a Red Notice published against Dhilla through Interpol November 6, 2024 and contacted NCB Bangkok, which revealed that he had travelled from Thailand to Cambodia. The CBI immediately contacted NCB-Phnom Penh and informed the authorities that the wanted criminal was travelling on a fraudulent travel document in the name of Sonu Kumar, officials said.

"A request for provisional arrest was sent to NCB-Phnom Penh, Cambodia, through Interpol channels on March 26, 2025. NCB-Phnom Penh July 24, 2025 conveyed the arrest of the subject and requested for Extradition Request through diplomatic channels. Cambodian authorities later intimated that they had decided to hand over the subject to Indian authorities," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

Later, a team of Haryana Police went to Cambodia and brought back Dhilla Tuesday, they said.

international

of the day quote

We have to prevent spreading our resources too thinly, and this means that we always have to look at what the impact will be on the NATO (defence) plans

MARK RUTTE | NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

I'm devastated because I've always upheld the rules and always have done, I made a mistake based upon the advice that I relied upon that I received at the time

ANGELA RAYNER | DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, UK

We've got assets in the air, assets in the water, assets on ships, because this is a deadly serious mission for us, and it won't it won't stop with just this strike

PETE HEGSETH | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

SHORT TAKES

Thailand's ruling party seeks new election

Bangkok: Thailand, which has been under a caretaker government since last week, saw competing efforts to resolve its political crisis Wednesday, as the country's main opposition party agreed to support its rival to be the next prime minister while the party in power said it wants a new election. The Pheu Thai party, which heads the caretaker government, announced it was asking the country's king to dissolve Parliament and call a new poll instead of having the current House of Representatives vote for a new prime minister. No date has yet been set for a vote in Parliament, nor was it clear if the king would endorse dissolution.

UK Deputy PM admits underpaying tax

London: Britain's Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary, Angela Rayner, Wednesday admitted underpaying tax on a new home she recently bought on the south coast of England after receiving incorrect legal advice. Her admission followed weeks of intense media coverage over the stamp duty tax owed by the senior Cabinet minister, who has now referred herself to Prime Minister Keir Starmer's independent ethics adviser to probe if she broke the ministerial code of conduct. Starmer, meanwhile, came out in full support of his deputy during the weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons even as the Opposition Conservatives demanded her sacking.

6 killed after assailants ambush vehicle in Pak

Peshawar: At least six people were killed after unknown assailants opened fire on a passenger vehicle in northwestern Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Wednesday, police said. The vehicle was travelling from Daradar to Sadda when suspected militants ambushed it near Mahora in the lower Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan. The attackers managed to flee after the attack, police said, adding that the victims have not yet been identified.

Jamaica holds election

Kingston (Jamaica): Jamaica was holding a general election Wednesday that many believe could be a defining moment for an island shaken by corruption, inequity and economic concerns. Prime Minister Andrew Holness of the Jamaica Labour Party is seeking a third term and running against Mark Golding, an attorney and longtime leader of the People's National Party.



Time and again we have seen climate leadership flow not from countries with the most wealth and power but from those who know the stakes firsthand

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN CHIEF

INDIA DISPLAYS OVER 2,500 BOOKS AT INT'L BOOK FAIR

India is showcasing more than 2,500 books in multiple Indian languages at the 38th Moscow International Book Fair (MIBF), which opened here Wednesday. India has been invited as the guest of honour country this year and has been allotted the central pavilion at the five-day fair being held at the historic Soviet-era VDNKh exhibition grounds till September 7



End war via talks or will end it by force: Putin

Putin said that he perceived a certain light at the end of the tunnel given what he said were sincere efforts by the United States to find a settlement to Europe's biggest land war since World War Two

REUTERS

Moscow, Sept 3: Russian President Vladimir Putin told Kyiv Wednesday there was a chance to end the war in Ukraine via negotiations "if common sense prevails", an option he said he preferred, but that he was ready to end it by force if that was the only way. Speaking in Beijing at the end of a visit that resulted in an agreement on a new gas pipeline to China, Putin said he perceived "a certain light at the end of the tunnel", given what he said were sincere efforts by the United States to find a settlement to Europe's biggest land war since World War Two. "It seems to me that if common sense prevails, it will be possible to agree on an acceptable solution to end this conflict. That is my assumption," Putin told reporters. "Especially since we can see the mood of the current US administration under President (Donald) Trump, and we see not just their statements, but their sincere desire to find this solution... And I think there is a certain light at the end of the tunnel. Let's see how the situation develops," he said. "If not, then we will have to resolve all the tasks before us by force of arms."



