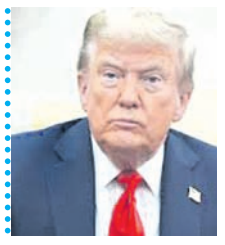
HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

Defining feminism

Actor Kritika Kamra talks about the true meaning of feminism, saying the movement has been misunderstood

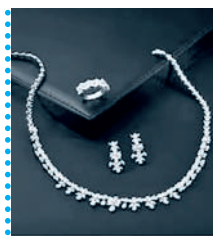
LEISURE | P2



Trump for tariff power

Trump admin urges Supreme Court to swiftly affirm presidential authority to impose broad tariffs on imported goods

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Hallmark for silver

Government introduces voluntary hallmarking for silver jewellery and articles effective from September 1

BUSINESS | P11

Bhambri's breakthrough

India's Yuki Bhambri progresses to his maiden Grand Slam semifinal by advancing to the last four of the US Open men's doubles event

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 156 | www.orissapost.com BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 12 PAGE | ₹5.00

Giorgio Armani dies

MILAN: Giorgio Armani, the Italian designer who turned the concept of understated elegance into a multibillion-dollar fashion empire, has died, his fashion house confirmed Thursday. He was 91. Armani died at home, the fashion house said. Starting with an unlined jacket, a simple pair of pants and an urban palette, Armani put Italian ready-to-wear style on the international fashion map in the late 1970s, creating an instantly recognisable relaxed silhouette that has propelled the fashion house for half a century.

Centre's fresh pact with Kuki-Zo groups

NEW DELHI: The Centre and Manipur have signed a fresh agreement with Kuki-Zo groups Thursday in which all sides agreed to maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur, open NH-2 for free movement, and relocation of militant camps. The tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement has re-negotiated ground rules. The three sides also agreed on the need for a negotiated solution to bring lasting peace and stability to Manipur, reduce the number of designated camps, relocate the weapons with nearest CRPF/BSF camps and stringent physical verification of militant cadres by security forces to de-list foreign nationals, if any.

Work order for 50K pucca houses Sept 17

Bhubaneswar: The state government will issue work orders for 50,000 Antyodaya houses September 17, marking the 75th birthday of PM Narendra Modi, Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik said Thursday.
He said housing assistance of ₹1.2 lakh will be provided for constructing a pucca house with a minimum carpet area of 25-sqft. Naik added that so far, over one lakh beneficiaries have been included under the scheme.
In addition, he announced that work orders for the PMAY houses will be issued in November.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

He's the most feared teacher in school—nobody knows if he even has a degree

LIFE AFTER DEVASTATION: People walk along a hillside, in the aftermath of an earthquake that left at least 2,200 people dead, in the Nurgal district of Kunar province, Afghanistan, Thursday AFP

IIT-Madras tops NIRF ranking for 7th year

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: The IIT-Madras retained the top spot in 'overall' category for the seventh consecutive year, while the IISc-Bengaluru was ranked as the best university for the 10th year in a row, according to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 released Thursday.

5 from Odisha feature in the 'overall' list of 100 institutions

IISc-Bengaluru has retained the second spot in the 'overall' category.

Among universities, the top spot has been bagged by IISc-Bengaluru. DU's Hindu College and Miranda House have retained their first and second positions in the 'college' category.

Among management colleges, the IIM-Ahmedabad has retained its top spot. Among medical colleges, AIIMS-New Delhi has bagged the top place. Among open universities, IGNOU is at the top.

Five institutions from Odisha feature in the 'overall' 100 list. Siksha `O' Anusandhan was at 25 (24 in 2024), KIIT at 27 (28 last year), NIT-Rourkela at 34 (also 34 in 2024), IIT-Bhubaneswar at 80 and AIIMS-Bhubaneswar at 100.

Illegal tree felling behind north India disasters: SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: Taking a serious note of the devastating landslides and floods that have hit Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, the Supreme Court Thursday observed that 'illegal felling of trees led to the disasters'. Emphasising the need to strike a balance between development and environment protection, a bench of CJI BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran issued notices to the Centre (through Environment and Jal Shakti ministries), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and administrations of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir seeking their responses on the issue.

"We have seen unprecedented landslides and floods in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. From the media reports it is noticed that in the flood a huge number of wood was flowing along. Prima facie

it appears that there has been illegal felling of trees. Thus issue notice to respondents," the CJI said.

Advocates Akash Vashishtha and Shubham Upadhyay appeared for petitioner Anamika Rana. The CJI, during the hearing, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was present in the court in connection with another case, to take note of the grim situation and ensure remedial steps.

"Please take note of this. It appears to be a serious issue. A large number of wooden logs are seen to be falling around… it shows illegal felling of trees. We have seen pictures of Punjab. Entire fields and crops are inundated…Development has to be balanced with mitigating measures," the CJI said.

"We have interfered with nature so much...that nature is giving back now. I will speak to the secretary of the Environment ministry today itself and he will speak to the chief secretaries," the law officer said.

Such situations cannot be permitted, Mehta added.

The petitioner's counsel said there are instances of people being trapped in tunnels and on the verge of 'near death situations'.

The CJI said he noticed the seriousness of the issue and posted the matter after two weeks.

The plea has sought framing of action plan and an SIT inquiry into the reasons of landslides and flash floods besides the measures to ensure that such disasters do not recur.

"Despite having dedicated disaster management authorities, the Central and state governments have no plan in place to prevent or mitigate the losses due to these disasters whose frequency has increased alarmingly of late," it said.

It said the ministries of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Jal Shakti have failed in their duty to protect the 'pristine ecology and the rivers of the Himalayan region from degradation'.

"The petition is being filed bona fide in the larger public interest to ensure and to uphold the constitutional right to life and access to justice of the residents of these Himalayan regions," it said.

Seeking appropriate directions, the plea sought constituting an independent expert committee to carry out geological, geo-technical or environmental/ecological investigation into all road/highway projects where landslides have occurred and assess the causes of floods and flash floods in the rivers, rivulets, streams, water courses, channels in the Himalayan regions, particularly Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea also sought a direction to the Centre and others to ensure emergency relief, rescue, safety and first-aid for affected citizens.

GST reforms to benefit kendu leaf pluckers: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Reduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on kendu leaves from 18 per cent to 5 per cent will immensely help the pluckers of Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Thursday, welcoming the GST reforms.

Briefing media in New Delhi, Majhi highlighted the positive impact of the reforms on various sectors in Odisha.

"Reduction of tax (GST) on kendu leaves from 18 per cent to 5 per cent will lead to an increase in sales through government procurement agencies. This move is expected to benefit those (pluckers) engaged in kendu leaf collection in Odisha, enabling them to receive higher prices from vendors in deregulated areas," he said.

Majhi said lowering GST on agricultural equipment will reduce farming costs, bringing relief to farmers. Cheaper farm tools, he said, will improve agricultural productivity while easing the financial burden on cultivators. This move is expected to benefit Odisha's agricultural sector, contributing to the overall economic development of the state.

The CM further highlighted

the benefits of the GST reforms for Odisha's coal sector. With rationalisation in GST, Odisha's coal industry is expected to gain more, strengthening the state's revenue base. This, in turn, will have a positive impact on the state's economy.

Majhi stressed that middle-class and lower middle-class families will gain significantly from the GST reforms. "With GST exemption on health insurance, more people are likely to opt for health insurance policies, improving healthcare security for households. This move is expected to provide financial relief to families and promote healthcare accessibility," he said.

The CM expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for introducing the historic Next-Generation GST reforms.

47% ministers in India face criminal charges: ADR report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Nearly 47 per cent of ministers in India have declared criminal cases against themselves, including serious charges such as murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women, according to an analysis of poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The report came days after the Centre introduced three Bills that sought the removal of PM, CMs, and ministers arrested or detained for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges involving punishment of five years or more.

ADR examined self-sworn affidavits of 643 ministers from 27 state Assemblies, three UTs and the Union Council of Ministers, and found that 302 ministers, or 47 per cent of the total, have criminal cases against them.

Of these 302 ministers, 174 face serious criminal cases, the report stated. According to the analysis, of 336 BJP ministers, 136 (40 per cent) declared criminal cases against themselves, and 88 (26 per cent) are facing serious charges.

The Congress, which is in power in four states, had 45 ministers (74 per cent) with criminal cases, including 18 (30 per cent) with serious offences.

In the states, 11 Assemblies -- Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Puducherry -- have more than 60 per cent of ministers with criminal cases.

Lion of Venice was actually made in China: Study

AGENCIES

Venice, Sept 4: The Lion of Venice has watched over the city's Piazza San Marco for centuries. An icon of political power, the bronze sculpture is even depicted on the Republic's flag. "But rather than being created in a Venetian foundry or European forge, it was actually made nearly 6,000 miles (9,650km) away in China," a new study revealed Thursday.

"The sculpture, which weighs approximately 3,000kg, was likely cast from copper obtained from the Lower Yangzi River basin in China," 'Daily Mail' reported, quoting the new study.

And instead of being inspired by Mesopotamian and Persian lion–headed griffins, it appears much more similar to tomb guardian sculptures (zhènmùshòu) from the Tang

Dynasty. "Venice is a city full of mysteries, but one has been solved," Dr Massimo Vidale, an archaeologist at the University of Padua and co-author of the new study, told 'Daily Mail'.

"The 'Lion' of St Mark is Chinese, and he walked the Silk Road," added Massimo.

There are no known written records pertaining to the origins of the famed sculpture, despite its importance to Venice's culture and history.

However, the new findings even indicate it may have been transported to Venice from Khanbaliq (modern Beijing) by Niccolò, father of famed Venetian explorer Marco Polo.

"We don't know when the sculpture arrived in Venice, where it was reworked, who did it, or when it was installed on the column where it is still visible today," Massimo said.

To work out where the 'super–symbol' came from, researchers performed lead isotope analysis on samples of the 'Lion' – in a bid to determine where the copper ore used in its production originated. In this case, the isotopes indicated that the copper ore used to cast the statue was mined in the Yangzi River basin in China. Visual examination of the 'Lion' suggests parts and posture were radically modified and that it used to have horns, meaning it more closely resembled a zhènmùshòu than a winged lion.

"This indicates the sculpture was originally a Tang Dynasty tomb guardian, later modified once it reached Europe to better fit the image of a winged lion desired by the Venetians," Massimo said.

Examples of medieval contact between China and Europe are rare, so these findings could indicate previously unknown trade connections.

Alternatively, it is possible that Niccolò and Maffeo Polo (Marco Polo's uncle) encountered the sculpture during their visit to the Mongol court in Khanbaliq in 1262 and sent it back along the Silk Road.

The earliest mention of a 'Lion' statue atop Venice's large columns was in 1293, in documents that stated the sculpture was already damaged and needed restoration.

The study was published in Antiquity, a peer-reviewed journal.

leisure

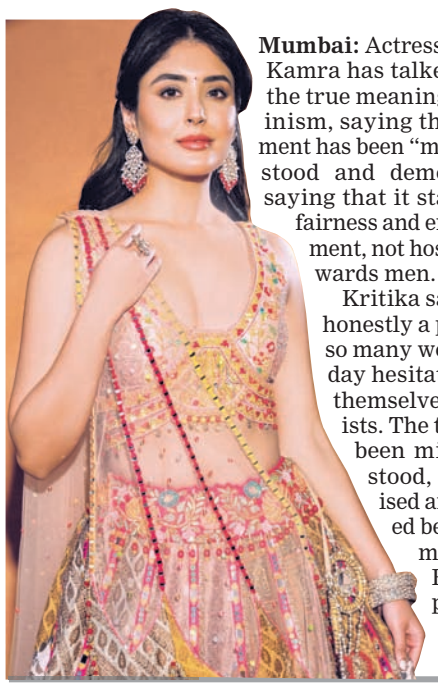
SABRINA CARPENTER'S DEFINITION OF BEAUTY

Pop star Sabrina Carpenter, 26, told *Interview* magazine that she doesn't fear losing her beauty with age. She emphasised that true beauty lies in how she personally feels about herself, not in outside validation, dismissing negative opinions as irrelevant

ZOE KRAVITZ, HARRY STYLES FUEL ROMANCE RUMOURS

Hollywood actress-director Zoe Kravitz and actor-singer Harry Styles have once again left the audience speculating if something is cooking between them. The two were spotted recently fueling the romance rumours. The *Blink Twice* director and the Grammy-winning artiste were seen holding hands while on a walk in Brooklyn

Kritika defines feminism



Mumbai: Actress Kritika Kamra has talked about the true meaning of feminism, saying the movement has been "misunderstood and demonised," saying that it stands for fairness and empowerment, not hostility towards men.

Kritika said, "It's honestly a pity that so many women today hesitate to call themselves feminists. The term has been misunderstood, demonised and twisted beyond its meaning. Being pro-women's rights does not mean hating men.

"Feminism is not about taking away anything from men, it's about demanding equal rights and opportunities for women, which should be a basic human expectation."

The actress asked women to reclaim feminism, stressing it stands for fairness not confrontation.

She added: "We've reached a stage where standing up for your own gender is almost seen as being confrontational. That needs to change. We must reclaim the word 'feminism' for what it truly stands for fairness, equity, and empowerment."

Kritika said she has always believed that the roles she takes on should mean something.

"The characters I play, the stories I choose, they should reflect a perspective I stand by. I want to be part of narratives that break stereotypes, challenge bias, and showcase women as multi-dimensional individuals. To me, that's not just art, it's responsibility," said Kritika.

IANS

31st GKCM Award Festival begins today

Bhubaneswar: The 5-day 31st Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2025, celebrating dance, music, and theatre will begin here at Rabindra Mandap from Friday. Organised by Srjan–Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, the event honours the vision of the late Padma Vibhushan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra to preserve and promote India's performing arts.

The inaugural evening will feature a duet Odissi recital by Sujata Mohapatra and Preetisha Mohapatra, followed by a group Manipuri dance by Bimbavati Devi and her troupe,Manipuri Nartanalaya. On the second day, Hindustani and Carnatic recitals will be presented by Kumar Mardur, and mandolin duo UP Raju and U Nagamani.

The third evening will bring Bharatanatyam by Samrat Dutta and Sanatanu Roy, followed by Odissi by Chinmayee Dwaraknath and the Temple of Fine Arts. Day four will have a theatre performance by Nalini Nihar Nayak and Newquest Repertory. The finale will feature Odissi by the Srjan Ensemble premieres Duryodhana an innovative choreograph by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra.

The prestigious award presentation will also take place, following four days of stellar performances. This year, the Shalimar's Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2025 will be conferred on Padma Shri Madhavi Mudgal, eminent Odissi dancer, and Alekh Chandra Samal, noted Odissi vocalist and educator. Both will receive a citation and Rs 1,00,000 each.

The Shalimar's GKCM Yuva Pratibha Samman 2025, carrying Rs 25,000 and a citation, will be conferred upon Shatabdi Mallik (Odissi dance) and Muralidhar Swain (Odissi music). A new category—the Shalimar's GKCM Kala Samman for artistes aged 40–55—instituted by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, honours Raghunath Das and Arnah Bandyopadhyay, each receiving Rs 50,000 and a citation.

Orissa POST and Dharitri are the print media partners for the event.

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Buzz around Sam's latest post

Mumbai: Amid growing rumours about her personal life, actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has become the subject of intense speculation following her recent social media activity. The actress shared a reel from her Dubai trip, captioned "What I see vs What you see," featuring candid moments. One particular clip stood out — Samantha holding hands with an unidentified man wearing a black jacket, jeans, and carrying a black bag. Though his face was not visible, the affectionate gesture immediately sparked talk of her alleged relationship with filmmaker Raj Nidimoru.

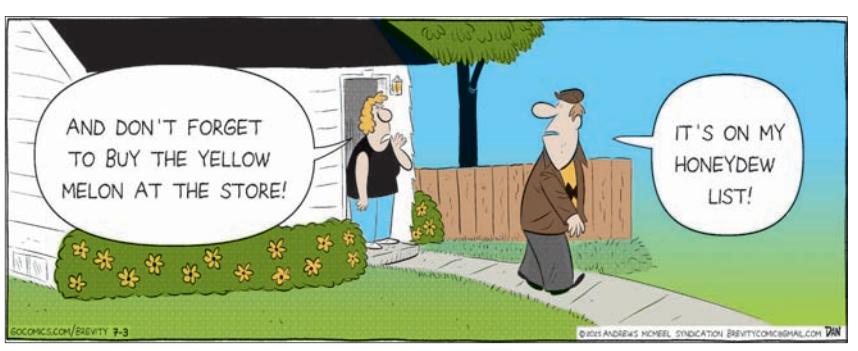
Adding fuel to the buzz, Raj's ex-wife Shhyamali De posted a series of cryptic Instagram stories. Samantha and Raj have previously collaborated on *The Family Man 2* (2021) and *Citadel: Honey Bunny* (2024), and are currently working together on Netflix's *Rakt Brahmand: The Bloody Kingdom*.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS

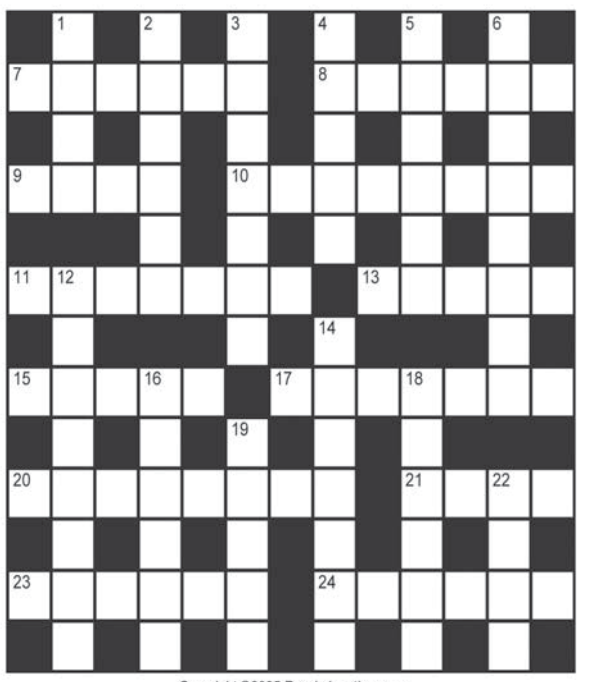
CALVIN AND HOBBES

BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across
7 Comic's forte
8 Connected
9 Care for
10 Collector's items
11 Scrapes by (5,2)
13 Press
15 Wahine's welcome
17 Adds together
20 Horrendous
21 Commotion (2-2)
23 Baffles
24 Removed

Down
1 Olympic sled
2 Cheese dish
3 Gofer's trips
4 Blind parts
5 Rarer than rare
6 Largest of the Canary Islands
12 Diseases
14 Garden houses
16 Sheiks' cliques
18 Most recent
19 Corpulent plus
22 Hard to fathom

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

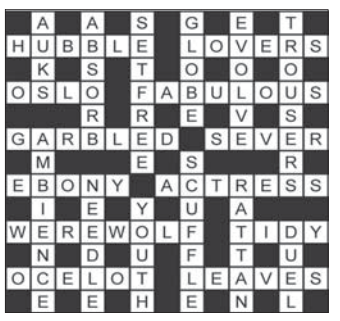
SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

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

DADLS-47

MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA ON THE OCCASION OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S JAYANTI

On the auspicious occasion of Prophet Muhammad's Jayanti, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to the sisters and brothers of the Muslim community of our State.