However, Putin indicated no willingness to soften his long-standing demands, including that Kyiv abandon any idea of joining NATO and that it end what Moscow says is discrimination against Russian speakers.

He said he was ready to hold talks with Volodymyr Zelenskyy if the Ukrainian president came to Moscow, but that any such meeting had to be well prepared and lead to tangible results. Ukraine's foreign minister dismissed as "unacceptable" the suggestion of Moscow as a venue for such a meeting. **FAR APART** Zelenskyy has been pressing

It seems to me that if common sense prevails, it will be possible to agree on an acceptable solution to end this conflict. That is my assumption

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

He said he was ready to hold talks with Volodymyr Zelenskyy if the Ukrainian president came to Moscow, but that any such meeting had to be well prepared and lead to tangible results. Ukraine's foreign minister dismissed as "unacceptable" the suggestion of Moscow as a venue for such a meeting. **FAR APART** Zelenskyy has been pressing

UN: Iran increased stockpile of uranium before Israeli attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vienna, Sept 3: A confidential report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog circulated to member states and seen by The Associated Press said Wednesday that Iran increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels before Israel launched its military attack June 13. The report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency said that as of June 13, Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched up to 60%, an increase of 32.3 kg since the IAEA's last report in May. The report stated that this figure is "based on the information provided by Iran, agency verification activities between 17 May 2025 and 12 June 2025 (the day preceding the start of the military attacks), and estimates based on the past operation of the relevant facilities". That material is a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. The confidential report also said Iran and the IAEA have not reached an agreement on resuming inspections of sites affected by Israeli and US bombing in June. The only site inspected since the war has been the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, which operates with Russian technical assistance. The director general of the UN nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi, said that "technical modalities to enable the full resumption of Agency inspection should be concluded without delay," the report stated. The report stated that while the withdrawal of UN inspectors from Iran during the war "was necessary given the overall security situation, Tehran's "subsequent decision to cut co-operation with the IAEA was "deeply regrettable". As of June 13, Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile was 9874.9 kg, which represents an increase of 627.3 kg since the last report in May, the report said. The IAEA said that since June 13, it has "not been able to conduct the in-field activities required to collect and verify Iran's declarations used to estimate the changes to the previously reported stockpile". According to the IAEA, approximately 42 kg of 60% enriched uranium is theoretically enough to produce one atomic bomb, if enriched further to 90%. The IAEA also reported that inspectors have not been able to verify Iran's near bomb-grade stockpile for over two and a half months, which it called "a matter of serious concern".



should be concluded without delay," the report stated. The report stated that while the withdrawal of UN inspectors from Iran during the war "was necessary given the overall security situation, Tehran's "subsequent decision to cut co-operation with the IAEA was "deeply regrettable". As of June 13, Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile was 9874.9 kg, which represents an increase of 627.3 kg since the last report in May, the report said. The IAEA said that since June 13, it has "not been able to conduct the in-field activities required to collect and verify Iran's declarations used to estimate the changes to the previously reported stockpile". According to the IAEA, approximately 42 kg of 60% enriched uranium is theoretically enough to produce one atomic bomb, if enriched further to 90%. The IAEA also reported that inspectors have not been able to verify Iran's near bomb-grade stockpile for over two and a half months, which it called "a matter of serious concern".

India kills us with tariffs: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, Sept 3: India kills the US with tariffs and the country has now offered "no tariffs" to America, President Donald Trump has said, amid New Delhi's escalating tensions with Washington over his administration's policies on trade and tariffs. "They have tariffs against us. China, which kills us with tariffs. India kills us with tariffs. Brazil kills us" with tariffs, Trump said in a telephone interview with The Scott Jennings Radio Show Tuesday. Trump added that he understands tariffs better than other countries. "I understood tariffs better than any human being in the world. And now with my tariffs, they were all dropping them. India was the most highly tariffed nation... And you know what, they've offered me no tariffs in India anymore. No tariffs," Trump said. "If I didn't have tariffs, they would never make that offer. They would never make that offer. So you have to have tariffs. We're going to be economically strong," he added. With a federal appeals court ruling that most of Trump's tariffs imposed on countries around the world are illegal, Trump said that the court case is sponsored by other nations because they're taking advantage of us. "...they're not going to take advantage anymore," he added. Later, speaking at the White House, Trump said that Amer-