(Hari Babu Kambhampati)

ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହମ୍ମଦଙ୍କ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହମ୍ମଦଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିକାଶରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0993/2526

CM meets Union mins over devpt projects

CM Mohan Charan Majhi discusses climate, rail, and IT infrastructure with two Union ministers in New Delhi

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, during his visit to the national capital Thursday, held key meetings with Union ministers Bhupender Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnaw, focusing on a wide array of development issues concerning Odisha.

In his meeting with Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, Majhi discussed matters related to environmental conservation, forest management, climate resilience, and sustainable development. The discussion aimed to align Odisha's environmental goals with national efforts toward ecological preservation and climate action.

Later, the Chief Minister met Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw. The talks centered on expanding railway infrastructure in the state, boosting the semiconductor industry, and strengthening the state's growing IT sector.

Majhi also paid a courtesy visit to Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal and exchanged views on urban development priorities and housing initiatives.

The CM was in the national capital to participate in SEMICON India 2025 and the GST Council Meeting. During SEMICON, the state government signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) worth ₹2,655 crore with leading industry players, aiming to bolster investment and industrial growth in the state.

Additionally, the Chief Minister inaugurated Omfed Café and Koraput Coffee Café at Odisha Niwas, promoting local dairy and coffee products from Odisha in the national capital.

Speaking to the media after the GST Council Meeting, CM Majhi praised the Union government's recent GST reforms, describing them as "historic and people-centric." He commended the leadership of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, stating that the reforms support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "Developed India by 2047," and would significantly contribute to economic growth and ease of living.

Waive GST on kendu leaf, handloom products: BJD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: A day after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council approved an overhaul in the indirect tax regime, Opposition BJD Thursday demanded complete exemption of GST on kendu leaf and handloom products, and asked the Centre to compensate the estimated revenue loss of ₹1,000 crore per month on account of the change in the slabs.

Addressing a presser here, BJD senior vice presidents and former ministers Debi Prasad Mishra and Niranjan Pujari explained the adverse impact of the revised GST slabs on Odisha's economy. The party demanded that the Centre should compensate Odisha for an estimated revenue loss of around ₹1,000 crore per month due to the new GST structure.

They said though the GST on handloom products has been reduced to 5 per cent from 18 per cent, it should be completely exempted for the larger interest of the tribal and Dalit people engaged in the collection of the kendu leaf.

The BJD leaders said that they had been demanding complete GST exemption on kendu leaves and handloom products since 2018, and it has not been accepted. Former chief minister Naveen Patnaik had written letters to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, requesting the same. However, that has not been accepted, they said.

Under the revised GST slab, the tax on kendu leaves has been reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent, but BJD argues that this reduction does not benefit the kendu leaf collectors in any significant way. These tribal and poor workers involved in kendu leaf collection receive no added benefits from this tax change.

Pujari, a former finance minister, said that just like kendu leaves, in the handloom sector, the BJD has consistently demanded GST exemption, keeping in mind the interests of weavers, especially in the handloom sector.

"While power looms are dominated by industrialists, handloom products are crafted by poor weavers who create various cotton and silk sarees. These artisans belong to the economically weaker sections, and to encourage and support them, a GST exemption has been a longstanding demand," he said.

The regional party stressed that the current 5 per cent levy on kendu leaf continues to burden some of the state's most vulnerable communities.

Musician Abhijit Majumdar critical

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Renowned Odia music director Abhijit Majumdar, 54, is critically ill and on ventilator support at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, hospital authorities said Thursday.

According to hospital sources, Majumdar, who has multiple comorbid conditions including hypertension, hypothyroidism, and chronic liver disease, was admitted to AIIMS emergency ward at 10 am in a comatose state.

He was later shifted to the ICU at noon for advanced medical care. "Currently, he is critically ill in a comatose condition having pneumonia. His vitals (BP and Pulse) are stable," said Srikant Behera, assistant professor, General Medicine, AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

BJD president and former chief minister Naveen Patnaik in a post on X said, "I have learned that the distinguished music director and singer from Odisha, Abhijit Majumdar, is undergoing treatment at AIIMS due to illness. I pray to Lord Jagannath for his good health and speedy recovery."

Majumdar fell ill while performing at a music programme during Ganesh Puja celebrations August 27. He was admitted to the ICU of a hospital in Cuttack August 31 after tests showed a significant fall in the sodium levels, said Orissa Cine Artistes' Association general secretary Sritam Das.

Majumdar has composed more than 700 songs for music albums. His popular numbers include music for 'Love Story', 'Sister Sridevi', 'Golmaal Love', 'Sundargarh Ra Salman Khan' and 'Sriman Surdas'.

Snehangini Chhuria appointed BMJD chief

Bhubaneswar: The BJD Thursday appointed former MLA Snehangini Chhuria as president of Biju Mahila Janata Dal (BMJD). The party also appointed three district presidents, 15 female leaders as senior general secretaries and general secretaries for women affairs. A notification released by the party and approved by BJD president Naveen Patnaik said Chhuria will take charge as the president of BMJD with immediate effect. Lekhasri Samantsinghar, Sumitra Jena and Rajashree Mallick have been appointed as senior general secretaries for women affairs. MP Sulata Deo, Barsha Singh Bariha, Depali Das and others have been appointed as general secretaries for women affairs of the party. BJD has also announced district presidents and working presidents for three districts. Nrusingha Charan Sahu has been appointed as president and Sandip Sarangi as working president for Dhenkanal district. Similarly, for Koraput district Jhina Hikaka has been appointed president, Durga Mishra working president; and for Rayagada, Jagannath Sarka has been appointed president, while Gayadhar Pualo and Ranjit Kumar Panigrahi have been appointed working presidents.

DSPL-248

ପବିତ୍ର ଗୁରୁଦିବସ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା।

ଶିକ୍ଷା ହିଁ ପ୍ରଗତି । ଯେଉଁ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଯେତେ ଶିକ୍ଷିତ ସେହି ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ସେତେ ବିକଶିତ। ରାଜ୍ୟ ତଥା ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରର ବିକାଶ ଓ ପ୍ରଗତି ନିମନ୍ତେ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅବଦାନ ରହିଛି। ଏହି ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ସମ୍ପାଦନ କରିବାରେ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ମାନଙ୍କର ଗୁରୁଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ରହିଛି ।

ବିଦ୍ୟାର୍ଥୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବା ସହିତ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ପରିବେଶ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିପାରିଲେ, ତାହା ହିଁ ହେବ ଜଣେ ଶିକ୍ଷକଙ୍କର ପ୍ରକୃତ ସାର୍ଥକତା। ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ଅନ୍ତର୍ନିହିତ ପ୍ରତିଭାର ବିକାଶର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଶିକ୍ଷକମାନଙ୍କର। ସେଥିପାଇଁ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ 'ଗୁରୁ' ଭାବରେ ସମ୍ମାନିତ କରାଯାଏ। ଏହି ଦାୟିତ୍ୱକୁ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବରେ ସମ୍ପାଦନ କରି ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ଉଜ୍ଜ୍ୱଳ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଗଠନ ପାଇଁ ଶିକ୍ଷକମାନେ ଉଦ୍ୟମ ଅବ୍ୟାହତ ରଖିବେ ବୋଲି ମୋର ଆଶା ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ।

ଏହି ପବିତ୍ର ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଶିକ୍ଷକମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଇବା ସହିତ ଗୁରୁଦିବସ ପାଳନର ସଫଳତା କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଶିକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ଯେକୌଣସି ଦେଶର ସଭ୍ୟତାର ମାନଦଣ୍ଡ । ଶିଶୁର ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ହିଁ ଶିକ୍ଷା । ଶିକ୍ଷକତା ହେଉଛି ଏକମାତ୍ର ବୃତ୍ତି ଯେ ସମସ୍ତ ବୃତ୍ତିକୁ ଶିକ୍ଷାଦାନ ଦେଇଥାଏ । ଭାରତର ପୂର୍ବତନ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି, ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଦାର୍ଶନିକ, ଆଦର୍ଶ ଅଧ୍ୟାପକ, ମହାନ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରନୀତିଜ୍ଞ ଡ. ସର୍ବପଲ୍ଲୀ ରାଧାକ୍ରିଷ୍ଣନଙ୍କ ଜନ୍ମଦିନକୁ ସାରା ଭାରତ ବର୍ଷରେ ଗୁରୁଦିବସ ଭାବରେ ପାଳନ କରିବା ସମଗ୍ର ଶିକ୍ଷକ ସମାଜ ପ୍ରତି ଯଥୋଚିତ ସମ୍ମାନ।

ମୁଁ ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ସମାଜକୁ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଇବା ସହିତ ଗୁରୁଦିବସ ପାଳନର ଶୁଭକାମନା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ନିତ୍ୟାନନ୍ଦ ଗଣ୍ଡ)
ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଗଣଶିକ୍ଷା, ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତି ଓ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି ଉନ୍ନୟନ, ସଂଖ୍ୟାଲଘୁ ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟ ଓ ପଛୁଆବର୍ଗ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-27068/13/0057/2526

Work order for 50K pucca houses on PM's birthday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The state government Thursday said it will issue work orders for 50,000 Antyodaya houses September 17, to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday.

This was announced by Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, who said the scheme was aimed at providing pucca houses to economically weaker sections or people currently living in kutcha houses.

The minister said housing assistance of ₹1.2 lakh will be provided for constructing a pucca house with a minimum carpet area of 25 square feet.

Naik added that so far over one lakh beneficiaries have been included under the scheme.

In addition, he announced that work orders for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) houses will be issued in November.

- Housing aid of ₹1.2 lakh to be given for constructing a pucca house with minimum 25 sq ft carpet area
- Over one lakh beneficiaries have been included under the scheme so far
- Work orders for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) houses will be issued in November

In a recent survey for the new PM Awas scheme, around 35 lakh beneficiaries have applied, the minister said, adding that the government plans to complete all procedural formalities by November and begin issuing work orders thereafter.

Earlier, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had announced that the state government would plant 75 lakh saplings on Modi's birthday.

Majhi said the plantation will be carried out under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

"In recognition to PM's commitment to Odisha's development and his goodwill towards the people, 75 lakh trees will be planted across the state in a single day September 17. This will be people's gift to the PM," Majhi had said.

This apart, the ruling BJP has also planned a series of programmes to celebrate the PM's 75th birthday.

The party will observe 'Seva Pakshya' (service fortnight) from September 17 to Gandhi Jayanti October 2.

Awareness prog held on sexual harassment

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: In line with its commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace, the Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway organised an awareness and sensitisation programme on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 at Cuttack Railway Station.

The programme also included a special session on grievance redressal related to Unique Medical Identity Card (UMID) and Human Resource Management System (HRMS).

The session was graced by senior divisional mechanical engineer (Environment and Housekeeping Management) and Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) chairman Swadhinta Das and assistant personnel officer, executive member of ICC and She-BOX nodal officer, Khurda Road Division Tapaswini Mahanandia.

Both the dignitaries highlighted the significance of building a workplace free from harassment and elaborated on the provisions of the POSH Act, 2013, covering the formation and role of ICCs.

The programme also addressed employees' queries regarding UMID cards and HRMS facilities, ensuring greater awareness about employee-centric grievance redressal mechanisms.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from frontline staff and employees, reaffirming the division's collective commitment to safeguarding dignity, gender sensitivity, and workplace equality.

Guv moots PPP heliports in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Thursday suggested setting up heliports at two to three locations in the state under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode to test the viability of the concept.

The Governor made this proposal while chairing a review meeting on the status of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Railways, and Aviation projects in Odisha, held at the New Abhishek Hall of Raj Bhavan.

Appreciating the idea of heliports, Kambhampati said, "There are places which take six to eight hours by road. If heliports are introduced, they will not only cut down travel time but also generate wider interest among the general public."

During the review, the Governor emphasised the expansion of runways at state-owned airstrips to facilitate larger aircraft operations. He also sought details on the Cadet Pilot Programme for tribal girls and the number of international flights operating from Biju Patnaik International Airport.

Highlighting Odisha's tourism potential, Kambhampati suggested developing cruise terminals at existing ports instead of creating greenfield projects, stating that such an approach would save time and attract cruise ships. He further stressed the need to include fishing jetties in ports to protect the livelihoods of fishermen.

When apprised of the Driving Training Institute at Chhatia, the Governor proposed introducing driving training courses in Government Polytechnics and ITIs to enhance students' employability and enable them to explore overseas job opportunities.

Reviewing railway projects, he enquired about their progress, including the redevelopment of Bhubaneswar railway station, and advised Railways to consult with the state government before finalising alignments.

On NHAI projects, Kambhampati said the benefits of highway investments must be visible to the people. He also enquired about passenger amenities along the highways and provisions for electric vehicle charging stations.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress of NHAI, Railways, and Aviation projects, the Governor called for better coordination among departments to ensure timely resolution of issues and speedy implementation.

SIMSS hosts induction programme FRESCO-2025

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept4: Swosti Institute of Management and Social Studies (SIMSS) hosted its induction programme FRESCO-2025 at Swosti Premium Hotel here Thursday.

The event was graced by Utkal University of Culture (UUC) Vice Chancellor Prasan Kumar Swainas chief guest. Other dignitaries including SIMSS president andSwosti Group CMD JK Mohanty, Taj Resort and Spa, Puri GM Ankit Tandon, Swosti Group director

Chiranjiv Mohanty, Swosti Premium area vice presidentSubho Biswas, UUC board of governing member Sunil Kumar Patnaik, SIMSS principal In-charge Chinmay Ranjan Mohanty, along with parents and students joined the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Tandon said, "It is a pleasure to be part of such a wonderful programme where parents are showing faith in the tourism industry and institutions like SIMSS. From a humble beginning in 2012 to today's platform, the institute is shaping future professionals, which will boost Odisha's tourism and hospitality sector." Highlighting the bright prospects of the industry, Mohanty noted, "Students of SIMSS are placed in leading hotel chains like Tajgroup, Radisson and other international chains in the USA, Dubai and beyond. The future of the hotel industry is very promising, and we assure 100 percent placement for our students."

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today is just another busy day. You may remain hassled sorting out problems at office and then at home. Your bosses may allow you certain concessions and this will ease things to some extent. Ganesha says you will gain valuable guidance from elderly people.

TAURUS

Today might be a day of untying and getting out of the tangles, says Ganesha. You may take the blame for the actions of another. Things may get frustrating around the afternoon and your confidence levels may stoop. Work on your strength and work out your weaknesses, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI

You will be in a spot of bother owing to financial problems today. You will try to reduce your expenses and increase your savings, but circumstances will be such that you will have to spend your money. You will spend your day in all this financial jugglery, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Chances are that your inquisitive nature will put in a difficulty. Others will be angry with you for keeping a secret a vital information. Ganesha counsels you to strengthen ties with friends and give up present attitude.

LEO

Decisions taken in haste will prove to be harmful. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of every decision that you take today, considering all the possible alternative thoroughly. You need to be extremely industrious on the work-front as well. You will feel very energetic and raring to go. However, you will run out of energy at the end of the day, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You will find your banal day-to-day routine work to be very irritating today, says Ganesha. Avoid the tendency to exaggerate things out of proportion. You will not, however, let anything impact on your enthusiasm to work. You will do something novel to win the appreciation of people.

LIBRA

Ganesha says your uniqueness will be the focus of attention and praise today. Your undertaking of various tough tasks and completing them today will showcase your business acumen. You will show your inclination to the finer arts like music and dance. Those of you who may have thoughts about doing varied things maybe able to put those thoughts into actions today. Ganesha wishes you success in all your endeavors

SCORPIO

Your energy levels are on an all time high today, as you plan to begin a new business venture. You are determined to give in your best and toil hard till you succeed in your plans. Well, and the day turns out to be fruitful and worthy when you garner compliments and positive feedback about your work from your peers, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Dark and gloomy, that's what how you feel today, foresees Ganesha. However, the cloud to worries is likely to burst during the latter half of the day. Good news from abroad or a phone call from a friend is likely to cheer you up.

CAPRICORN

You have become workaholic and others may have complains against you for being so busy. But, you should not take to heart as you are finishing off assignments which have been hanging in there for a long time now. Once done with the work, you'll have ample of time for your lover. You'll make up for not taking time out for him/her during the first half of the day, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You are good with words and with the art of eloquence you manage to get through any situation. Today, thanks to your communication skills, you will be able to crack important deals and make people follow your vision. You, however, need to respects opinions of others' as well, advises Ganesha.

PISCES

You will find yourself ecstatic now that certain important projects you have been slaving over are nearing completion. You will implement new strategies and will hope that everything goes according to plan. You will experience intimate moments with your partner. On the whole, it will be a peaceful and productive day, says Ganesha.

MCL shines at Coal Ministry star ratings

Bhubaneswar: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), one of the eight subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, achieved a feat at the Ministry of Coal's Star Rating Awards, with nine of its coal mines being conferred the prestigious 5-star rating for the year 2023–24, the MCL officials said Thursday. The star ratings are awarded by the Centre on a scale from 1 to 5, evaluating each mine's achievements holistically. Star ratings are an indicator of mine development on various fronts including operational excellence, safety standards, environmental sustainability, adoption of modern technologies, and economic performance. This includes two underground mines (Hirakhand-Bundia and Orient Colliery Mine No 1 and 2), and six Opencast Mines (Kulda, Ananta, Samleshwari, Bhubaneswari, Lajkura, Belpahar and Gopalji-Kaniha expansion project). The awards were presented by Coal and Mines Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, along with Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey and Ministry of Coal secretary Vikram Dev Dutt at a ceremony held in Mumbai. MCL chairman-cum-managing director Uday Anant Kaole and director (Finance) AK Behura, along with area general managers of the respective mines received the awards. This recognition is MCL's testament to sustainable and responsible mining, innovation and commitment to ensuring energy security to the nation, the official concluded.

TEACHERS' DAY TODAY

AI lacks human touch, say Odisha educators

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: As the world marks Teachers' Day (Sept 5), India observes it in honour of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan—philosopher, statesman, and the nation's second President. Classrooms have evolved over the decades—from chalk and duster to smart boards, from registers to biometric attendance. Yet, in today's technology-driven era, one question persists: Can Artificial Intelligence (AI) ever replace teachers?

Education leaders in Odisha believe the answer is no.

"AI might bring changes to the academic sector, but it can never replace teachers. In physical teaching, the emotional quotient plays a key role in helping students understand concepts—something AI lacks compared to its intelligence quotient," said **Narsingh Majhi**, PRO andAssistant Professor Journalism and Mass Communication, Rama Devi Women's University.

Majhi further highlighted the evolution of pedagogy. "Teaching through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is more effective. Without it, gaining deep subject knowledge is difficult. Chalk and duster are outdated; smart boards have become essential. But the myth that technology will replace teachers is unfounded," he noted.

Fr A Amaladoss, SJ, Principal of Loyola School, Bhubaneswar, echoed similar views, stating, "AI is unlikely to replace teachers entirely. While it can aid personalised learning and automated grading, it lacks the human touch and emotional intelligence. Teachers shape students' character, values, and social skills—things AI cannot replicate."

He added that while earlier classrooms relied heavily on rote learning and textbooks, today's digital tools have made learning more interactive and accessible.

Sanghamitra Bhanja, HOD and Asst. Professor of Odia at Rama Devi Women's University, stressed that globalization is genuine, but education must remain rooted in culture. "Our system should be based on our ancient culture and heritage. Teachers should have the option to choose their way of teaching," she observed.

Sachin Mohapatra, state president of the Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Mahasangh Odisha, farmer leader and teacher, said, "In the remote Chandaka Forest region, children have little access to education or proper guidance. Many spend their days herding cattle instead of attending school. I realised that without direction, they might drift into crime, so I began teaching them." "Today, nearly 350 students from different villages are under my guidance. Some have secured admission in schools, colleges, rehabilitation centres, and even institutions like KISS. I believe it is education and guidance—not money or clothes—that truly transform lives. To spark curiosity in science, I even introduced a drone-testing setup in the village," Mohapatra said. "AI is an exciting subject, but for children without access to basic education, the first need is proper teachers and mentors. Technology can assist, but it can never replace a teacher," Mohapatra added.

CPI launches centenary, three-day meet in City

Bhubaneswar: The Communist Party of India (CPI) Thursday launched its centenary year celebrations and opened its 24th three-day State Conference here at Lower PMG with a massive rally and open session attended by thousands of supporters, including workers, farmers, students, and women from across the state. Several leaders, including CPI national secretary Pallab Sengupta and state council members Khirod Singhdeo, Prakash Patra, and Jayanta Das, were present at the gathering. The session was presided over by CPI leader and trade unionist Bijay Jena. Addressing the gathering, CPI National General Secretary D Raja called for unity among Left and secular democratic forces against the ruling BJP at both the Centre and in the state. He alleged that under the present government, the Constitution, democracy, and rule of law have been severely undermined, with voting rights curtailed and electoral malpractices rampant. He further drew attention to the ongoing unrest in Manipur, communal violence in Assam and Chhattisgarh, and the worsening plight of farmers, workers, tribals, Dalits, minorities, women, and other marginalised groups. CPI leader Amarjit Kaur, national secretary of the party and general secretary of AITUC, in her address cited examples of how workers, farmers, women, youth, students, and backward communities are facing distress under the BJP-RSS rule.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By affidavit No.- CF No.- 15/ 30.08.2025, I, Smt. Sasmita Pattnaik, W/o- Sri Basanta Kumar Mahapatra, 44/5, MIG-2, Phase-1, HB Colony, CSpur, BBSR declare that after necessary correction in the Birth Certificate of my daughter Shreya Mahapatra my name appears as Sasmita Pattnaik instead of Sasmita Mahapatra, this is for all future purposes.

I, Sumitra Pradhan, W/o. Arya Kumar Somaditya, resident of At: Plot No. 4C/1509, Sector - 9, P.O.: Avinab Bidanasi, P.S.: Markat Nagar, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN - 753014 Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 18096 Dtd.21.08.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Sumitra Arya for future purposes.

OSCTECC to protest today on key demands

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Odisha School and College Teachers' and Employees' Coordination Committee (OSCTECC) will stage a massive rally in the Capital September 5 (Teachers' Day) demanding pension and retirement benefits for retired staff, raising the retirement age from 60 to 62, regularisation of contractual teachers, along with two other key demands.

During a press conference here, outfit convenor Ranjan Kumar Das said the protest will highlight five key issues—immediate release of grant-in-aid to eligible institutions, pension and retirement benefits for retired teachers and staff, enhancement of retirement age from 60 to 62, and regularisation of contractual teachers. He alleged that despite repeated assurances, the government has failed to act.

On August 16, the teachers had submitted a five-point memorandum to the government, but no action followed. Between 2004 and 2025, over 5,000 teachers and staff retired without receiving proper benefits. The committee also recalled that in 1994, during the tenure of late Biju Patnaik, 3,012 schools were taken over by the government.

They urged the present government to follow that precedent and announce the takeover of all aided schools and colleges, saying it would permanently resolve teachers' grievances.

On September 5, a massive rally will be taken out from Congress Bhawan to Lower PMG, followed by an indefinite dharna near the Assembly. Eminent personalities, intellectuals, and legislators are expected to join. The committee has warned it will intensify the agitation if the government fails to address their demands.

SOA ranked 15th in NIRF rankings

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), a deemed-to-be university, has retained its pre-eminent position in academics and research, securing the 15th rank in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, announced by the Ministry of Education Thursday.

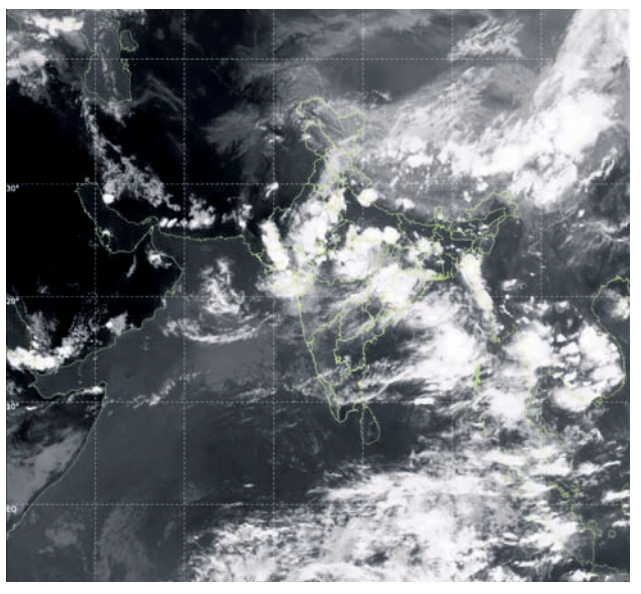
SOA has continuously found place within the top 25 institutions of higher learning in the country. The deemed to be university also improved its rank in medical sciences moving up six places from 21st last year to 15th this time, while in dental sciences, it held on to its 9th rank, obtained last year. In engineering, SOA has jumped four places this time to be ranked 22nd in the country. In law, it has been placed 10th this time.

In research, SOA has been placed 49th improving its rank by one place since last year.

SOA's founder president Manojranjan Nayak expressed his happiness over the ranks obtained by the university, congratulated the faculty, researchers and other employees while exhorting them to continue their relentless effort to help SOA scale new heights.

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY INDEX	VARIATION	BOURSES INDEX	VARIATION	COMMODITIES INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR 88.20	▲ 0.06	SENSEX 80718.01	▲ 150.30	GOLD ₹106,680	▼ ₹515
EURO 102.89	▲ 0.06	NIFTY 24734.30	▲ 19.25	SILVER ₹122,800	▼ ₹668



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.5°	30.8°
Min Temp	24.5°	23.2°
Humidity	89%	94%
Rainfall	12.4mm	8.8mm

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershower

3 'witchcraft' killings in a month rock Lanjigarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Sept 4: Back-to-back murders over superstitions like witchcraft and sorcery have rocked Lanjigarh block in Kalahandi district.

In the latest incident, five persons were arrested on charge of murdering a villager on suspicion of witchcraft and sorcery at Merangpada village under Biswanathpur police limits here Thursday.

This is the third such murder within a month in the area. Police said earlier cases in Kandama village under Lanjigarh panchayat and Manastara village under Bedagaon panchayat had been cracked.

The deceased in the latest case was identified as Sandu Majhi, 40, and the accused as Ghuruna Majhi, 53, Pusta alias Kusta Majhi, 35, Sandru Majhi, 38, Lachhman Majhi, 39 and Raju Majhi, 32, all from Merangpada village. They were produced in the court and were remanded to judicial custody after their bail plea was rejected.

This was stated by Additional Superintendent of Police Shubhranshu Sekhar Mishra at a press conference held on Biswanathpur police station premises here, Thursday. Mishra was joined by Kesinga SDPO Sambit Kumar Majhi and Biswanathpur IIC Tulasiram Sabar.

According to police, the victim, Sandu Majhi left home August 30 for nearby Khajuriguda village to repair his bicycle but did not return home. His wife,

5 PERSONS ARRESTED FOR KILLING CO-VILLAGER

Raza Majhi, lodged a written complaint, alleging her husband had been murdered over witchcraft suspicion September 3.

Following the complaint, a special investigation team was formed under the leadership of SDPO Majhi, IIC Sabar and ASI Buddhishyam Majhi. The team, along with a sniffer dog squad and forensic experts, began inquiries in the village.

Five suspects were detained for questioning, and based on their disclosure; police recovered the body, which had been buried in a nearby forest.

The exhumation was carried out in the presence of executive magistrate Sandeep Tirkey and an additional tehsildar. Police also seized a sharp-edged weapon allegedly used in the crime. The body was handed over to the family members after a post-mortem. During interrogation, the accused confessed to killing Sandu over suspicion of witchcraft practice. They were arrested, produced in court, and later sent to jail. Biswanathpur police registered a case no (58/25) under Sections 103(1), 238, 61(1), and 3(5) of the BNS.

Authorities admitted that repeated witchcraft-related murders have become a major concern for the law enforcement agencies.

To curb superstition-driven violence, Kalahandi police plan to launch awareness programmes in collaboration with elected political representatives, NGOs, community leaders, intellectuals and local residents, SDPO Majhi said.

Elephant dies after being hit by train in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh/Rajgangpur, Sept 4: A wild elephant was killed after being hit by a train in Sundargarh district in the wee hours of Thursday, Forest officials said.

The accident took place between Sonakhan and Sagara railway stations on Mumbai-Howrah rail route under Rajgangpur forest range of Rourkela forest division, they said.

"The animal, estimated to be 40 to 45 years old, was a tuskless bull (makhna) elephant," said Rajgangpur forest range officer Gurucharan Mandal. The carcass was buried in the spot after conducting a post-mortem Thursday evening.

The incident occurred around 5:15am when the Garib Rath Express from Bhubaneswar hit the elephant as it was crossing the tracks, according to forest officials.

On being informed, Rourkela divisional forest officer P Ram Swami, Rourkela Divisional Forest Officer Jashobant Sethi, Rajgangpur Forest Ranger Gurucharan Mandal and a veterinary team rushed to the spot. The elephant was lifted by crane and taken to Sagara for treatment, but it succumbed to its injuries later in the afternoon.

8 impersonators held for defrauding people

Dhenkanal: Odisha Police has busted an interstate syndicate and arrested eight people for allegedly impersonating road safety department officials and cheating commuters by illegally collecting money and selling vehicle accessories under the guise of enforcement. Dhenkanal SP Abhinav Sonkar said the arrests were made Wednesday following credible intelligence received by Motanga police. A team led by Sub-Inspector Shekhar Chandra Mohanty intercepted the accused near BRG Square, where they were found stopping vehicles and coercing drivers into buying first aid kits, fire extinguishers, reflector reels, and other accessories. They were dressed in uniforms resembling road safety staff to mislead the public, the SP said, adding that the accused hailed from Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Bihar. "Preliminary interrogation revealed that the group was operating under the direction of one Md. Hussain of Bihar, who is believed to be the mastermind of the syndicate," the SP said, adding that the accused admitted that they were paid ₹700 each per day for conducting such fraudulent activities, while the collected money was handed over to their leader.

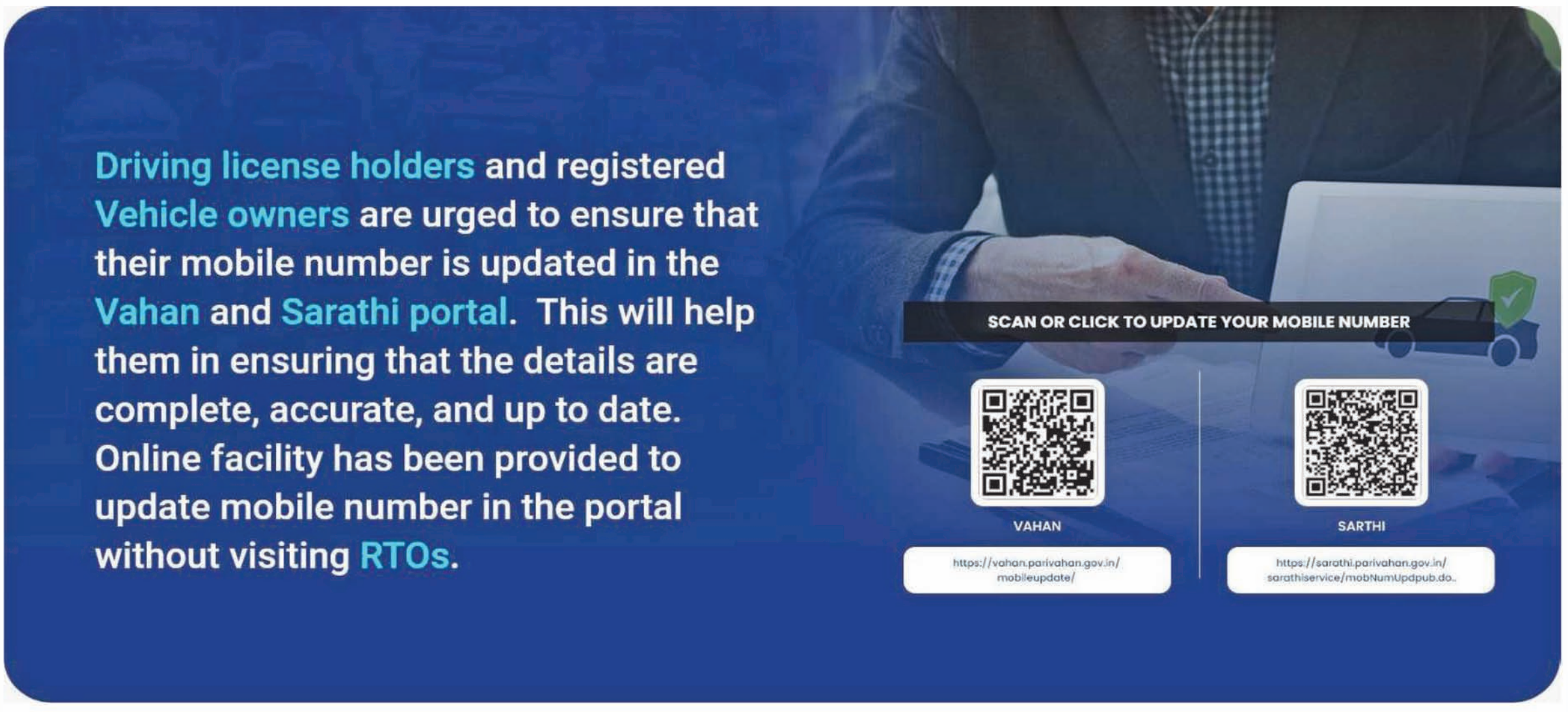
NIT Rourkela climbs to 13th spot in NIRF 2025 engineering rankings

Rourkela: The National Institute of Technology Rourkela (NIT Rourkela) has advanced to the 13th position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 Engineering category, up from 19th in 2024. The institute also earned high placements in other categories: seventh in Architecture and Planning, ninth in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) category, 30th in Research, and 34th in the Overall category. "We are immensely proud and deeply honored that NIT Rourkela has climbed to the 13th position in the NIRF 2025 Engineering Rankings, up from 19th last year — an extraordinary leap achieved through the collective dedication of our faculty, researchers, staff and students," said Director Professor K Umamaheshwar Rao.

Security drill 'Sagar Kavach-2' conducted along Odisha coast

Paradip: A two-day security exercise, titled 'Sagar Kavach-2', was conducted along the Odisha coast September 3 and 4, officials said Thursday. In all, 18 Central and state government agencies, including the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Marine Police, Forest and Fisheries departments, Paradip Port Authority, Odisha Police, Customs, and Immigration, took part in the drill to test and enhance the state's coastal defence preparedness, officials said. While the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police and Fisheries department patrolled the deep sea within 100 nautical miles from the shore, the CISF, Paradip Port, Immigration, Odisha Police, Intelligence and Fire Services were involved on in land operations, they added. Fishermen were also trained on how to inform officials if they see a foreign national or any suspicious person in deep sea. The exercise is designed to enhance surveillance, detection, and neutralisation capabilities against potential maritime threats.

Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways



Concerned may view the details on Parivahan Website- https://parivahan.gov.in/

For more clarifications, please email - id helpdesk-vahan[at]gov[dot]in and helpdesk-sarathi[at]gov[dot]in

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Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.

THE MOTHER

Complex Ties

Much has changed since Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin last stood together atop Tiananmen Square in 2015. When they did so again this week, it was supposedly as equal partners. But, of course, the reality is far more complex.

The conventional wisdom is that China has cemented its position as the dominant partner, especially since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. After all, it is now Russia's biggest trading partner, accounting for more than half of Russian imports in 2023, whereas Russia doesn't even make China's top five. While Russia relies on China to buy roughly half of its crude oil exports, these purchases account for only 17.5 per cent of China's total oil imports. Simply put, Russia needs China to keep its own economy going.

Yet for all this dependence, China is not dictating outcomes, and the Kremlin is not acting like a junior partner. Consider the war in Ukraine. While it has some significant upsides for China – not least by diverting US resources from the Pacific theater – there is no doubt that Putin is calling the shots on the timing, scope, and endgame.

On paper, China may have the leverage to influence Russia's policy. But it's hard to imagine a scenario in which Ukraine could compel China to use it. Doing so would not only jeopardize China's relations with a key partner, but also contravene its own core foreign-policy principle of "non-interference." Putin knows that better than anyone.