ica gets along with India very well, but the relationship was one-sided for many years since Delhi was charging Washington "tremendous tariffs". "No, we get along with India very well," Trump said in response to a question on whether he is considering taking away some of the tariffs imposed on India. He said that for many years, the relationship between India and the US was "one-sided" and that changed when he assumed office. "India was charging us tremendous tariffs, about the highest in the world," Trump said, adding that the US was therefore not doing much business with India. "But they were doing business with us because we weren't charging them, foolishly, we weren't charging them," he said, adding that India was pouring its products into the US. "They'd send it in, pour it into our country. Therefore, it wouldn't be made here, which is a negative, but we would not send in anything because they were charging us 100 per cent tariffs," Trump said. The US president cited the example of Harley Davidson motorcycles, saying the company couldn't sell into India because there was a 200 per cent tariff on a motorcycle. "So what happens? Harley Davidson went to India and built a motorcycle plant, and now they don't have to pay tariffs, same thing as us," he said.

I understood tariffs better than any human being in the world. And now with my tariffs, they were all dropping them. India was the most highly tariffed nation... And you know what, they've offered me no tariffs in India anymore. No tariffs

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

Brandishing brooms, Indonesian women join Jakarta protests

REUTERS

Jakarta, Sept 3: Hundreds of women dressed in pink joined protests in Indonesia's capital Wednesday against lawmakers' perks and police brutality, waving brooms as a symbol of their calls for reform, while the president flew to China for a military parade. The women carried signs with slogans such as "reform the police" and "your sweet promises cause diabetes," as well as the brooms which protest organiser The Alliance of Indonesian Women said symbolised a need to "sweep (away) the state's dirt and the repressiveness of security forces." Protests involving students, workers and rights groups that began in Jakarta last week have rocked the world's third-largest

democracy, spreading nationwide after a police vehicle hit and killed a motorcycle taxi driver Thursday night. Rights groups say 10 people have died in the demonstrations, which have sparked some looting and rioting and which have been met with tear gas and rubber bullets by police. The Alliance, a coalition of women-led civil society groups, had called off a planned protest Monday citing the risk of a violent response by authorities. "We want to show that protests are mostly peaceful," said 30-year-old Rizky Ananda, who was demonstrating against violence and what she said was wasteful government spending. "If the government said protests were treasonous, it should be questioned." President Prabowo Subianto



has said the military and police would stand firm against violent mobs, and said Sunday that some of the unrest bore the signs of terrorism and treason.

Prabowo attended a lavish military parade in China Wednesday, after initially cancelling due to the unrest, with his office saying that signs of

- Indonesian women join Jakarta protests
- Deputy speakers hear students' demands
- Unrest could hit sovereign credit profile, says Fitch Ratings

normalcy returning in Indonesia was a factor in his decision to travel. Trying to placate the protesters, three deputy speakers of parliament held a meeting with at least 10 student unions, whose demands included the release of protesters from police detention and an investigation into Prabowo's accusation about treason. The student body of Universi-

Trump-backed bitcoin company begins trading on Nasdaq

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 3: A bitcoin treasury and mining company linked to the Trump family began trading Wednesday on the Nasdaq stock market. American Bitcoin's listing follows a completed merger with Gryphon Digital Mining. The company is backed by President Donald Trump's sons, Donald Trump Jr and Eric Trump. "Our Nasdaq debut marks a historic milestone in bringing bitcoin into the core of US capital markets," Eric Trump said in a statement. He is a co-founder and chief strategy officer of American Bitcoin. Public companies accumulating bitcoin as a corporate treasury has become a popular trend in crypto as the world's most popular digital asset is priced near an all-time high. The parent company of Trump's Truth Social has also moved to accumulate bitcoin. American Bitcoin said it plans to use "self-mining operations and opportunistic bitcoin purchases" to stand out in a growing field. Wednesday's listing gives investors yet another chance to put money in a Trump-linked crypto project. The Trump family has made a heavy pivot from real estate into crypto in the last year with projects ranging from a US dollar-backed stablecoin to the president hawking his own meme coin. Another Trump-family backed crypto project Monday, World Liberty Financial, launched public trading of its tokens. The popularity of such projects has put the value of the Trump family's crypto holdings at several billion dollars, at least on paper. Democrats have blasted the president for trying to monetize his popularity with crypto investors while also pushing for pro-crypto legislation and regulations.