Ruby Osman & Dan Sleat

Although China has consistently pitched itself as a "peacemaker," that role has been filled by other countries, including Turkey and Saudi Arabia; and now, US President Donald Trump and Putin have proved capable of engaging each other without a broker.

The limits of Chinese influence are even more striking around its own borders, where Russia's deepening partnership with North Korea is raising alarms. China may welcome Russian meddling in Europe, but potentially destabilising the Korean Peninsula is quite another matter.

If China is unwilling to influence outcomes in Ukraine and unable to deter potential instability in its own neighbourhood, that suggests there is more to Sino-Russian relations than a simple junior-senior partnership. Though the economic relationship may have changed, the politics have yet to catch up.

Ten years after Xi and Putin's previous Tiananmen meet-up, the images depicting unity cannot hide their countries' historical mistrust and diverging long-term interests

Historically, China was long its northern neighbour's junior partner – and sometimes its victim. Czarist Russia was among the imperial powers that carved up Chinese territory in the nineteenth century, seizing roughly 1.5 million square kilometers (579,000 square miles) in China's northeast – an area roughly one-sixth of China's current territory. And later, in 1969, disputes over the same border sparked a seven-month conflict with the Soviet Union.

Thus, the view in Beijing is that the last 30-odd years of strong relations are an exception, not the norm. Chinese leaders remain reluctant to redefine the relationship, especially when the current posture brings valuable benefits such as cheap energy. Given this potent combination of economic gain and political anxiety, they are unlikely to put meaningful pressure on the Kremlin.

Russia, for its part, is struggling to accept the idea of Chinese dominance. It is still holding out in negotiations over the Power of Siberia 2 pipeline, refusing China's demands that it sell gas at its heavily subsidised domestic price level. Russia has also imposed significant "recycling fees" – which function similarly to tariffs – to counter the sevenfold surge in imported Chinese autos that followed Western carmakers leaving the country.

Meanwhile, the Russian right has been increasingly vocal in urging the Kremlin to resist dependence on China. Noting that Russia's sparsely populated Far East sits uneasily beside China's vast population, nationalist commentators warn that the Chinese have not forgotten their "lost territories," and surely covet Russia's endowments of cheap energy and raw materials. Their arguments draw on history and identity, not just economics, to bolster a politics that rejects the role of supplicant.

Russia also appears to be keeping China at arm's length in the Arctic, where China aspires to assert itself as a "near-arctic state." And in North Korea, the more that Russia provides fuel, food, and technical assistance, the less leverage that China will have over Kim Jong-un.

Still, there are some areas where China is growing bolder. It is increasingly stepping into Russia's traditional sphere of influence in Central Asia, pledging more than $25 billion in investment in the region just in the first half of this year. Xi also recently attended the second China-Central Asia Summit in Astana – a clear signal of Chinese priorities, given that he had been limiting his international engagements.

These realities, not hand-on-heart declarations of "no-limits" partnership, offer the best gauge of bilateral ties. Sino-Russian relations are by no means on the verge of collapse, but their evolution will reflect political, historical, and geographical constraints, not trade volumes.

China still harbours a deep-seated fear of instability along its borders, informed in part by Russia's own history of territorial aggression. That is why neighbouring North Korea, not Ukraine, has more potential to serve as a wedge between the two. It is also why China views the fall of Putin's regime, and the chaos that could ensue along its border, as an intolerable outcome.

For Russia, the same mindset that drove the invasion of Ukraine also shapes its view of China. The Kremlin is struggling to reconcile growing economic dependency with its self-image as an enduring great power. The nationalist right argues that Western sanctions have forced Russia to become more self-reliant, and that this hard-won "autonomy" must not be surrendered. The idea that Russia's future could be dictated on Chinese terms is anathema to the country's political elite as well.

That makes Russia's own vision of the future unpalatable to China, which wants to cement itself as a technological powerhouse and lynchpin of the global economy, not join an alliance of isolated, willfully destabilising rogue actors. Ten years after Xi and Putin's previous Tiananmen meet-up, the images depicting unity cannot hide their countries' historical mistrust and diverging long-term interests.

Ruby Osman is Senior Policy Adviser on China at the Tony Blair Institute. Dan Sleat is Senior Policy Adviser on Russia and Ukraine at the Tony Blair Institute.

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WISDOM CORNER

"Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold." — BOB MARLEY

"The best revenge is massive success." — FRANK SINATRA

"If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people." — VIRGINIA WOOLF

FOCUS HIGHER EDUCATION

AI LITERACY & POLICY

Sanjaya Mishra

CONSIDERING THE IMPLICATIONS OF GENAI TOOLS, HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS NEED TO HAVE POLICIES GOVERNING THEIR APPROPRIATE AND ETHICAL USE, WITHOUT COMPROMISING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The emergence of ChatGPT, a generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) application in November 2022, has led to unprecedented growth in the number of AI tools available to carry out several tasks in a relatively shorter time. Almost all top IT companies have invested heavily in the development of GenAI tools that run on models trained to perform tasks that take more time for us. Every day, new models are emerging with additional features. These tools not only can generate text based on a specific prompt but are also able to create full videos and perform tasks as 'agents'. While these tools offer unique advantages, they also raise questions related to their ethical use. Considering that some of these tools are available for free, both students and teachers use these without thinking much about the implications. Sometime back, a student at the Yale School of Management sued the University for being accused of using AI in a course submission that did not allow internet use. Considering the implications of GenAI tools, higher education institutions need to have policies governing their appropriate and ethical use, without compromising academic integrity.

Today's industry and job environments require AI-ready professionals who can utilise AI tools to optimise human performance, rather than simply using available tools without understanding their limitations

The appropriate use of AI tools in teaching and learning can be beneficial to students, teachers, and institutions. GenAI tools can help create personalised learning environments. Every student can have a customised tutor on their mobile phone. They can learn concepts at their own pace, anywhere, and anytime by engaging in dialogue with the AI chatbot. There is no fear or stigma associated with not knowing something, and the AI tutor can provide feedback tailored to the student's level of knowledge and understanding. Teachers can create engaging learning materials for their students in a variety of formats, assess students' submissions quickly, and provide individualised feedback. Institutions can streamline operations using AI, develop curricula aligned with industry needs, and utilise predictive analytics tools to support student progress and success.

Despite the potential for improved efficiency and effectiveness, the use of AI in teaching and learning presents several ethical challenges. While hallucinations and fake content are common instances that require knowledgeable human interventions, there are deeper issues of unethical use of data for training the models, ownership and copyright of the content generated, bias towards specific genders and races, and the broader issue of the digital divide. Access to digital tools and internet bandwidth remains a persistent issue in many countries. Access to GenAI tools for some learners can increase the digital divide and exacerbate educational inequities. Organisations such as UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning are promoting a human-centered approach to the use of AI in teaching and learning. Such uses recognise the importance of human intervention in reviewing the outputs created by GenAI tools, utilise AI as an assistant to amplify human intelligence, prioritise equity, and reduce existing biases. A 2024 study on the policy and practice of AI in teaching and learning revealed that 65 per cent of post-secondary institutions in Commonwealth countries do not have a policy on the use of AI.

India has been investing in a comprehensive AI mission to support innovation, future skills, and startup funding. One of the objectives of the mission is to improve access to datasets and models (large language models and small language models). AI literacy continues to be a significant focus, preparing every citizen to recognise the implications of AI in everyday life, as well as threats to privacy and personal security. The Central Square Foundation, in collaboration with Google and IIT Madras, has developed an AI literacy curricular framework for students in the K-12 sector. OpenAI has also announced OpenAI Academy India, in partnership with the IndiaAI Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Taking advantage of these developments, higher education institutions must take steps to create an enabling and balanced environment for promoting the use of AI in teaching and learning. Today's industry and job environments require AI-ready professionals who can utilise AI tools to optimise human performance, rather than simply using available tools without understanding their limitations.

The University Grants Commission needs to take suitable steps to issue regulations/guidelines for the appropriate use of GenAI in higher education institutions. Such regulations/guidelines must consider how to provide equitable access to GenAI tools, provide capacity building opportunities for teachers and students, and clarify do's and don'ts for everyone involved in the process to ensure the safety and security of personal data. Adopting policy-based practice of using AI in teaching and learning can enhance the quality of education, improve critical thinking, increase accessibility and inclusion, and above all, prepare students for the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous future.

The writer is Education Specialist at the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada.

SPECTRUM FOREIGN POLICY

Understanding India's alignment dilemma

Chander Gupta

IT WILL BE DESIRABLE TO QUICKLY FIX THE ISSUES, IF THERE ARE ANY, WITH ENGLISH-SPEAKING DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES AS THE INDIAN DIASPORA IS A STAKEHOLDER ON BOTH THE SIDES

India was ruled by the English roughly for two hundred years from mid-eighteenth century to mid-twentieth century. Broadly speaking, the East India Company consolidated its grip over the length and breadth of India for the first 100 years before the British Crown directly took over the reins of governance for the next 100 years. Independent India inherited English language as an undeniable legacy of the two hundred years of British colonialism. The past is a reality.

In the present-day era, just like the US dollar is a global currency, English language is a global language. Those who know the English language can communicate almost in every nook and corner of the world. Having been a British colony for almost 200 years, India embraced English language in government work, court work, and higher education. Almost all educated Indians are proficient in English language.

All the parents in India, who can afford it, want to send their kids to English-medium schools. Almost all the private schools impart education through English medium. In the Supreme Court and the High Courts, submissions have to be made in English. Look at the scholarly intelligentsia, you will find them US or UK educated. The rich and the powerful send their kids to study in the US or the UK, not to China or Russia.

Proficiency in English language helped Indians in great measure in immigrating to the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand – all English-speaking countries. The Indian diaspora has substantial presence in these English-speaking countries. Persons of Indian origin (PIOs) have made a mark in politics also in the countries they immigrated to. Indians first go for studies to these countries, later take up jobs there and eventually acquire citizenship. This trajectory of immigration is much familiar.

All these English-speaking countries mentioned above are democracies like India. Indians prefer immigrating to English-speaking democratic countries. These countries have graciously and generously accepted PIOs and granted them citizenship. In contrast, we see few Indians immigrating to China or Russia. Moreover, China and Russia are not democracies. Their political systems are different. Indians find it difficult to communicate in non-English speaking countries. Thus, there is no denying that people to people ties are much stronger with countries like the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

It is, therefore, sad to note some sort of strain in diplomatic ties with any of the English-speaking democratic countries which host a sizeable number of PIOs. So many educated Indians aspire to immigrate to these countries. Such is the craze for these countries that there have been reports that some Indians have even immigrated to these countries bypassing the due process.

There is an unresolved border dispute with China. Until the border row is settled once and for all, which looks unlikely in near future, the relations with China remain imbued with unpredictability. Being the "bigger economy", China dominates the non-Western multilateral forums.

It will be desirable to quickly fix the issues, if there are any, with the English-speaking democratic countries as the Indian diaspora is a stakeholder on both the sides. Our proximity to English-speaking democratic countries should guide us in sorting out the alignment dilemma, if any. How many Indians know Chinese language? How many Indians immigrate to China?

In this context, it is heartening to note that India and Canada have now fully restored their diplomatic ties by posting their High Commissioners in each other's countries.

The writer is a retired banker.

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**

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Mindful eating

Sir, National Nutrition Week, observed in India from 1 to 7 September since 1982, is a vital initiative that emphasises the link between nutrition, health, and national development. The 2025 theme, "Eat Right for a Better Life," highlights the need for balanced diets, mindful eating, and sustainable food practices. It reminds us that food is not only a source of energy but also a key to health, emotional well-being, and ecological balance. In today's context, India faces the double burden of under-nutrition and obesity, making nutrition awareness more critical than ever. Through health camps, school programmes, counselling sessions, and community initiatives, this week inspires individuals to reflect on their food habits and make healthier choices. It encourages people to move away from processed foods, embrace regional and seasonal produce, and practice portion control for long-term well-being. By prioritising balanced meals, local produce, and reduced food waste, National Nutrition Week 2025 becomes a call to action for a healthier, stronger, and more equitable nation. The celebration also reminds us that nutrition is not just a personal responsibility but a collective one—governments, institutions, and families must work together to ensure that every citizen has access to safe, affordable, and nourishing food..

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Double whammy

Sir, While northern India is fighting floods and landslides a catastrophic landslide on 31 August in Tarasin village occurred in Sudan's Marrah Mountains, leaving the complete village razed, claiming over 1,000 lives. The area is already devastated by civil war and heavy rains, making rescue and recovery efforts nearly impossible. While Tarasin does not have a significant Indian community, Sudan is home to a small diaspora—particularly in urban centers—and India maintains ongoing humanitarian engagement. In recent years, India has delivered vital aid, including two consignments of lifesaving medicines and 2,000 MT of rice in August 2025. Additionally, during the 2023 Sudan conflict, India executed Operation Kaveri, evacuating nearly 3,900 nationals safely. World leaders need to seriously think of preserving nature by not destroying the ecosystem.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Punjab's worst deluge in decades

The devastating floods have killed at least 37 people and left a trail of destruction in Punjab. Exacerbated by continuous heavy rains and the release of water from upstream dams, the floodwater submerged over 1.75 lakh acres of farmland, primarily paddy fields

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Sept 4: Another spell of heavy rain has compounded the flood situation in Punjab, which is battling its worst deluge since 1988, as all 23 districts of the state have been hit and 37 lives lost so far.

Punjab is witnessing massive floods, caused by the swollen Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers and seasonal rivulets due to heavy rain in their catchment areas in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Additional heavy rains have intensified the flooding situation, aggravating the challenges faced by residents. The villages worst-affected by the floods were in Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Fazilka, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur and Amritsar districts.

> Whenever the country faced a crisis, Punjab always stood by it - be it during the green revolution or the fight for freedom. We have made maximum sacrifices. Today, Punjab is in crisis, and I hope the country stands by us
> BHAGWANT MANN | CM, PUNJAB

To ensure safety and well-being of students and staff, the state government has decided to keep all educational institutions, including government, aided, recognised and private schools, colleges, universities and polytechnic institutes closed till September 7.

Punjab Cabinet Ministers, along with senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia, visited villages in Tarn Taran district to take stock of vulnerable points along the Beas River.

During the visit, the AAP leaders reviewed the condition of embankments and interacted with locals to assess the immediate challenges posed by rising river waters.

Crops over 1.48 lakh hectares of land have perished in the floods, officials have said.

> Punjab reeling under worst floods since 1988; crop devastation in 1,75,216 hectares
>
> 1,655 villages have been inundated, affecting a population of 3,55,709
>
> Over 20,000 people have been evacuated from low-lying and severely affected areas

In Punjab, Army teams remain engaged in strengthening bunds at vulnerable locations, transporting food and fodder to isolated villages and clearing key water channels to prevent further flooding.

The NGOs and Sikh organisations are providing dry rations, including rice, pulses, mustard oil, biscuits, wheat flour, medicines, and cattle fodder.

Although district administrations have established relief camps for those affected, many villagers choose to remain in their homes. In areas where livestock shelters are flooded, residents have moved to rooftops or elevated platforms.

Celebrities **extend support**

As Punjab continues to battle the devastating floods unleashed by the monsoon rains, several celebrities have sent prayers and extended their support to the victims. Earlier today, Diljit Dosanjh took to Instagram to share a video post about how Punjab will fight this crisis. Diljit Dosanjh shared a video post on Instagram, urging people to help the flood-hit victims in Punjab and how he is doing his bit. He has adopted 10 flood-affected villages in Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts of Punjab through his Saanjh Foundation to support relief and rehabilitation efforts. Yesterday, Shah Rukh Khan and Alia Bhatt took to social media to send prayers to Punjab. Alia Bhatt wrote, "My heart goes out to everyone affected by the floods in Punjab. Sending love, strength and prayers to all those impacted, and gratitude to the people working tirelessly on the ground to help. May every family find the support they need to heal and rebuild." Shah Rukh Khan said, "My heart goes out to those in Punjab impacted by these devastating floods. Sending prayers and strength... The spirit of Punjab shall never break... may God bless them all." Ajay Devgn said, "It's truly heartbreaking to witness the distress caused by the floods in the North. My thoughts are with all those impacted. I hope assistance reaches the affected areas swiftly." Vicky Kaushal penned, "Scrolling and seeing all that's happening in Punjab and other northern regions... villages flooded, people suffering. Praying for all those who are affected. Rabb meher bakhsh."

ABVP creates history by winning Panjab University elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Sept 4: In a first in the university's history, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the BJP, Wednesday scripted history by winning the Panjab University Campus Students' Council (PUCSC) election.

Gaurav Veer Sohal, a research scholar from the University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), won the post of the President by securing 3,148 votes and defeating his closest competitor, Sumit Sharma, by a margin of 488 votes.

After winning the elections, Sohal told the media, "My heart goes out to the people who are suffering due to the flood in Punjab."

There were eight candidates in the fray for the post. This is the first time that the ABVP won the President's seat since the Panjab University here started holding direct elections for the student office-bearers in 1977.

For a long time, student wings of national-level organisations were not active on the campus or played a minor role, as home-grown outfits dominated. That has changed over the past decade or so.

Responding to the party's win, Punjab state unit chief Sunil Jakhar wrote on X, "ABVP has scripted history by winning the election for the presidentship of Panjab University Students' Council for the first time in 48 years. Heartiest congratulations to Gaurav Veer Sohal on becoming the President of PUSC, and kudos to the entire ABVP team for this great victory."

Other student wings -- the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) of the Congress; the Association of Students for Alternative Politics (ASAP) of Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); and the Students Organisation of India (SOI) of the Shiromani Akali Dal -- performed poorly this time.

Last year, the election was won by a rebel from the NSUI. AAP's student wing had won in 2022. Panjab University, known for its alumni like

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Nobel Laureate Hargobind Khorana, contributed to science in India and internationally -- a facet that is not well known.

Originally called the University of Punjab, the institution was established at Lahore on October 14, 1882, and it was reestablished in independent India October 1, 1947.

Tamil Nadu tops in road crashes in 2023

AGENCIES

Chennai, Sept 4: India's road transport has advanced with faster highways and safer vehicles, but road accidents remain a major concern. Despite safety programs, traffic injuries-especially among 18 to 40-year-olds-continue to cause serious harm to families and the economy. Stronger, unified efforts are needed to improve the situation.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways acknowledges the critical findings of the "Road Accidents in India - 2023" report and is dedicated to initiating decisive actions to mitigate this pressing issue. A total number of approximately 4.8 lakh road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTS) during the calendar year 2023, claiming about 1.72 lakh lives.

It may be seen that there is an increase of 4.2% in road accidents and 2.6% in fatalities for the year 2023 as compared to the previous year. Out of 1,72,890 road accident fatalities during 2023, the road user category of pedestrians, bicycles, and two-wheelers accounted for around 68% of total fatalities.

Amongst the states, Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents on National Highways in 2023, whereas the number of persons killed in road accidents was the highest in Uttar Pradesh.

Talking about the age matrix, the young adults in the age group of 18 - 45 years accounted for 66.4% of victims during 2023. People in the working age group of 18 -60 years share 83.4% of total road accident fatalities.

Human-elephant conflicts rise in TN's Coimbatore amid forest guards' crunch

With only a handful of watchers left in each range, and many of them tied up with daily maintenance or clerical duties, preventing raids on standing crops has become nearly impossible

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 4: The Coimbatore forest division in Tamil Nadu is facing an alarming rise in human-elephant conflicts, with wild herds increasingly straying into villages, damaging crops, destroying property, and in some cases attacking residents.

The situation has exposed a critical shortage of frontline manpower needed to monitor animal movements and guide them safely back into forest habitats.

Anti-poaching watchers, who form the backbone of ground-level conservation and conflict-prevention measures, have seen their numbers drastically reduced in recent years. From a strength of around 160 in 2023, the division today operates with just 60.

The gap widened after many senior watchers with more than a decade of service were reclassified into other posts, leaving large stretches of conflict-prone terrain inadequately covered. These watchers, often recruited from tribal communities living near the forests, play a crucial role as they possess deep knowledge of the terrain and animal behaviour.

Their presence is considered indispensable in anticipating elephant movements, responding swiftly to crop raids, and assisting regular forest staff in driving animals away from human settlements. However, with limited personnel available, even routine patrolling and crop-protection duties are proving difficult to sustain.

The challenges are particularly evident in areas such as Boluvampatti, Periyanaickenpalayam, Karamadai, and Mettupalayam, where elephant incursions are frequent.

The risk to frontline staff, often working at night with minimal support, has also increased sharply. Environmental groups argue that the deployment of a larger dedicated team of watchers would significantly reduce conflicts and help prevent casualties on both sides.

Forest officials point out that vacancies in other categories, such as forest guards and rangers, have been filled recently, and more watchers may be recruited in the future for high-conflict areas. But for now, residents living on the forest fringes continue to face an unsettling situation, as the imbalance between human settlements and elephant habitats grows more precarious by the day.

Microchip implants, muzzles must for pet dogs

The largest municipal corporation in Tamil Nadu brings stricter norms amid a surge in complaints of pet dog abandonment

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 4: In a move aimed at better regulating pet ownership and curbing the rising number of dog-bite incidents, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has made it mandatory for all pet dog owners to implant microchips in their animals. Pet owners who fail to comply with the new regulation will face a penalty of ₹3,000, officials said.

The rules will come into force from next month.

According to a resolution passed by the civic body, pet licencing will now require proof of microchip implantation as well as details of anti-rabies vaccination (ARV).

Owners must also upload their personal and animal details on a new software and mobile application that the GCC plans to develop through a short-term e-tender process.

Additionally, dogs must wear muzzles while being taken outdoors, the Corporation said.

The decision comes amid a surge in complaints of pet dog abandonment.

The Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board has reported several such cases in recent months. However, the civic body pointed out that there is currently no comprehensive data on the number of pet animals in the city.

In contrast, a survey conducted last year found as many as 1,80,157 stray dogs within GCC limits, highlighting the need for stricter monitoring of pet ownership.

The civic body has also proposed to establish new Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres in Madhavaram, Ambattur, Anna Nagar, and Valasaravakkam zones at an estimated cost of ₹7.22 crore. These facilities will play a key role in sterilisation and vaccination drives, while also serving as centres for basic veterinary care.

> With the new regulations, the GCC hopes to bring greater accountability among pet owners while tackling both pet abandonment and stray dog-related issues in Chennai
>
> A survey conducted last year found as many as 1,80,157 stray dogs within GCC limits, highlighting the need for stricter monitoring of pet ownership

During the council meeting, S Bharathi, councillor from ward 152, urged the Mayor and Commissioner to establish pet clinics in every ward to provide first-aid services for dogs and cats.

He further suggested that the Corporation construct temporary shelters for abandoned dogs, similar to those created for stray cattle.

Responding to this, the Mayor said that the new ABC centres would be equipped to provide such care and that pet welfare would be prioritised under the expanded animal management programme.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/67, Dt. 01.09.2025

(1) Tender No. etenderhqkur-171-2025, Dtd.: 21.08.2025

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED AUGMENTATION OF LOCO TRIP SHED AT PURI.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1172.66 Lakh, **EMD :** ₹7,36,300/-

(2) Tender No. etender-hq-kur-210-2025, Dtd.: 20.08.2025

DESCRIPTION : ALL REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2026 FROM KM. 0.00 TO 107.00 BETWEEN KHURDA ROAD-DASPALLA SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) / NAYAGARH TOWN.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 136.67 Lakh, **EMD :** ₹2,18,300/-

(3) Tender No. etenderEastkur-231-2025, Dtd.: 21.08.2025

DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF FULL LENGTH COVER SHED FOR PLATFORM NO. 12 & BALANCE PORTION OF PLATFORM NO. 11 WITH HL PF FOR COVERING WAGONS & TRUCKS AT CUTTACK GOODS SHED.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 3078.84 Lakh, **EMD :** ₹16,89,400/-

(4) Tender No. etender-Cenkur-232-2025, Dtd.: 21.08.2025

DESCRIPTION : SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TRACK MOUNTED AUTOMATIC (ELECTRONIC TYPE) GAUGE FACE LUBRICATOR ON 105 NOS CURVE LOCATIONS UNDER SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) AND SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (NORTH) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 919.90 Lakh, **EMD :** ₹6,10,000/-

Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months (for Sl. No. 1 & 2), 18 (Eighteen) Months (for Sl. No. 3) and 60 (Sixty) Months (for Sl. No. 4).

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 12.09.2025 (for all the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / Khurda Road

PR-559/Q/25-26

OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI

Mail ID: purim.hud@nic.in, purim.hud@gmail.com

Letter No. 7998 Dated: 02.09.25

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. C-1011: Sealed tender in conformity with the detailed tender call notice are invited from intending Manufacturers/Firms/Suppliers for supply of safety item equipments (Annexure - A) under Swachha Bharat Mission (Urban) in Puri Municipality, Puri, so as to reach office of the Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri through Registered Post/Speed Post upto 05.00 P.M. of Dt.09.09.25. The tender documents need to be downloaded from the website **www.purimunicipality.nic.in**. The tender document cost, copy of PAN, GST & AADHAAR Card shall be submitted along with the bid document. The tenders reached by due date and time will be opened at 11.30 A.M. on Dt.10.09.25 in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives, who may present at the time of opening of the tenders. Puri Municipality will in no way be responsible for any postal delay. Tenders received beyond the schedule date will be rejected. The authority reserves the right to cancel the tender notice wihout assigning the reason thereof.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Puri Municipality, Puri

OIPR-13159/11/0063/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-581

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, MAYURBHANJ

Tel.No.(06792) 260788, e-Mail ID:mi.mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in

"e" Procurement Notice

No.3124, Dated 02.09.2025

Identification No.S.E.M.I.D. MBJ. No.08/MID,MBJ/2025-26

The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Mayurbhanj on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

1. Name of Works	:	Civil Construction works as mentioned in the website
2. Total No. of Work	:	2 Nos.
3. Tender Amount	:	29.65 Lakh to 42.37 Lakh (Detail of work Annexed)
4. Class of Contractor	:	As Mentioned against Work
5. Period of Completion	:	As Mentioned against Work
6. Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal	:	08.09.2025 at 10.00 AM to 18.09.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
7. Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	:	18.09.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
8. Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid	:	19.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
9. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Mayurbhanj
10. Mode of Payment of Bid Cost	:	Online

11. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal **"https://tendersorissa.gov.in"**.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Minor Irrigation Division, Mayurbhanj

OIPR-32041/11/0015/2526

ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି

No. MM-180: ଏହି ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି ଦ୍ୱାରା ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ଗୋଚରାର୍ଥେ ଜଣାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଅଛି ଯେ ନିମ୍ନରେ ଉଲ୍ଲେଖଥିବା ତାଲିକାଭୁକ୍ତ ଗାଡ଼ି ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଆଇନ ଖିଲାପ କରିଥିବା ଅଭିଯୋଗରେ ବାମରା ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ବନଖଣ୍ଡର ବଡ଼ରମା ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ରେଞ୍ଜରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରତ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଧୃତ ହୋଇ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଆଇନ୍‌ର ଧାରା ୫୬ମତେ କେସ୍ ରୁଜୁ ହୋଇଅଛି । ଗାଡ଼ି ଗୁଡ଼ିକର ମାଲିକାନାସ୍ୱତ୍ୱ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଜାଣିବା ପାଇଁ ଖବର କାଗଜ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି ପ୍ରକାଶ କରାଯାଉଅଛି । ଏଣୁ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ଅବଗତି ନିମନ୍ତେ ଜଣାଦିଆଯାଉଅଛି ଯେ ଏହି ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି ପ୍ରକାଶନର ପନ୍ଦର ଦିନ ସମୟ ସୀମା ଅବଧି ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯଦି କୌଣସି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଗାଡ଼ି ତାଙ୍କର ବୋଲି ଦାବି ଉପସ୍ଥାପିତ ନକରନ୍ତି ତାହା ହେଲେ ଏହା ଧରି ନିଆଯିବ ଯେ ଗାଡ଼ି ମାଲିକଙ୍କର ଗାଡ଼ି ଜବତ ଓ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ମକଦ୍ଦମା ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ କିଛି କହିବାର ନାହିଁ ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କର ଅନୁପସ୍ଥିତିରେ ଭାରାପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ଅଧିକାରୀ, ବାମରା ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ବନଖଣ୍ଡଙ୍କ ଅଦାଲତରେ ଉକ୍ତ କେସ୍‌ଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଆଇନ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଫଇସଲା କରାଯିବ ।

LIST OF UD/OR CASE IN BAMRA WL DIVISION OF BADRAMA WL RANGE BOOKED U/S - 56 OF OFA, 1972

Sl. No.	OR/UD Case No.	Type of Vehicle	Vehicle Regd. No.
1.	OR Case No. 148 Bd of 2003-04	TATA Truck	BR-20-G-8193
2.	UD Case No. 36 Bd of 2004-05	Truck	BPR-2661
3.	OR Case No. 10 Bd of 2006-07	Tempo	OIS-9267/OSC 29
4.	OR Case No. 07 Bd of 2006-07	Tanker Truck	MP-23-D-5114
5.	OR Case No. 38 Bd of 2006-07	White Ambassador Car	CG-07-ZG-6378
6.	OR Case No. 85 Bd of 2009-10	Kargo King Trax Pick up	OR-15-M-2842
7.	OR Case No. 30 Bd of 2010-11	Truck	OSS-6988
8.	OR Case No. 33 Bd of 2017-18	Honda Shine Bike	OD-15-D-9520
9.	UD Case No. 03 Bd of 2021-22	TATA - 407	OR-15-N-8086
10.	UD Case No. 10 Bd of 2022-23	Mahindra Pick-up	OD-02-0571
11.	UD Case No. 14 Bd of 2022-23	TATA - 207	OR-28-0811

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Bamra Wildlife Division

OIPR-08144/11/0003/2526

The reduction in GST...I feel it will disproportionately hit the states' finances. We cannot welcome this decision because it will have a huge impact on the states' revenues and finances...Every state is going to face a loss of revenue of ₹8,000-₹10,000 crore. What will be the compensation mechanism for them? There is no mention about it

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

AIR INDIA EXPRESS FLIGHT CANCELLED AFTER BIRD STRIKE

A Bangalore bound Air India Express flight was cancelled Thursday after it suffered a bird hit at the airport here, an airline official said. An eagle hit the nose of the aircraft while taxiing on the runway for takeoff, he said

Quote of the day

If humanitarian aid can be sent across borders, then why the hesitation in helping our own people?

HARPAL SINGH CHEEMA | PUNJAB FINANCE MINISTER

PM Modi has always made decisions keeping the common man in focus. The big reduction in GST will improve the 'Ease of Living' for everyone, including MSMEs, farmers, women, and youth. The tax burden on the common consumer will reduce and usher in happiness in their lives

BHUPENDRA PATEL | GUJARAT CM

Many groups have also successfully taken bank loans, with 99 per cent repayment and with proper support, the remaining 32 lakh SHG women also can become 'Lakhpati Baideus'

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

5 killed as car rams into truck in Patna

Patna: Five people were killed when the car in which they were travelling rammed into a truck in Parsa Bazar locality of Patna, police said Thursday. The deceased have been identified as Rajesh Kumar (50), Sanjay Kumar Sinha (55), Kamal Kishor (37), residents of Patna, Prakash Chaurasia (35) from Samastipur and Sunil Kumar (38) from Muzaffarpur. Sanjay Kumar Sinha was the owner of the car. Barring him, the others were associated with a Bengaluru-based pesticide firm.

SC stays execution of death penalty

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday stayed the execution of a man's death sentence for the rape and murder of a three-year-old girl in Gurugram seven years ago. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria passed the order while hearing the convict's plea against the order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which confirmed the death penalty given by a trial court.

Varsity faces legal action

Lucknow/Barabanki (UP): Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University in Barabanki was booked on charges of cheating and forgery for allegedly running an unrecognised law course for the last three years, an official said Thursday. In another case, the revenue department has imposed a fine of nearly ₹28 lakh on the university for allegedly encroaching upon government land and directed its management to remove the illegal occupation within 30 days.

Eid holiday in Mumbai shifted to September 8

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government Thursday said the public holiday on account of Eid-e-Milad in Mumbai city and suburban district will be observed September 8 instead of September 5. The decision was taken after the Muslim community decided to hold Eid-e-Milad processions September 8 to ensure harmony as Anant Chaturdashi falls September 6, when Ganesh idols will be immersed after public processions, officials said. Government offices in Mumbai will remain open September 5, it said.

Oppn seeks 5-yr compensation to states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The BJP Thursday hailed the GST reforms as a historic measure that will benefit every section of society, while Opposition parties demanded that states be given compensation for five years for revenue losses.

The Opposition parties also hoped that reduction in rates would be passed on to consumers, even as the Congress said this reform is "GST 1.5" and wait for the "true GST 2.0" remains. Wide-ranging reforms were announced by the GST Council Wednesday, doing away with tax slabs of 28 per cent and 12 per cent, and initiating only two slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent under the tax regime. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took credit for the GST Council decision to slash tax rates, saying, "I had demanded that insurance be exempted from GST. They were forced to do it. It was our protest that led to this change."

"You imposed anti-people decisions, increased the tax burden, and then entered into understandings with 3-4 countries. But we stood our ground," Banerjee said, alleging financial discrimination by the Centre against West Bengal. Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal said the state is expected to face an annual revenue loss of ₹8,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore due to GST rate cuts. Balagopal made it clear that the state supports the GST rate cuts that will reduce prices but the central government should ensure that the rate cut benefits are passed on to the common man. He said that compensation should be provided for states but the issue was not taken seriously during the GST Council meeting.

Hailing the reforms, BJP president J P Nadda said this is a "bumper gift" given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to people ahead of Durga Puja and Diwali. He also slammed the Congress for finding faults with the measures taken by the GST Council, saying it exposes the opposition party's double standards as Rahul Gandhi opposes decisions supported by finance ministers of state governments run by his party. All decisions of the GST Council, he asserted, were taken by consensus.

Nadda said the Congress-led UPA government could not even implement the GST because states did not trust it. On the contrary, the Congress at that time robbed poor people and traders through Value Added Tax (VAT) and left ample scope for tax evasion, he claimed. The Modi government instead realised the concept of 'one nation one tax' by rolling out the GST in 2017, he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said his party has been demanding simplification of GST for almost a decade.

"The Modi government changed 'One Nation, One Tax' to 'One Nation, 9 Taxes'. It included tax slabs of 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, 28% and special rates of 0.25%, 1.5%, 3% and 6%," he said.

"The Congress party had demanded GST 2.0 with a simple and rational tax system in its 2019 and 2024 manifestos," he said. On February 28, 2005, the Congress-UPA government formally announced GST in the Lok Sabha, he claimed, adding that in 2011, when the then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee brought the GST Bill, the BJP opposed it. He also said that when Modi was chief minister of Gujarat, he had strongly opposed GST.

"Today, this same BJP government celebrates record GST collections, as if it has done a great job by collecting tax from the common people. For the first time in the history of the country, farmers have been taxed. This Modi government imposed GST on at least 36 items of the agricultural sector," Kharge said. He claimed that the Modi government imposed GST on everyday things like milk-curd, flour-grains, even children's pencils-books, oxygen, insurance and hospital expenses.

Plea alleges forgery in Sonia Gandhi's voter roll entry, seeks probe

The petitioner has raised concerns over how Sonia Gandhi'sname was included in the electoral roll of the New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency without her having citizenship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: A plea Tuesday sought action against Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, alleging her name was included in the electoral rolls three years before she became an Indian citizen.

The application, before additional chief judicial magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasia under Section 175 (4) (power of magistrate to order investigation) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), has sought directions to the police for investigation into the allegation that Gandhi became an Indian citizen in 1983, but her name was in the 1980 electoral roll.

"Put up for consideration September 10," the court said.

Senior advocate Pavan Narang, appearing for the complainant, Vikas Tripathi, argued that according to some documents, it was clear that Gandhi took citizenship April 30, 1983.

He said her name was included in the electoral roll as a voter of the New Delhi constituency in 1980, which was deleted in 1982, and again re-entered in 1983 after she acquired Indian citizenship.

"The reason for the deletion is nowhere to be found. There can be two reasons, either someone takes the citizenship of another country or files a Form 8 (application for correction in particulars in an electoral roll), but the prerequisite is that the person has to be a citizen," Narang said.

"What documents were given to the election commission (EC) when her name got included in 1980?" he asked. He claimed there was "some forgery" and that a public authority had been "cheated."

"My limited request is to either direct the police to register an FIR under the appropriate sections. Whether they are made out or not is the domain of the police," Narang said.

He said that in the interim period, a notice could be issued to the police for filing a status report. The application under the BNSS was earlier heard August 29.

The magistrate then observed that a prayer seeking a status report from the station house officer (SHO) concerned was sought.

"However, the court in its discretion needs some time to go through the file, which runs to almost 230 pages. Short date (of September 4) is being granted."