14 killed in suicide bombing after BNP rally in Balochistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Sept 3: At least 14 people have been killed and 35 others injured in a suicide bombing shortly after the conclusion of a public rally organised by the Balochistan National Party (BNP) in Quetta, according to media reports. The explosion occurred close to Shahwani Stadium in the Saria area Tuesday night after the rally held to mark the fourth death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal ended. The Express Tribune news paper reported. Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar confirmed the casualties, the newspaper said. Officials confirmed it was a suicide attack, the Dawn reported. According to police, the explosion occurred about 15 minutes after the meeting ended. The bomber allegedly detonated his explosives-laden jacket in the parking area as participants were leaving the meeting.

of the day

quote

Key discussions also focused on adopting value capture financing models to ensure sustainable funding, and aligning infrastructure development with city master plans for seamless integration

NITIN GADKARI | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

With India's exceptional technology talent and GSPANN's support, this centre will help us strengthen our IT backbone, accelerate digital transformation, and embed new capabilities into our global operations

ESTHER WU | CIO, CARLSBERG GROUP

India's ferro alloys industry has immense potential as the demand will continue to grow at 7-8 per cent CAGR till FY2030

DHRUV GOEL | CEO, BIGMINT

SHORT TAKES

Rupee recovers 13P from all-time low

Mumbai: Rupee recovered 13 paise from its all-time low level to settle at 88.02 against US dollar Wednesday, on positive domestic equities, softening of crude oil prices and weak US dollar index. Forex traders said the rupee is trading near all-time low levels amid persistent foreign fund outflows on the back of ongoing trade tariff concerns between India and the US. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.15 against the US dollar, then fell to an intraday low of 88.19 and a high of 87.98 against the American currency. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 88.02, higher by 13 paise over its previous closing.

Labour Ministry alert

New Delhi: The Ministry of Labour & Employment Wednesday cautioned citizens against certain fake Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) portals, saying these are "falsely claiming" to be undertakings of the government. It has come to the notice of the Ministry of Labour & Employment that certain websites like <https://viksitbharatrozgaryojana.org/> and <https://pmviksitbharatrozgaryojana.com/> are falsely claiming to be undertakings of the Government of India and allegedly inviting applications for recruitment at pan-India locations under the name of the ministry. The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana portal, facilitating registrations under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 12th Independence Day address, went live in August.

MoEFCC introduces reforms to push green biz

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 3: In line with Government's commitment to Ease of Doing Business and the principles of trust-based governance, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has introduced a major reform through the notification of the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, August 29.

Drawing upon international best practices, these rules have been conceptualized to address the existing gaps in environmental compliance monitoring. Compliance with statutes such as the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Green Credit Rules, 2023 and

Sensex closes higher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 3: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a volatile session Wednesday, driven by a rally in metal stocks and optimism related to the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council meeting.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 409.83 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 80,567.71. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 135.45 points or 0.55 per cent to 24,715.05.

The GST Council is meeting in New Delhi for two days to discuss the proposed pruning of tax rates to 5 per cent and 18 per cent.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Steel jumped the most by 5.90 per cent. Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Eternal, State Bank of India, and Trent were among the other gainers.

However, Infosys, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, TCS, Adani Ports and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

Indian equities closed higher after a mixed start to the session, buoyed by expectations of a consumption-led stimulus from the potential GST slab rationalisation.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.90 per cent and mid-cap index climbed 0.63 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, metal surged the most by 3.08 per cent, followed by commodities (1.53 per cent), healthcare (1.20 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.80 per cent), financial services (0.73 per cent), bankex (0.71 per cent) and auto (0.71 per cent).

IT, teck, BSE Focused IT and utilities were the laggards.

Services PMI hits 15-yr high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: The Indian services sector growth touched a 15-year high in August, driven by a sharp rise in new orders and output, amid substantial improvement in demand conditions, a monthly survey said Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index was up from 60.5 in July to 62.9 in August, indicating the steepest rate of expansion since June 2010. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

According to the survey, a substantial improvement in demand during August pushed growth of new orders and activity to their highest rates in over 15 years. Moreover, the rise in international sales was the third-strongest since the series started in September 2014.

"India's services PMI Business Activity Index reached a fifteen-year high last month, from 60.5 in July to 62.9 in August, on the back of surging new orders," said Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Aiding the rise in total sales was a pick-up in growth of new export orders, the survey said, adding that panel members signalled greater demand from clients in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the US.



There is some premiumisation in the Indian market. The trend is there. We are covering up to the mid-size SUV segment but then the over 4.5 meter SUV (segment) is becoming a decent market size

HISHASHI TAKEUCHI | MD AND CEO, MAURTI SUZUKI

No GST on Life and health insurance

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday said that all individual life insurance policies whether term life, ULIP or endowment policies and subsequent reinsurance are exempt from GST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Life insurance and health insurance premium would come down as such products are now exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Announcing the outcome of 56th GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday said that all individual life insurance policies whether term life, ULIP or endowment policies and subsequent reinsurance are exempt from GST.

All individual health insurance policies including family floater policies and policies for senior citizens and reinsurance thereof will also be exempt from GST, she said.

Since its inception in July



2017, GST at the rate of 18 per cent is levied on premium paid towards health insurance and life insurance.

"We will make sure that companies pass on GST rate reduction and make insurance affordable for the common man and increase the insurance coverage in the country," she said.

She further said that the new rates would be effective from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

The government has collected ₹16,398 crore from goods and services tax (GST) levied on healthcare and life insurance in FY24.

Of this, ₹8,135 crore came from life insurance and ₹8,263 crore from health insurance. Additionally, ₹2,045 crore was also raised as GST from re-insurance on life and health insurance last fiscal, including ₹561 crore from rein-

TELEXCELL TRADE PROPOSES TO ACQUIRE 25% IN WELCURE

Welcure Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd Wednesday said that Singapore-based Telexcell Trade has offered to acquire up to 25 per cent equity stake in the company at an indicative price of ₹20 per share. This strategic investment is aimed at enhancing Welcure's global footprint, leveraging growing opportunities in emerging markets, the company said in a statement without revealing the actual size of the deal



Gold @ ₹1.07 lakh

In the Delhi market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity extended the gains for the eighth consecutive session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Gold prices rallied ₹1,000 to touch a fresh record high of ₹1,07,070 per 10 grams in the local markets Wednesday amid hopes of Fed easing rates, mounting geopolitical tensions and growing worries around the US economy.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹1,06,070 per 10 grams Tuesday.

In the Delhi market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity extended the gains for the eighth consecutive session, appreciating ₹1,000, to hit a fresh record high of ₹1,06,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Wednesday.

It had settled at ₹1,05,200 per 10 grams in the previous market session. On the MCX, the most traded October contract of gold skyrocketed by ₹1,148 or 1.08 per cent to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,06,940 per 10 grams Wednesday.

Meanwhile, silver prices traded flat at ₹1,26,100 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday, its all-time high level, as per the association.

In the international markets, spot gold climbed to hit an all-time high of \$3,547.09 per ounce.

"Gold continues to rise higher as safe-haven demand stayed strong amid hopes of Fed easing rates, mounting geopolitical tensions and growing worries around the US economy," Chintan Mehta, CEO, Abans Financial Services, said.

"Later this week, OPEC+ will hold a meeting, while Russia

FDI inflow rises 15% in April-June

In 2025, the Union Budget proposed increasing the FDI limit from 74 per cent to 100 per cent for companies investing their entire premium within India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Sept 3: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India rose 15 per cent to \$18.62 billion during April-June this fiscal year, while the inflow from the US nearly tripled to \$5.61 billion during the quarter despite tariff issues, according to government data released Wednesday.

FDI during April-June FY25 stood at \$16.17 billion. In March quarter 2024-25, the inflows fell 24.5 per cent year-on-year to \$9.34 billion. Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital, increased to \$25.2 billion during the quarter under review as against \$22.5 billion in the same period of 2024-25.

During the period, the US emerged as the largest source of FDI with \$5.61 billion as against \$1.50 billion in April-June 2024-25 despite tariff issues.

It was followed by Singapore (\$4.59 billion), Mauritius (\$2.08 billion), Cyprus (\$ 1.1

billion), the UAE (\$1 billion), Cayman Islands (\$676 million), the Netherlands (\$ 667 million), Japan (\$551 million), and Germany (\$191 million).

The US is the third-biggest investor in India with investments of \$76.26 billion between April 2000 and June 2025. The top investment sources are Mauritius at \$182.2 billion and Singapore at \$179.48 billion in the same period.

Sectorally, inflows rose in computer software and hardware (\$5.4 billion), services (\$3.28 billion), trading (\$ 506 million), telecommunication (\$ 24 million), automobile (\$1.29 billion), construction (\$ 75 million),

non-conventional energy (\$1.14 billion) and chemicals (\$140 million) during April-June quarter.

The data also showed that Karnataka received the highest inflow of \$5.69 billion during the quarter.

It was followed by Maharashtra (\$ 5.36 billion), Tamil Nadu (\$ 2.67 billion), Haryana (\$1.03 billion), Gujarat (\$ 1.2 billion), Delhi (\$1 billion), and Telangana (\$395 million).

The government has put in place an investor-friendly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, under which most sectors are open for 100 per cent overseas inflows through the automatic route.