The respondents in the case are Gandhi and the IP Estate police station SHO.

Centre notifies Unified Pension Scheme rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

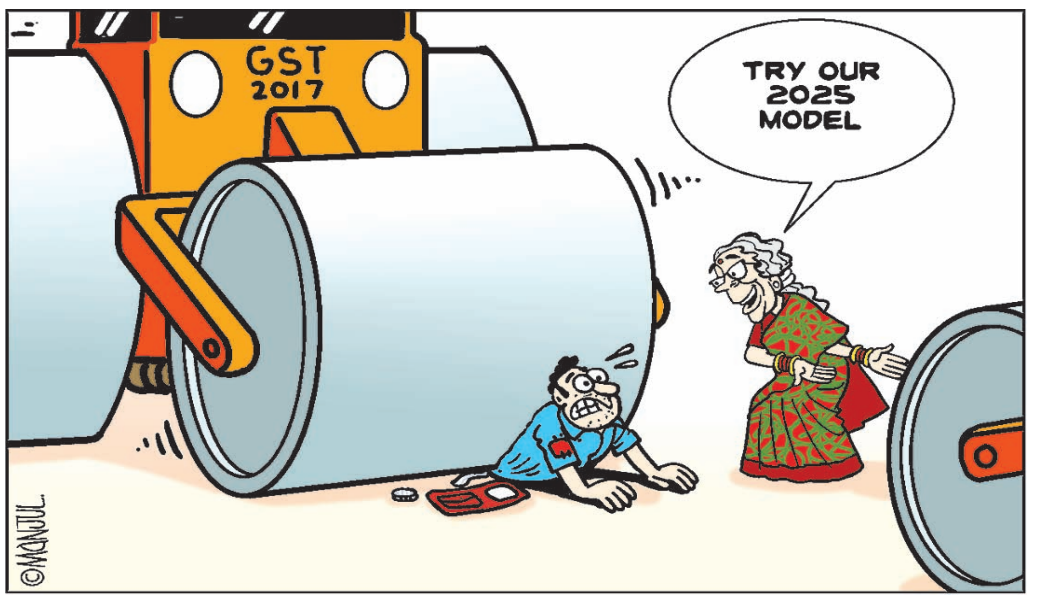
New Delhi, Sept 4: The Centre has notified rules for regulating service matters relating to benefits under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) in respect of its employees, as per official statement.

The Central Civil Services (Implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme under the National Pension System) Rules, 2025 will cover "enrolment under Unified Pension Scheme and switch facility from UPS to NPS one year before the date of retirement or three months before the VRS", among others.

These rules are for regulating the service matters relating to benefits under the Unified Pension Scheme in respect of central government employees opting for UPS as an option under the NPS, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. The rules also cover contributions by the employee and the government, compensation to be paid to the government servant in case of delay in registration and credit of contributions to the NPS account and option for benefits under the CCS (Pension) Rules or UPS regulations in the event of death or disability of government servant during service, it said.

Benefits payable on retirement on superannuation, premature retirement, voluntary retirement, absorption in autonomous body or public sector undertaking, retirement on invalidation and resignation from service and "effect of compulsory retirement /dismissal/removal from service" among others are also covered under the newly notified rules.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



India, S'pore unveil road to navigate global challenges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: India and Singapore Thursday unveiled a roadmap to expand their comprehensive strategic partnership including by deepening trade and ensuring better market access with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong signalling firm resolve to jointly navigate the global trade disruptions caused by Washington's tariff tussle.

In their talks, Modi and Wong agreed to work closely to boost bilateral ties in areas of advanced manufacturing, semiconductor, green shipping, skilling, civil nuclear energy, aviation and defence and security including possible cooperation in developing unmanned vessels. The two sides signed five agreements that will provide for cooperation in areas of aviation, skill development, green and digital shipping, space and digital asset innovation including to develop next generation financial infrastructure. India's ties with Singapore are considered significant as the city-state is the largest foreign investor in India, accounting for around a quarter of the country's foreign direct investment inflows.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on green shipping will facilitate collaboration on establishment of a Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC).

The two prime ministers also virtually inaugurated a container terminal at Nhava Sheva port in Mumbai. The Port of Singapore Authority (PSA International has invested over USD one billion in the project.

For next phase of ties, the two sides identified eight pillars for cooperation which are : economic cooperation, skills development, digitalisation, sustainability, connectivity, healthcare and medicine, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and defence and security cooperation.

"Today, we have charted a detailed roadmap for the future of our partnership. Our cooperation will not remain confined to traditional areas," Modi said in his statement to the media after talks with Wong.

"In keeping with the needs of changing times, advanced manufacturing, green shipping, skilling, civil nuclear energy, and urban water management will also emerge as focus points of our collaboration," he said.

2 security personnel killed in gunfight with Maoists in Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi/Medininagar, Sept 4: Two security personnel were killed and another was injured in a gunfight with members of the banned TSPC, a splinter group of CPI (Maoist), in Jharkhand's Palamu district Thursday, police said.

The encounter between security forces and members of the proscribed Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC) outfit broke out around 12.30 am in Kedal village in Manatu police station area, a senior officer said.

"Two security personnel were killed, and another was injured in the gunfight. The injured was admitted to Medinirai Medical College and Hospital," Palamu DIG Naushad Alam told PTI.

The deceased were identified as constable Santan Mehta and constable Sunil Ram.

Casualties on the Naxals' side are yet to be ascertained, Alam said.

Based on information about the presence of TSPC commander Shashikant Ganjhu and his squad in Kedal village, the operation was launched, Palamu Superintendent of Police (SP) Reeshma Ramesan said.

"As the security personnel reached the village, TSPC members spotted them and opened fire. In the ensuing gunfight, three security personnel received bullet injuries. They were immediately taken to Medinirai Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared two of them dead, and the injured policeman is undergoing treatment," she added.

The Naxals escaped from the spot, following which a search operation has been launched, another police officer said.

6,793 illegal structures on Faridabad forest land: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Around 6,800 unauthorised structures, including farmhouses, schools and government buildings, have come up over 780 acres of deemed forest land in Faridabad in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Supreme Court-mandated Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has told the apex court.

In its interim report dated August 29, the committee said the land in question is notified under the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900 and spread across the villages of Ankhir, Anangpur, Lakkarpur and Mewla Maharajpur.

The land possesses "all the attributes of forest land" under the 1980 law and, therefore, cannot be used for non-forest purposes without prior approval of the central government since October 25, 1980, it said.

The CEC said that "farmhouses, marriage gardens, banquet halls and other such constructions" have been raised illegally and that "241 structures located at 88 locations covering an area of 261.06 acres have been demolished" by the district authorities in compliance with the apex court's directions of July 21, 2022.

The committee recorded that large-scale violations persist despite the action taken.

"In Faridabad, Haryana, constructions have been raised over an area of 780.26 acres on lands notified under Sections 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900. These constructions are in violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980," the report said.

Anangpur alone has 5,948 structures on 286 acres, Ankhir 339 structures on nearly 250 acres, Lakkarpur 313 on about 197 acres and Mewla Maharajpur 193 structures over 46 acres.

The CEC said that the demolition of larger commercial structures has led to a "considerable reduction in human activity" in these areas and contributed to a "visible improvement in vegetation".

It added that the Forest Department reported that the "presence of spotted deer has been recorded in this landscape for the first time".

But the demolition drive has also triggered anger among residents, particularly in village abadi areas.

"Significant resentment was observed among villagers, particularly in the abadi areas of village Anangpur, who expressed concerns regarding the protection of their houses," the CEC said.

It added that the "presence of such extensive village habitation poses a significant challenge in enforcing demolition activities while ensuring minimal disruption to bona fide residential areas".

The CEC said that the demolition of larger commercial structures has led to a "considerable reduction in human activity" in these areas and contributed to a "visible improvement in vegetation"

According to official data, 5,938 household units, mostly in Anangpur, fall within PLPA-notified land. The CEC observed that villagers fear losing their homes and have been resisting demolition drives.

national

India can dominate global online gaming market, if done in a right manner... there are huge job opportunities too

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

SHIKHAR DHAWAN APPEARS BEFORE ED

Former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in an alleged illegal betting app-linked money laundering case, official sources said

Quote of the day

At times, the Centre is begging before China, and at times before the US. Now they are falling at the feet of Russia and Israel. By doing this, they have sold the dignity of India

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Industry has committed they will pass on the benefits of GST rate reduction to consumers

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

Even today, Punjabis are helping each other selflessly. A Punjabi thinks of helping his neighbour before helping himself. That is the spirit that will help us overcome this crisis

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

SHORT TAKES

SC refuses to grant interim bail to Shabir

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to grant interim bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah in a terror funding case. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, however, issued notice to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking its response within two weeks on Shah's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's June 12 order denying him bail in the case. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Shah, sought interim bail, saying that the petitioner was "very sick". "No interim bail," Justice Nath said.

Mixed response to NDA's Bihar bandh

Patna: Ruling NDA's five-hour Bihar bandh Thursday called to protest the alleged hurling of abuse at the mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recently concluded 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' evoked a mixed response. In state capital Patna, fewer vehicles plied the roads and some private schools declared a holiday. On the business front, some shopkeepers kept their establishments open while others kept their shutters closed during the bandh from 7 am to noon.

Man kills 3 kids, dies by suicide

Hyderabad: A 36-year-old man from Andhra Pradesh allegedly killed his three children and later died by suicide in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana, police said Thursday. Some local residents on Wednesday informed police after noticing an unidentified man's body under Veldanda police station limits.

Student found dead in hostel

Panaji: A 20-year-old student was found dead in his hostel room at BITS Pilani campus in south Goa Thursday, a police official said. "Rishi Nair was found dead in his hostel room at around 10.45 am. The door of his room was forced open by authorities after he did not respond to calls on his mobile phone. He was lying motionless on his bed. The cause of death is being ascertained," the official said.

Woman cop among 3 held

Mumbai: Three persons including a woman Government Railway Police (GRP) official have been arrested after two men posing as policemen robbed a businessman of ₹10.5 lakh at the Bandra Railway Terminus in the city. It was a second incident over the last fortnight in the city where police personnel were found involved in such crimes.

Centre signs landmark deal with Kuki-Zo groups

The signing of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) is also set to have a positive impact on peace efforts in Manipur, officials said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Two prominent Kuki-Zo groups Thursday signed a suspension of operations agreement with the government on re-negotiated terms and conditions under which they agreed on maintaining territorial integrity of Manipur, relocating designated camps away from vulnerable areas and working for a solution to bring lasting peace and stability in the state.

The signing of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) is also set to have a positive impact on peace efforts in Manipur, officials said.

Separately, civil society group Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has decided to open the National Highway-02, which passes through Manipur for free movement of commuters and essential goods.

The move comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to Manipur next week, first since ethnic violence broke out between the Meiteis and Kukis in May 2023.

The pact was signed after a series of meetings between the officials of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and a delegation of Kuki groups in last few days here, according to an official statement issued by the MHA.

Manipur has been witnessing ethnic violence since May 3, 2023, after a tribal solidarity march was taken out in the hill districts, in protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Since then, about 260 people, including members of both the Kuki and Meitei communities as well as security personnel, have been killed in the violence. However, there has been relative peace in Manipur in last few months.

"A tripartite meeting among representatives of MHA, government of Manipur and Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) was held at New Delhi today. The meeting concluded with the signing of a tripartite Suspension of Operations agreement on re-negotiated terms and conditions (ground rules) to be effective from the day of signing of the agreement for a period of one year," the MHA statement said.

The other provisions include territorial integrity of Manipur will be maintained, all agreed for the need for a negotiated solution to bring lasting peace and stability to Manipur.

The KNO and UPF have also agreed to relocate seven designated camps away from areas vulnerable to conflict, reduce the number of designated camps, relocate the weapons with nearest CRPF and BSF camps, stringent physical verification of cadres by security forces to de-list foreign nationals, if any.

There are seven constituents of UPF and 16 constituents of KNO.

A joint monitoring group will henceforth closely monitor enforcement of ground rules and violations will be dealt with firmly in future, including review of the SoO agreement, the statement said.

"The Kuki-Zo Council has decided to open the National Highway-02 for the free movement of commuters and essential goods. The KZC has given commitment to cooperate with security forces deployed by government of India to maintain peace along NH-02," it said.

The SoO agreement was first signed in 2008 and was renewed periodically. However, it has not been extended since February 2024 due to the ethnic strife in the northeastern state.

Officials said the KNO and UPF as well as their constituents shall completely abjure the path of violence and abide by the Constitution of India, laws of the land, and territorial integrity of Manipur.

The SoO agreement shall be followed by tripartite dialogue with KNO and UPF to pave the way for a negotiated political settlement under the Constitution of India in a time bound manner. The KNO and UPF as well as their constituents shall not have association either at organisation level or at individual level with any other armed group, within the country or outside, officials said.

The KNO and UPF as well as their constituents shall not undertake any offensive operations like ambush, raid, sniping and attack leading to death/injury/damage or loss of property, kidnapping, extortion, intimidation, etc. against security forces, other groups and/or the public, they said.

RAIN MAYHEM

Kashmir cut off from India; Yamuna threatens Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Incessant and torrential rains battered the northern states Thursday, with Himachal Pradesh reeling under the natural disaster ever since the onset of monsoon and Delhi getting impacted due to the rising water levels of the Yamuna river.

Educational institutions have been shut down, normal life has been adversely affected and business has come to a standstill due to the heavy rains and flood-like situation in states like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

Floods damaged more than 110 km of the India-Pakistan international border (IB) fence and inundated about 90 BSF posts in the forward areas of Jammu and Punjab, official sources said Thursday.

Incessant rains in the past three-four days have triggered landslides at several places and three people have been rescued, one body recovered while search is on for six people buried under the rubble of the house in Akhada Bazaar, Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, Torul S Ravish said, adding rains are obstructing the rescue work.

A total of 1,292 roads are closed in the state, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said. Since the onset of monsoon in Himachal June 20, the state has witnessed 95 flash floods, 45 cloudbursts and 127 major landslide incidents.

At least 343 people have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents, while 43 are missing since the monsoon began. The state has suffered losses to the tune of ₹3,690 crore this monsoon so far, according to official data.

In Uttarakhand, a forest officer has died after being swept away by an overflowing drain in Nanital district, officials said Thursday. Also, a total of 54 roads, including national highways, are blocked due to landslides in the hill state, they added. According to the SEOC, Devendra Singh (35) was swept away in the Dhaniyakot drain in the Kainchidham area of Nainital on Wednesday evening.

The Kashmir valley was cut off from the rest of the country as all surface links, including the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, were closed for traffic Thursday due to multiple landslides and the washing away of road patches due to rain.

The closure of highways and other inter-regional roads since August 26 has resulted in over 3,500 vehicles getting stuck at various places from Kathua to Kashmir.

Besides this, important highways, including the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway and the Batote-Doda-Kishtwar highway, are shut for traffic in view of landslides and the washing away of portions of roads. Rail traffic has remained suspended in the Jammu railway division for the past nine days due to misalignment and breaches at multiple locations in the Pathankot-Jammu section following heavy rains and flash floods August 26.

Scores of people, especially pilgrims, were stranded as heavy rains lashed the Jammu region since August 26, severely disrupting rail and road traffic. A landslide near the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra claimed 34 lives.

The water level in the Yamuna at Delhi's Old Railway Bridge remained steady at 207.46 metres between 11 am and 12 noon Thursday, officials said.

They added that the level is expected to begin receding gradually, though floodwaters continue to inundate nearby areas and relief camps. Floodwaters reached near Delhi Secretariat, which houses the offices of the chief minister, cabinet ministers and key bureaucrats.

Stormy scenes in WB Assembly: 5 BJP MLAs suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 4: Uproarious scenes and high drama on the concluding day of the special session Thursday turned the West Bengal Assembly into a cauldron of chaos, as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's speech was repeatedly drowned out by slogan-shouting, leading to the suspension of five BJP MLAs and the collapse of two legislators during forcible eviction.

The session had been convened to discuss the alleged harassment of Bengalis in other states and the "insult" to Bengali language. Instead, it quickly spiralled into a political battlefield as ruling TMC and opposition BJP legislators hurled accusations of being "thieves", stormed the Well of the House, and had to be physically separated by security personnel and marshalls.

BJP legislators, led by Chief Whip Shankar Ghosh, erupted in protest against the suspension of Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari September 2, shouting slogans of "Chor Chor" and questioning under which rule he was suspended for the entire special session.

TMC members retaliated with cries of "Vote Chor BJP" and "Joy Bangla," turning the chamber into a shouting match. Speaker Biman Banerjee repeatedly urged Ghosh to sit down and allow the CM to speak, but he refused.

The Speaker then suspended him for disorderly conduct and summoned marshals to escort him out. When Ghosh refused to leave, marshals were called in to escort him out physically, an act that sparked further uproar from opposition benches.

Modi speaks to EU's Costa, von der Leyen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: India and European Union Thursday pledged to seal their much-awaited free trade deal by December with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the 27-nation bloc's top leaders Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen pledging to promoting a rules-based global order, amid Washington's disruptive trade policies.

In a joint phone call with Costa and von der Leyen, Modi reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and early restoration of peace and stability. The leaders underlined the role of the India-EU strategic partnership in jointly addressing global issues, fostering stability, and promoting a rules-based order for mutual prosperity, an Indian readout said.

The phone talks among the three leaders came as India looks to blunt the impact of the Trump administration's 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods.

The three leaders also discussed holding the next India-EU summit in India at an early date of mutual convenience and PM Modi invited Costa and von der Leyen for the same.

SNIPPETS

SC registers suo motu PIL on lack of functional CCTVs in PSs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday directed registration of a suo motu public interest litigation over lack of functional CCTVs in police stations after taking cognisance of a media report. The apex court had in 2018 ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses. On Thursday, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta referred to the media report and said, "...we are directing for registration of a suo motu public interest litigation titled 'lack of functional CCTVs in police stations' as it has been reported that there are about 11 deaths in the last seven-eight months of this year in police custody".

Govt seeks SC transfer of online gaming law pleas from HCs

New Delhi: The Centre has sought the transfer of pleas challenging the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 from three high courts to the Supreme Court to avoid conflicting verdicts. A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran has agreed to list for hearing next week the plea of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for transfer of three pending cases from the high courts of Karnataka, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh to the apex court.

An aerial view of an area inundated with water of the swollen Yamuna in Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh PTI PHOTO

PORTRAIT OF AGEING INDIA

Youth share and fertility rate declining: Data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: India is ageing. The Sample Registration System report for 2023 shows a growing proportion of the population now comprises the working-age group, a rise in the elderly population, a long-term decline in the share of the 0-14 age group, and a decline in the fertility rate.