The government has undertaken reforms across multiple sectors to liberalise FDI norms. Between 2014 and 2019, significant reforms included increased FDI caps in defence insurance, and pension sectors, and liberalised policies for construction, civil aviation, and single brand retail trading.

From 2019 to 2024, notable measures included allowing 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route in coal mining, contract manufacturing, and insurance intermediaries. In 2025, the Union Budget proposed increasing the FDI limit from 74 per cent to 100 per cent for companies investing their entire premium within India.

Cognizant CEO features in 2025 TIME 100 AI list

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore, Sept 3: Cognizant recently announced that CEO Ravi Kumar S has been named to the 2025 TIME 100 AI list. This prestigious recognition highlights Kumar's visionary leadership and contributions to the field of enterprise AI.

The TIME 100 AI list highlights the most influential leaders, thinkers, scientists, and policymakers across various fields. Inclusion on this list not only reflects Kumar's dedication and contributions to advancing AI technology but also underscores Cognizant's commitment to driving innovation and excellence across the industry.

To fuel continued AI innovation within Cognizant, Kumar has pioneered a structure that



supports agile, purpose-driven collaboration in lieu of rigid hierarchies. A primary example of this approach is Cognizant's Bluebolt program – a grassroots innovation initiativeKumar spearheaded in 2023to help unlock freshthinking around AI use cases from across the organisation. To date, Bluebolt has empowered employees to share more than 500,000 ideas. Kumar will amplify his vision for AI further via his diversified roles in the US.

CELEBRATION TURNED TRAGIC

Kohli's emotional tribute to stampede victims

India star, former RCB captain breaks silence on the tragedy that claimed 11 lives during celebrations outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium, urging unity, healing, and remembrance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 3: Talismanic batter Virat Kohli, reacting for the first time regarding the June 4 Bengaluru stampede tragedy which claimed 11 lives near Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru during the RCB celebrations, has stated Wednesday that, "What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history... turned into something tragic and vowed to move forward with care and respect."

Royal Challengers Bengaluru took to social media to share Kohli's statement that read, "Nothing in life really prepares you for a heartbreak like June

4th. What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history... turned into something tragic."

Virat Kohli further stated, "I've been thinking of and praying for the families of those we lost... and for our fans who were injured. Your loss is part of our story now. Together, we will move forward with care, respect and responsibility." The RCB, commenting on this post stated in bold letters, "Virat Kohli reflects on his emotions, and echoes how all of us at RCB feel."

Earlier, the Bengaluru based franchise, under the 'RCB Cares' initiative announced Rs 25 lakh each for the families of



the deceased persons.

RCB cares official announcement stated August 30 that, "Our hearts broke on June 4, 2025. We lost eleven members of the RCB family. They were part of us. Part of what makes our city, our community & our team unique. Their absence will echo in the

memories of each one of us.

"No amount of support can ever fill the space they've left behind. But as a first step, and with the deepest respect, RCB has extended Rs 25 lakh each to their families. Not just as financial aid, but as a promise of compassion, unity, and ongoing care.

Nothing in life really prepares you for a heartbreak like June 4th. What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history... turned into something tragic

VIRAT KOHLI

This is also the beginning of 'RCB Cares': a long-term commitment for meaningful action that begins by honouring their memory. Every step forward will reflect what the fans feel, expect, and deserve."

Following RCB's maiden IPL title win, thousands of jubilant fans gathered outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium June 4, where the official celebrations were held. However, the event took a devastating turn as the overcrowded venue led to chaos when fans attempted to forcefully enter the stadium, resulting in a deadly stampede.

CLASH OF THE TITANS

Alcaraz, Djoko set to serve up semifinals

Djokovic reached his record-extending 53rd Grand Slam semifinal, which is the most by any man or woman in the history of the sport



REUTERS

New York, Sept 3: Carlos Alcaraz dazzled at the US Open to make the semi-finals Tuesday before Novak Djokovic danced his way through to book a New York showdown with the Spaniard that will mark the latest chapter in their generational rivalry.

Former champion Alcaraz produced yet another entertaining display at Flushing Meadows to dismantle 20th seed Jiri Lehecka 6-4 6-2 6-4 at a sunbathed Arthur Ashe Stadium, securing his place in the last four without dropping a set this year.

"Sometimes I play a shot that I should not play in that moment but it's the way I love playing tennis," Alcaraz, who is two wins away from taking the world number one spot from Italian rival Jannik Sinner, told Sky Sports.

"I want to play solid, play well and play smart but at the same time when I have the opportunity to play a great shot - or a hot shot let's say - why not? 'I'm here to entertain the people, myself and the team.'"

Djokovic topped the bill in a truncated evening session after women's champion Aryna Sabalenka received a walkover when Marketa Vondrousova withdrew due to a knee injury.

The Belarusian will face Jessica Pegula in the semi-finals.

Djokovic, chasing a 25th Grand Slam title to move above Margaret Court in the all-time list, beat American Taylor Fritz 6-3 7-5 3-6 6-4 and celebrated the win by performing a dance for his daughter on her birthday.

Fritz has now lost 11 straight to the 38-year-old Serb, who became the oldest player in the professional era - since 1968 -

I'd love to be fit enough to play potentially five sets with Carlos. I know that my best tennis is going to be required, but I'd rise to the occasion

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

to reach the semis of all four Grand Slams in a single season.

Alcaraz is 16 years Djokovic's junior but could face a tough test in his pursuit of a sixth Grand Slam title having lost five of his eight matches against the Serb.

The Spaniard has lost his last two to Djokovic - in the Australian Open quarter-finals this year and in last year's Paris Olympics final, a clash that left both players in tears for different reasons.

Bhambri makes first ever Grand Slam QFs



Yuki Bhambri reached the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career, progressing to the last-eight of the US Open men's doubles competition with partner Michael Venus here. The 14th seeded Indo-New Zealand combination knocked out fourth-seeded German pair of Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz 6-4 6-4 in one hour and 23 minutes. They will next take on Croatia's Nikola Mektic and American veteran Rajeev Ram, who are the 11th seeds in the draw. In his injury-marred singles career, the 33-year-old Indian could never go beyond the first round but in doubles, he has been doing better. He reached the third round of French Open and Wimbledon this year.

GENDER TEST

Khelif banned from World Championships



AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 3: Algerian Olympic boxing champion Imane Khelif will not compete in the World Boxing Championships as the boxer will not have an appeal heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in time.

The competition is set to begin in Liverpool Thursday and will continue until September 14. The 26-year-old Algerian boxer, who clinched the women's welterweight title at the Olympic Games in Paris, faced controversy over her eligibility. Khelif submitted an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport Monday over a ruling which prevents the boxer from fighting in the female category without a genetic sex test.

CAS released a list of hearings from September 2 until September 19 - with Khelif's appeal not included. According to a report, an appeal could take several weeks and will therefore not be complete in time for the Algerian boxer to compete.

SHORT TAKES

Top spot for Suruchi



New Delhi: Indian teen shooter Suruchi Inder Singh grabbed the top spot, while double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker was ranked sixth in the latest ISSF women's 10m air pistol rankings. The 19-year-old Suruchi, who began shooting at the age of 13, has 4162 points and is placed ahead of China's Yao Qianxun (3195 points) and Qian Wei (2178 points) who are placed second and third respectively. With 1988 points, Manu is placed sixth in the rankings updated Monday. Manu, however, is fourth in the 25m pistol category with 1800 points followed by Esha Singh at sixth with 1512 points. In the ISSF World Cup events this year, Suruchi won gold in mixed team event of 10m air pistol at Lima while she bagged gold medals in individual events of the competition at Munich, Lima and Buenos Aires. Sift Kaur Samra, who won the gold medal in the Asian Shooting Championship last month in the 50m air rifle category, is placed second with 3034 points while Ashi Chouksey is 10th. In 10m air rifle women's category, Elavenil Valarivan is placed fifth with 2604 points.

Sukant World No 1



New Delhi: Ace Indian para shuttler Sukant Kadam has climbed to the coveted No 1 spot in the SL4 category in the latest BWF rankings. Sukant's rise to the top follows his gold medal-winning performance at the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2025. "Reaching World No. 1 is a dream come true and it motivates me to push harder in my training every day," Sukant said. Looking ahead, he is preparing for the upcoming China Para-Badminton International 2025, with his sights firmly set on the Asian Para Games next year. "China Para Badminton International 2025 is a great opportunity to test myself against the best, and I am focused on maintaining this form to perform my best at the Asian Games next year," he added.

Pak's fielding woes



Sharjah: A sloppy show in the outfield handed Pakistan their first defeat of the ongoing tri-series, going down by 18 runs against Afghanistan in Sharjah Tuesday. According to a report, Pakistan have dropped 48 catches, missed 98 run outs, and misfield 89 times since the start of 2024. They top two of the above parameters among the 41 teams during the same period, and are second on misfields after West Indies (90). It is also worth noting that Pakistan have played the most matches in this timeframe, their catching efficiency of 81.4% ranks joint 8th (alongside Ireland) among the 12 full-member teams.