According to the report, the 0-14 age group's share has been declining gradually -- from 41.2 per cent to 38.1 per cent of the total population during 1971-1981, and 36.3 per cent to 24.2 per cent during 1991-2023.

This comes amid a decline in the country's total fertility rate, from 5.2 in 1971 to 1.9 in 2023, SRS data of the Registrar General of India shows.

The report for 2023 contains estimates of various demographic, fertility and mortality indicators based on the data collected through the SRS sample survey. SRS in India is one of the largest demographic surveys in the world, covering about 8.8 million sample population.

"Data indicates that across all states and Union Territories, the percentage of males in the 0-14 age group is higher than that of females, except in the rural areas of Delhi, where the proportion of females exceeds that of males," the report states.

It shows a steady increase in the proportion of the economically active group (15-59 years) in the total population -- from 53.4 to 56.3 per cent during 1971-1981, and from 57.7 to 66.1 per cent during 1991-2023.

The highest proportion of this population, also known as the working-age group, is in Delhi at 70.8 per cent, followed by Telangana at 70.2 per cent, and Andhra Pradesh at 70.1 per cent.

Bihar has the lowest share of this population at 60.1 per cent, Rajasthan has 63.4 per cent, and Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh both have 63.9 per cent.

> According to the report, the 0-14 age group's share has been declining gradually -- from 41.2 per cent to 38.1 per cent of the total population during 1971-1981, and 36.3 per cent to 24.2 per cent during 1991-2023
>
> This comes amid a decline in the country's total fertility rate, from 5.2 in 1971 to 1.9 in 2023, SRS data of the Registrar General of India shows

Urban areas, being the hub of economic activities, attract this age group, which accounts for 68.8 per cent of the total population. In contrast, rural areas continue to have a smaller population of the working age group at 64.6 per cent.

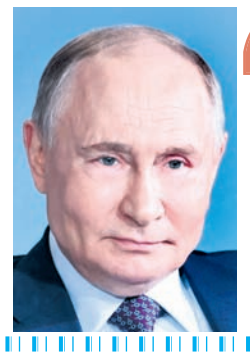
Jammu and Kashmir has the highest proportion of rural females in the working-age group, accounting for 70.1 per cent of the total population. Assam tops the list in urban areas with 72.4 per cent.

Delhi has the highest percentage of rural males at 72.9 per cent in this group, whereas Assam ranks highest in urban males at 70.9 per cent.

The proportion of the elderly population has also shown an upward trend, with the share of individuals aged 60 rising to 9.7 per cent in 2023.

Kerala has the highest percentage of the population in this age group at 15.1 per cent, followed by Tamil Nadu at 14 per cent and Himachal Pradesh at 13.2 per cent.

international



When somebody tells you, they are going to punish you, you have to think about the leadership of those countries, those big courtiers, which have difficult periods of their history too, will react

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

RESTORED BIG BEN TOWER UP FOR ARCHITECTURE AWARD

A facelift that restored London's 166-year-old Big Ben clocktower to a sparkling shine was nominated Thursday for Britain's leading architecture award. The RIBA Stirling Prize committee said the five-year refurbishment of the tower at Parliament is "a veritable masterclass in conservation and craftsmanship" that preserves a "defining symbol of British heritage"

Quote of the day

Religious leaders and all who choose the path of peace must stand together in calling for the immediate release of the hostages as a first and essential step toward a better future for the entire region

ISAAC HERZOG | PRESIDENT, ISRAEL

It doesn't give me any great joy to be sitting in America and describing the really awful authoritarian situation that we have now sunk into

NIGEL FARAGE | LEADER OF THE POPULIST REFORM UK PARTY

The people who at CDC who oversaw that process, who put masks on our children, who closed our schools, are the people who will be leaving

ROBERT F KENNEDY JR | US HEALTH SECRETARY

Trump seeks tariff power

Trump asks Supreme Court to quickly take up tariffs case, reverse ruling finding them illegal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 4: The Trump administration took the fight over tariffs to the Supreme Court, asking the justices to rule quickly that the president has the power to impose sweeping import taxes under federal law.

The government Wednesday called on the court to reverse an appeals court ruling that found most of President Donald Trump's tariffs are an illegal use of an emergency powers law.

It's the latest in a series of Trump administration appeals to a Supreme Court he helped shape, and one that is expected to put a centrepiece of the president's trade policy before the justices.

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit left the tariffs in place for now, but the administration nevertheless called on the high court to intervene quickly in a petition filed electronically late Wednesday and provided to The Associated Press. It was expected to be formally docketed Thursday. Solicitor General D John Sauer asked the justices to take up the case and hear arguments in early November.

"That decision casts a pall of uncertainty upon ongoing foreign negotiations that the President has been pursuing through tariffs over the past five months, jeopardising both already negotiated framework deals and ongoing negotiations," he wrote. "The stakes in this case could not be higher."

But the stakes are also high for small businesses battered by tariffs and uncertainty, said Jeffrey Schwab, senior counsel and director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Centre.

"These unlawful tariffs are inflicting serious harm on small businesses and jeopardising their survival. We hope for a prompt resolution of this case for our clients," he said.

CASES LIKELY TO FOCUS ON TRUMP'S BROAD ASSERTIONS OF POWER

JUSTICES HAVE CONSISTENTLY BACKED TRUMP SO FAR IN SECOND TERM

TRUMP APPEALED LOWER COURT RULING AGAINST TARIFFS WEDNESDAY

The businesses have twice prevailed, once at a federal court focused on trade and again with the appeals court's 7-4 ruling.

Their lawsuit is one of several challenging the tariffs and erratic rollout that have shaken global markets, alienated US trading partners and allies and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

But Trump has also used the levies to pressure the European Union, Japan and other countries into accepting new trade deals. Revenue from tariffs totaled USD 159 billion by late August, more than double what it was at the same point the year before.

Most judges on the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, did not let Trump usurp congressional power to set tariffs. The dissenters, though, said the law does allow the president to regulate importation during emergencies without explicit limitations.

The ruling involves two sets of import taxes, both of which Trump justified by declaring a national emergency: the tariffs first announced in April and the ones from February on imports from Canada, China and Mexico.

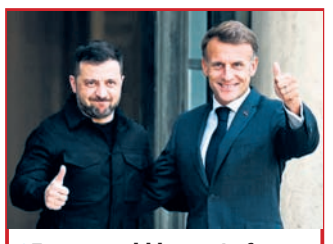
The Constitution gives Congress the power to impose taxes, including tariffs. But over the decades, lawmakers have ceded authority to the president, and Trump has made the most of the power vacuum.

Some Trump tariffs, including levies on foreign steel, aluminum and autos, weren't covered by the appeals court ruling. It also does not include tariffs Trump imposed on China in his first term that were kept by Democratic President Joe Biden. Trump can impose tariffs under other laws, but those have more limitations on the speed and severity with which he could act.

The government has argued that if the tariffs are struck down, it might have to refund some of the import taxes that it's collected, delivering a financial blow to the US Treasury.

26 nations ready to take part in postwar Ukraine force: Macron

REUTERS



- Force would be part of security guarantees, France says
- Macron says US contribution to be finalised in coming days
- Prospect of peace talks still appears remote
- Trump tells Europeans to stop buying Russian oil, pressure China

Paris, Sept 4: Twenty-six nations are ready to take part in an international force as part of security guarantees for Ukraine in the event of a peace deal with Russia, French President Emmanuel Macron said after a summit meeting of Kyiv's allies Thursday.

Macron said he, fellow European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy held a call with US President Donald Trump after their summit and US contributions to the guarantees would be finalised in the coming days.

The meeting of 35 leaders from the "coalition of the willing" - of mainly European countries - was intended to finalise security guarantees and ask Trump for the backing that Europeans say would be vital to make such guarantees viable.

"As a form of reassurance, 26 countries have committed to deploying troops to Ukraine, where they will be present on land, on sea or in the air," Macron told reporters, standing alongside Zelenskiy at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Macron said security guarantees would involve above all commitments to rebuild and bolster Ukraine's armed forces.

Germany and other countries pledged they would be involved in that effort. But Berlin said it would only decide on a military commitment once conditions were clear, including the extent of US involvement in security guarantees.

On his call with the coalition leaders, Trump said Europe must stop purchasing Russian oil that he said is helping Moscow fund its war against Ukraine, a White House official said.

Macron said the coalition and the United States had agreed to work more closely on future sanctions, notably on Russia's oil and gas sector, and on China.

SHORT TAKES

Jellyfish swarm shutters French N-reactor

Paris: A jellyfish swarm reduced output by 2.4 gigawatts at French utility EDF's Paluel nuclear plant after entering the filters of the pumping station, EDF said Thursday, the second time jellyfish have impacted production in a month. Electricity production at the 5.2 GW Paluel nuclear plant in northern France was nearly cut in half late Wednesday as the number 4 reactor was shut down and power at the number 3 reactor was reduced in a preventative manner, EDF said.

Indian envoy visits Tesla's China factory

Beijing: India's Consul General in Shanghai Pratik Mathur visited Tesla's factory in the city Thursday amid growing speculation over the export of its China-made luxury electric vehicle models to India. India is emerging as a major market for Tesla and the EV (electric vehicle) revolution, the Indian Consulate in Shanghai said in a social media post. During the visit to Tesla Shanghai Giga factory, Mathur toured the production line and experienced the company's Cybertruck, it said. Tesla plans to export its prime version Model Y to India. However, there is no clarity yet on when the exports will begin.

Afghan quake: Death toll jumps to 2,205

Jalalabad: Hundreds of bodies have been recovered from houses destroyed by a major earthquake in Afghanistan last week, pushing the death toll to over 2,200, a Taliban government spokesman said Thursday. A 6.0 magnitude quake struck several provinces of the mountainous and remote east Sunday night, levelling villages and trapping people under rubble. The majority of casualties have been in Kunar, where many live in steep river valleys separated by high mountains. Taliban spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat, who provided the updated casualty figures, said rescue and search efforts were continuing.

Nepal bans social media platforms

Kathmandu: Nepal Thursday banned social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube among others for failing to register with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology within the given deadline. According to the notice issued by the ministry, the social media companies were given seven days from August 28 to register.

SNIPPETS

Palestinian death toll passes 64,000

Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip): More than 64,000 Palestinians have been killed in the nearly two-year war in the Gaza Strip, local health officials said Thursday, as Hamas and Israel reiterated their incompatible demands for ending the fighting sparked by the militant group's 2023 attack. Local hospitals said that Israeli strikes killed 28 people, mostly women and children, overnight and into Thursday, as Israel pressed ahead with the initial stages of its offensive in famine-stricken Gaza City. Hamas released a statement late Wednesday saying that it was open to returning all 48 hostages it still holds — around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive — in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all of Gaza, the opening of border crossings and a start to the daunting challenge of rebuilding Gaza.

B'desh polls ban for candidates facing humanity crime charges

Dhaka: Bangladesh's interim government Thursday said it has incorporated a new clause in the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 to disqualify a candidate from contesting an election if a chargesheet is filed against the person for committing crimes against humanity. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's press secretary, Shafiqul Alam, said the new clause was included to prevent anyone formally charged under the law from contesting parliamentary elections or remaining in or applying for government jobs. "According to the newly added section, if a person is formally charged under Section 9 (1) of the said law, they will be disqualified from being elected or continuing as a Member of Parliament," Alam said. "The accused would also be disqualified to be appointed or remain in any job of the republic," Alam said, adding that the provision would simultaneously apply to intending contenders of local body polls and those who were already holding positions like mayors or district council chairmen.

Lisbon cable car crash kills 16

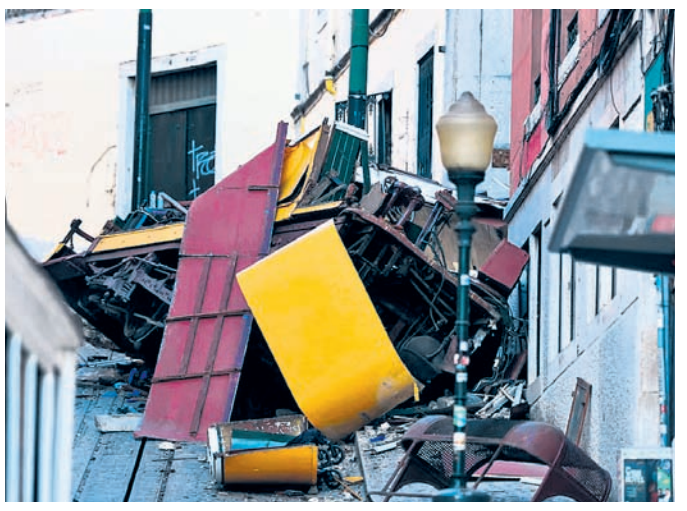
REUTERS

Lisbon, Sept 4: Portuguese authorities were investigating Thursday what caused a Lisbon funicular railway popular with tourists to hurtle down a hill, killing at least 16 people and injuring 21 when it crashed into a building.

The mangled wreckage of a yellow tram-like carriage, which carries people up and down a steep hillside in the Portuguese capital, lay where it had left the track and hit a building, just metres from its twin at the bottom of the steep 265-metre slope. The traction cable linking them had snapped.

Lisbon resident Abel Esteves, 75, and his wife and grandson were among 40 passengers in the lower car who saw the carriage plunge towards them before derailing at the last second.

"I told my wife, 'We're all going to die here'," he said. "It picked up a brutal speed, took a slight turn and hit the building with a loud bang."



Funicular railway popular with tourists

- 15 killed at scene on Wednesday, one more died in hospital
- Carriage plunged down slope before derailing
- Union says workers had flagged cable tension concerns
- Transport company says inspections carried out daily

FOREIGNERS AMONG LISBON FUNICULAR DEAD

Flags flew at half-mast as Portugal declared a day of mourning and the city's two other funiculars were shut for inspections. The Pope sent condolences and blessings to victims, relatives and rescuers.

Thirty-eight people were hurt in the accident, with 15 killed at the scene while one more died in hospital overnight.

Among the injured were four Portuguese, two Germans, two Spanish, one Korean, one Cape Verdean, one Canadian, one Italian, one French citizen, one Swiss and one Moroccan, Martins said.

Manuel Leal, leader of the Fectrans union, told local TV workers had complained that problems with the tension of the cable that hauls the carriages had made braking difficult, but that it was too early to say if that was the cause of the crash. The municipal transport company Carris said in a statement that "all maintenance protocols have been carried out", including monthly and weekly maintenance and daily inspections.

Indian-American appointed NASA's associate administrator

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, Sept 4: A decorated Indian-American Amit Kshatriya has been named as NASA's new 'exploration-focussed' associate administrator, the US space agency announced here.

Kshatriya, a 20-year NASA veteran, was most recently the deputy in charge of the Moon to Mars Programme in the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD) at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) headquarters in Washington.

"Acting NASA Administrator Sean P Duffy Wednesday named exploration-focussed Amit Kshatriya as the new associate administrator of NASA, the agency's top civil service role," a NASA statement said. Born in Wisconsin to Indian immigrant parents, educated at California Institute of Technology (CalTech) and the University of Texas at Austin, Kshatriya is one of only about 100 people in history to serve as a mission control flight director.

He joined NASA in 2003. Kshatriya was decorated with the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal for actions as the lead flight director for the 50th expedition to the space station, according to his profile on the NASA website.

Tanzanian 'hero rats' sniffing out land mines, tuberculosis

From detecting land mines to sniffing out tuberculosis, "hero rats" have become unlikely, and sometimes unrecognized, front-line responders in Tanzania and beyond

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morogoro(Tanzania), Sept 4: A man lies unmoving, slumped in the rubble of a simulated earthquake, as an unlikely rescuer approaches: a rat with a backpack. Whiskers waving, the rat breezes past garbage, toppled furniture and scattered clothes to find him and pull a trigger on its pack, alerting searchers above.

Then a resounding click. A survivor has been found. The search in Morogoro in Tanzania's Uluguru Mountains is over and the rat scurries out of the abandoned building to be rewarded with a banana. A successful mission is complete for this African giant pouched rat being trained for search and rescue operations.

"Their sense of smell is incredible," said Fabrizio Dell'Anna, an animal behaviourist at APOPO, a Tanzania-based nongovernmental organisation that trains the rats for lifesaving applications. "These rats are able to detect explosives, tuberculosis — even tiny amounts of the bacteria — and in this project, they are able to correctly identify and indicate humans."

In a field nearby, more rats walk on leashes held between handlers, pacing a grid filled with land mines as part of an initiative by APOPO, which works alongside Sokoine University of Agriculture. When they pause, it indicates that explosives are beneath. These rats are readying for their next deployment, perhaps Angola or Cambodia, where APOPO has helped clear more than 50,000 land mines since 2014.

From detecting land mines to sniffing out tuberculosis, these "hero rats" have become unlikely, and sometimes unrecognized, front-line responders in Tanzania and beyond.

HELPING THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST TB

While the rats focused on explosives or survivors buried in rubble get all the glory, it is a group of rats inside a lab that are arguably the most impactful lifesavers. These are not typical lab rats, but rather, as their proponents would argue, one of the world's most effective detectors of tuberculosis.

"Every day as many people die from TB as from land mines in a whole year," said Christophe Cox, the CEO of APOPO. "It's more spectacular to be on the minefield but for TB in terms of social impact, it's tremendous."

Tuberculosis is an ancient respiratory disease that continues to run rampant despite centuries of research and treatment. The World Health Organisation said last October in its most recent TB report that the disease had resurged as the top infectious disease killer, with 1.25 million deaths and a record 8.2 million infections in 2023.

With their sensitive noses, the rats sniff out samples of sputum from patients, looking for positive TB cases that had been marked as negative. Research suggests the rats are picking up on six unique volatile organic compounds in positive TB samples, said Cox.

MEETING WHO STANDARDS

The more existential challenge for these "hero rats" comes from regulators and a wider health community who doubt this unconventional method of disease detection.

APOPO's rats are not classified as primary diagnostic tools by the WHO. Instead, they are a second line of defence. Any positive samples detected by the rats must be confirmed with human microscopy in APOPO's labs before treatment can be administered.

"It's a big challenge," said Cox. "Not being recognised by the WHO means that the mainstream funding for TB never reaches us."