IOC restores funding to IOA

International Olympic Committee suspended Olympic Solidarity funding for Indian Olympic Association due to internal feud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided to resume its funding to India under the Olympic Solidarity Programme a year after halting it, acknowledging the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) "corrective measures" to resolve internal disputes and governance issues.

The Executive Board of the IOC had last year stopped the yearly grant of Rs 15 crore meant for athlete development programmes in the wake of the prolonged infighting during which 12 Executive Council members of the IOA refused to ratify the appointment of Raghuram Iyer as the body's CEO, citing his high salary.

But, following an intervention by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, a truce was called July 24 this year between IOA President PT Usha and the revolting EC members who are in majority.

A Special General Body Meeting (SGM) was also held later to formally approve India's bid for 2030 Commonwealth Games.

"We took note of the various steps and corrective measures that have been taken over the past few weeks to resolve the internal disputes and governance issues within your NOC (National Olympic Commit-



tee)," stated a letter to Usha from IOC's NOC Relations and Olympic Solidarity Director James Macleod.

"...all outstanding internal issues and misunderstandings were discussed in a constructive and transparent manner within your NOC Executive Committee and it was collectively agreed to move forward and work together in a spirit of unity and harmony," he noted in the letter which is in PTI's possession.

Macleod cited ratification of Iyer's appointment as a positive step. "...the appointment of your NOC CEO, Mr Raghuram Iyer, was formally ratified by decision of your NOC Executive Committee on 24 July 2025; and your NOC General Assembly was held successfully on 13 August 2025,

during which the pending reports and audited financial statements were formally approved.

"As a result, we are pleased to confirm that the IOC and Olympic Solidarity are now in a position to progressively resume all payments to your NOC and normalise the working relationship with your NOC," the letter added.

The IOC also hoped that the IOA will uphold the "highest standards" of good governance and integrity in its daily operations, in accordance with the principles and rules which govern the Olympic Movement.

IOA expressed its happiness at the positive turn of events.

"With the reinstatement of Olympic Solidarity programmes, India's athletes stand to be the greatest beneficiaries.

Quarter-miler Summy handed two-yr ban for doping offence



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Summy Kaliramam, a member of India's 2021 World U20 Championships

4x400m mixed relay bronze winning team, has been handed a two-year ban by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) of the NADA for her doping offence committed in 2024.

The 22-year-old Summy was handed provisional suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) last year after she tested positive for banned substance Clomifene. Her ban period has started from October 14 last year, according to the latest NADA update.

She had won a silver in the 2024 Federation Cup in Bhubaneswar, and has a personal best of 53.18 seconds.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir, Sept 3: India wasted chances galore to settle for a 2-2 draw against defending champions Korea in their first Super4 match of the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament here Wednesday. The Indians were by far the better side on display in

terms of possession and chances but the Koreans defended stoutly to earn a deserving draw. Both teams got a point each.

Hardik Singh (8th minute) and Mandeep Singh (53rd) scored for India, while Korea's goals were scored by Jihun Yang (12th) and Hyeonhong Kim (14th). India will next play Malaysia, while



Hamilton crashed out of Sunday's race after losing control of his car at Zandvoort's Turn 3 amid drops of rain, before teammate Charles Leclerc collided with Mercedes rival Kimi Antonelli through the same section and made it a double

DNF for the Scuderia. Ahead of Ferrari's second home event of the season, it has been confirmed that Hamilton will lose five positions from wherever he qualifies next time out - due to a transgression relating to double waved yellow flags during

Ferrari reveal Niki Lauda tribute livery

The car pays homage to the colourway of the Ferrari 312T that Niki Lauda took to the 1975 Drivers' Championship and which earned the team the Constructors' title in the same year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Ferrari have revealed the special livery that Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton's SF-25s will wear at this year's Italian Grand Prix to celebrate 50 years since Niki Lauda's championship-winning season. It also marks the first race at Monza for seven-time World Champion Hamilton since joining the Scuderia.

Featuring more prominent

white on the engine covers, alongside retro numbers and wheel covers, the car pays homage to the colourway of the Ferrari 312T that Niki Lauda took to the 1975 Drivers' Championship and which earned the team the Constructors' title in the same year.

Ferrari head to Monza off the back of a tough outing at the Dutch Grand Prix, with both Hamilton and Leclerc retiring after crashes - although the drivers had been buoyed by the improved pace of their car as the weekend progressed.

Hamilton has been given a five-place grid penalty for Ferrari's home race at Monza after he was found guilty of a yellow flag breach prior to the Dutch Grand Prix.