The world is looking at control of supply chains, critical supply chains, control of supply chains, and control of standards. In tech, you lead if you set standards, otherwise, you follow. These three things, supply chains, standards, and alliances, are defining the choke points and are also defining how the geopolitical play entirely spans out

DEBJANI GHOSH | CHIEF ARCHITECT, NITI FRONTIER TECH HUB

L&T SEMI, IISC TO SET UP INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL 2D INNOVATION HUB

Semiconductor design firm L&T Semiconductors has signed a pact with Indian Institute of Science to collaborate on the development of the country's first national 2D Innovation Hub, the company said Thursday. The envisioned hub will serve as a world-class facility focused on next-generation semiconductor innovation, beyond-silicon-chip technologies, placing India at the forefront of global semiconductor R&D

Quote of the day

The growth of the car industry in general will also benefit from the GST system. We expect the industry growth rate to come back to about 7 per cent a year

RC BHARGAVA | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA CHAIRMAN

Pulse is such a food crop that there are no hybrid varieties. There are only open-pollinated varieties produced by the government or the farmers themselves. If this is achieved, our productivity will increase on a very large scale

DEVESH CHATURVEDI | AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

From transforming industries to reshaping how we work, AI has moved from opportunity to impact. AI literacy and fluency are no longer optional; they are mission-critical for every industry, every leader, and every enterprise

PUNEET CHANDOK | PRESIDENT, MICROSOFT (INDIA & SOUTH ASIA)

BIS unveils HUID-based silver hallmarking

Under the new system, consumers can identify article type, purity grade, hallmarking date, testing centre details and jeweller registration number of silver jewellery hallmarked after September 1, 2025, using the BIS Care mobile application

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The government Thursday said it has introduced voluntary hallmarking for silver jewellery and articles effective September 1, implementing a digital identification system to ensure metal purity for consumers.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) revised its hallmarking standard with the publication of IS 2112:2025, replacing the earlier IS 2112:2014 version.

The revision introduces Hallmarking Unique Identification (HUID)-based hallmarking for silver jewellery and articles, enhancing traceability and aligning with the existing gold hallmarking system.

Under the new system, consumers can identify article type, purity grade, hallmarking date, testing centre details and jeweller registration number of silver jewellery hallmarked after September 1, 2025, using the BIS Care mobile application, according to an official statement.

The revised standard introduces seven purity grades - 800, 835, 925, 958, 970, 990, and 999 - with grades 958 and 999 newly added. The hallmark consists of three components: BIS Standard Mark with the word 'SILVER', purity grade, and HUID code.

The country currently has around 230 Assaying and Hallmarking Centres recognised by BIS for testing silver jewellery, spread across 87 districts.

In financial year 2024-25, over 3.2 million silver jewellery articles were hallmarked. The previous IS 2112:2014 standard permitted hallmarking in six purity grades - 800, 835, 900, 925, 970, and 990 - with a four-component hallmark system including BIS mark, purity grade, testing centre identification and jeweller identification marks.

BIS organised a stakeholder consultation August 7, 2025, with participation from over 80 stakeholders including jewellers, testing centres and consumers.

The bureau is conducting awareness campaigns through branch offices and social media platforms. The initiative aims to strengthen consumer rights and protect against malpractices in the silver jewellery market.

GST hike in premium air travel disappointing: IATA

Tax on non-economy air travel has risen dramatically. GST is at 18 per cent, compared to the 8.6 per cent rate in 2017 under the service tax regime

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Global airlines' grouping IATA Thursday termed as "disappointing" the decision to increase the Goods and Service Tax (GST) on non-economy class flight tickets, "with no justification" and said that taxing premium travellers, where they often make a difference to a route's viability, is counterproductive.

GST Council, comprising representatives from the Centre and the states, Wednesday decided on a two-rate structure -- 5 per cent and 18 per cent -- as part of a major revamp.

Under the rate rejig, to be effective from September 22, non-economy class air travel will attract a GST of 18 per cent, higher than the current rate of 12 per cent.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) -- which represents around 350 airlines, including Indian carriers, Thursday said the increase in GST runs counter to the efforts of Indian carriers, which have been investing in their premium products to enhance the travel experience on their flights.

"Tax on non-economy air travel has risen dramatically – GST is at 18 per cent after yesterday's announcement, compared to the 8.6 per cent rate in 2017 under the service tax regime," Sheldon Hee, Regional Vice President - Asia Pacific at IATA, said.

In a statement, he mentioned that in many ways, India has been an amazing aviation story with its impressive growth, record aircraft orders and world-class infrastructure.

"Aviation has tremendous potential to contribute to India's economic growth, both directly as Indian airlines grow,

and indirectly through increased connectivity for travellers and businesses alike. It is therefore disappointing to hear of a decision to increase the GST on non-economy travel with no clear justification," he said.

For its aviation industry to thrive, he said India needs to take a whole-of-government approach in considering broader policy and consider the risks of such policies on dampening demand and undermining profitability.

"Asia Pacific airlines forecast to only earn $2.60 per passenger in 2025. Taxing premium travellers, where these customers often make a difference to a route's viability, is counterproductive," he said.

The GST rate on an economy class flight ticket remains unchanged at 5 per cent.

India is the world's third-largest aviation market, and the passenger traffic is expected to double to 500 million by 2030, according to the government.

Jitin Makkar, Senior Vice President and Group Head of Corporate Sector Ratings at rating agency ICRA, said the GST on premium/ business/ first class air travel has been increased to 18 per cent from 12 per cent, which the airlines will pass on to the consumers.

Sensex, Nifty close marginally higher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 4: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty pared most of the early gains to settle marginally higher Thursday.

The 30-share Sensex finally settled 150.30 points or 0.19 per cent higher at 80,718.01. As many as 19 of its shares closed low, while 11 settled higher.

The barometer jumped 888.96 points or 1.10 per cent to a high of 81,456.67 in the opening trade as the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council approved a complete overhaul of the tangled GST regime. However, stock markets trimmed gains later due to profit-taking in blue-chips.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 19.25 points or 0.08 per cent at 24,734.30 after surging 265.7 points or 1.07 per cent to 24,980.75 in opening trade.

Post GST announcement, Mahindra & Mahindra jumped the most by 5.96 per cent. Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent, ITC and HDFC Bank were also among the gainers.

However, Maruti Suzuki India, Bharat Electronics, HCL Tech, NTPC, Power Grid, Infosys and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

"Nifty opened on a strong note with a gap-up start, driven by optimism around the new GST rates, but profit-booking in the second half wiped out most of the early gains.

"The move triggered broad-based buying in auto, FMCG, and consumer durable stocks during early trade. However, profit-booking weighed on broader indices, dragging them down," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder - Livelong Wealth, said.

Among BSE sectoral indices, auto climbed 0.69 per cent, FMCG (0.31 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.24 per cent) and financial services (0.15 per cent).

VeDakshata training centre empowers Youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer is driving socio-economic transformation through its flagship VeDakshata Skill Training Centre in Bileimunda village of Sundargarh district. To date, 87 rural youth trained under the programme have secured employment with reputed organisations across India, reinforcing Vedanta's commitment to equipping local youth with industry-ready skills and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Speaking on the initiative, Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Empowering youth through skill development is key to unlocking the potential of our communities and driving inclusive growth.

Through VeDakshata, we are equipping young individuals in rural Odisha with practical skills and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. The successful placements reflect the growing impact of this initiative in bridging the gap between education and livelihood, and in building confident, self-reliant individuals who can shape their own futures.

Vedanta's skill training initiative is strategically aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 1 – "No Poverty" and SDG 8 – "Decent Work and Economic Growth." It also resonates with the national vision of Viksit Bharat, bolstering rural employability and entrepreneurship.

GOLD PRICE DROPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Gold prices eased from record high and dropped ₹1,000 to ₹1,06,070 per 10 grams, ending the eight-day rally in the national capital Thursday, as traders booked profits in tandem with a weak trend in global markets.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at ₹1,07,070 per 10 grams, its all-time high level Wednesday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also witnessed a pullback, depreciating ₹1,000 to ₹1,05,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Thursday. It had closed at ₹1,06,200 per 10 grams in the previous market session, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Silver too slipped from its record levels as investors booked profits at higher levels. The white metal fell ₹500 to ₹1,25,600 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) Thursday.

In the previous session, it had ended at its lifetime high of ₹1,26,100 per kg.

Snapping an 11-day rising streak, gold futures for October delivery plunged ₹1,395 or 1.3 per cent to hit a low of ₹1,05,800 per 10 grams in the intraday trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). It was trading at ₹1,06,505 per 10 grams, down by ₹690 or 0.64 per cent.

The December contracts for gold futures also trimmed early losses to trade at ₹1,07,524 per 10 grams, lower by ₹711 or 0.66 per cent.

Silver futures for December delivery extended the losses for second straight session and plunged ₹1,356 or 1.08 per cent to ₹1,24,516 per kilogram. The white metal futures for March next year delivery tanked ₹1,364 or 1.07 per cent to trade at ₹1,25,888 per 10 kg on the MCX.

In the overseas market, spot gold prices and gold futures also corrected after scaling historic highs.

IEX electricity trade rises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) Thursday said that its monthly electricity traded volume grew 18.9 per cent to 11,803 million units (MU) in August on a year-on-year basis.

A total of 21.68 lakh Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) were traded during the month, an IEX (Indian Energy Exchange) statement said.

The monthly electricity traded volume (including TRAS) stood at 11,803 MU in August 2025, marking an 18.9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth, according to the statement.

Despite higher demand, prices on power exchanges were lower than the previous year, owing to higher supply side liquidity on the exchange platform, it explained.

The market clearing price in the day-ahead market stood at ₹4.00 per unit in August 2025, marking a 7 per cent year-on-

year(YoY) decline.

Similarly, the price in the Real Time Market was ₹3.38 per unit in August 2025, down 6 per cent YoY.

These prices presented an opportunity for Discoms and Commercial & Industrial consumers to meet their demand at a competitive price and to replace their costlier power by procuring through exchanges, it stated.

The Day-Ahead Market (DAM), including HPDAM, achieved 4,797 MU volume in August 2025 as compared to 4,666 MU volume in August 2024, an increase of 3 per cent YoY.

The DAM segment accounted for 34 per cent of the total traded volumes in August 2025 The Real-Time Electricity Market (RTM) volume increased to 5,029 MU in August '25, from 3,485 MU in August'24, registering an increase of 44 per cent YoY. The RTM segment accounted for 36 per cent of the total traded volumes in August'25.

Day Ahead Contingency and Term-Ahead Market (TAM), comprising HPTAM, contingency, daily & weekly and monthly contracts up to 3 months, traded 835 MU in August'25 as compared to 893 MU volume in August'24, a decline of 6.4 per cent YoY.

IEX Green Market, comprising the Green Day-Ahead and Green Term-Ahead Market segments, achieved 930 MU volume during August'25 as compared to 871 MU in August'24.

GST, Income Tax cuts to spark sustained economic growth: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Goods and Service Tax (GST) Reform 2.0, which trims tax slabs from four to two, signals a push for demand-led growth, and together with recent income tax cuts, sets the stage for sustained economic growth, experts said.

GST Council September 3 approved an overhaul of the indirect tax regime by taxing essentials at 5 per cent and other goods at 18 per cent. A new 40 per cent tax will be applicable on luxury and sin items.

The rejig, to be effective from September 22, aims to simplify the tax structure, ease compliance, boost disposable income and spur overall demand. Key segments/ sectors that stand to benefit include consumer staples (food and personal), retail (apparel and footwear), automobiles (especially small cars and two-wheelers), insurance, renewables and agro chemicals.

"These GST changes, combined with benign inflation, income tax cuts in February, and accommodative monetary policy, create an environment for sustained growth," HSBC Global Investment Research said in a note.

A revival in demand should also provide a much needed boost to private sector capex that has been sluggish for several years.

"With these policies in place, we expect growth to accelerate from Q4 (October-December) onwards," it said.

While HSBC said over a year, led by stronger consumption, GDP growth can rise by 0.2 percentage point, Standard Chartered Global Research said GST cut could boost GDP by 0.1-0.16 ppt and lower inflation by 40-60 bps on an annual basis.

Details showed that the gross revenue loss from the tax cuts is about ₹93,000 crore in a consumption base of FY24. Revenues folded from the compensation cess to the 40 per cent tax bracket can fund ₹45,000 crore of the loss, leaving a net loss of ₹48,000 crore, which is 0.16 per cent of GDP, HSBC said.

"Scaling this to the FY26 base implies a net revenue loss of ₹57,000 crore (0.16 per cent of GDP) over a year. Since only half the fiscal year is left, the implication for FY26 would be around 0.1 per cent of GDP," it said.

Standard Chartered saw pressure on the FY26 combined fiscal deficit (of 0.15-0.20 per cent of GDP) on a shortfall in direct taxes and a potential relief package for exporters. "Our base case for the combined fiscal deficit is 6.9 per cent of GDP in FY26 (with 4.4 per cent for the centre)."

According to decisions taken by GST Council, tobacco will continue to be taxed at current rate of 28 per cent GST plus cess (specific and ad valorem) till the loans (tax shortfall to states) are repaid. Post this, the compensation cess will be subsumed under GST at 40 per cent on the retail selling price instead of the transaction value.

Aerated beverages will see status quo with current 28 per cent GST plus 12 per cent cess being revised to 40 per cent GST rate.

Tax on packaged water, fruit juices, drinks, and dairy products have been reduced from 18 per cent or 12 per cent to 5 per cent. Several consumer goods, taxed at 18 per cent (toothpaste/brush, hair oil, shampoo, soaps, biscuits, chocolates, Ayurveda, etc.) will now be taxed at 5 per cent. Also, other essential products, at 12 per cent (condensed milk, instant noodles, cheese, dried fruits, frozen vegetables, namkeens, etc.) will now be taxed at 5 per cent.

Morgan Stanley said local e-commerce delivery services will now attract a GST rate of 18 per cent.

SHORT TAKES

Rupee falls 10 paise

Mumbai: The rupee fell 10 paise to close at 88.12 against the US dollar Thursday amid sustained foreign fund outflows and a stronger greenback. However, positive sentiment in the domestic equity markets -- which were buoyed by the GST rate revision, and a drop in international crude oil prices prevented sharper losses in the local unit, according to forex traders. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.09 against the US dollar and traded in the range of 87.85-88.19 before settling at 88.12, down 10 paise from its previous close.

Amazon acquires axio

New Delhi: E-commerce firm Amazon Thursday said it has completed the acquisition of non-banking financial services firm axio, formerly Capital Float, after getting approval from the Reserve Bank of India. axio has been engaged with Amazon to facilitate buy-now-pay-later service to customers of the e-commerce firm for more than six years. The acquisition, one of Amazon's largest in India, marks a milestone in Amazon's commitment to expanding its financial services offerings in India, the statement said.

Swiggy launches Giftables

New Delhi: Swiggy Thursday announced the launch of an instant gifting delivery platform, Giftables, ahead of the festive season. The new service will be housed within the Swiggy app, alongside its other verticals like food delivery and the quick commerce segment, Instamart. The company said it will soon launch an AI-powered gifting chatbot that recommends items based on the occasion, relationship, recipient's personality, and interests.

Bandhan AMC gets SEBI nod

New Delhi: Bandhan AMC Ltd Thursday announced its entry into the Specialised Investment Funds (SIF) space with the approval of markets regulator SEBI. With this, Bandhan AMC will be able to design and offer innovative equity, debt, and hybrid strategies, including unhedged short derivatives positions -- aimed at sophisticated investors seeking differentiated risk-return profiles. The new range of products will be offered under the 'Arudha SIF' platform, the asset management company said.

BHAMBRI'S CAREER-BEST RUN

India's Yuki Bhambri reaches maiden Grand Slam semifinal

> It has been an incredibly nerve-wracking experience, and at this moment, there is a whirlwind of emotions
> YUKI BHAMBRI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 4: India's Yuki Bhambri progressed to his maiden Grand Slam semifinal by advancing to the last four of the US Open men's doubles event with New Zealand partner Michael Venus.

The Indo-Kiwi duo upset 11th seeds Nikola Mektic and Rajeev Ram 6-3, 6-7(8), 6-3 in a quarterfinal clash on Court 17 to continue their impressive run Wednesday.

Earlier, Bhambri and Venus had knocked out fourth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz in the pre-quarterfinals.

For Bhambri, 33, it marked a career breakthrough after years of battling injuries and transitioning from singles to doubles. A former junior world No 1 and the 2009 Australian Open boys' champion, he has now achieved his best result at a senior Grand Slam.

US OPEN

"We are simply grateful to have prevailed in such a challenging match. Our opponents made it extremely difficult for us with their vast experience as multiple Grand Slam champions, and competing against them truly tested our resolve at every stage," Bhambri said while speaking on Jio Hotstar.

Talking about his decision to rejoin forces with Venus, Bhambri said the "timing felt right" to start competing together again. "I am genuinely pleased to be by his side on the court. Having faced him multiple times as an opponent, I always preferred partnering with him rather than playing against him.

The result also extends India's legacy in men's doubles, in which the likes of Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna have excelled in the past.

The winners secured the first break of the match when Bhambri found a service return winner on Mektik's serve for a 3-1 lead. Venus' serve came under pressure in the very next game but the New Zealander managed to save, consolidating the break. Bhambri locked the first set with an easy volley winner on Ram's return.

The Indian, however, lost his serve early in the second set, allowing Mektic and Ram to make a comeback in the match.

They got the break back to make it 4-4 but eventually lost the set in the tie-break when Bhambri served a double fault, facing set point. Bhambri saved a break point in game three of the decider to avert the danger.

Mektic was comfortably up 40-15 in game eight but the Indo-Kiwi pair got the break for a decisive 5-3 lead when Mektic could not return the angled backhand from the Indian after serving a double fault at deuce.

Serving for the match, Venus was down 0-40 but he and Bhambri saved all three and later two more and closed the game when Ram's backhand service return fell on the net.

Bhambri and Venus will face sixth seed British pair of Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski for a place in the final.

Anisimova hands Swiatek one of most brutal defeats

Amanda Anisimova flipped the script Wednesday by ousting second seed Iga Swiatek 6-4 6-3 to reach her first US Open semi-final, exacting revenge for one of the most brutal defeats in Grand Slam history. Less than two months after suffering a devastating 6-0 6-0 loss to the world number two in the Wimbledon final, the American eighth seed completed the turnaround in 96 minutes on Arthur Ashe Stadium. "Playing here is so freaking special," Anisimova said in her on-court interview. "I've been having the run of my life here ... Today proved everything for me. I can do it." The 24-year-old's journey from tears in July to triumph Wednesday epitomizes the sport's capacity for redemption. Anisimova next faces Naomi Osaka in the semi-finals after the Japanese 23rd seed beat Karolina Muchova 6-4 7-6(3). Swiatek acknowledged that her opponent's aggressive return game proved decisive. "I couldn't win today's match playing like that, serving like that, and with Amanda being so aggressive on the returns," the six-time Grand Slam champion told reporters.

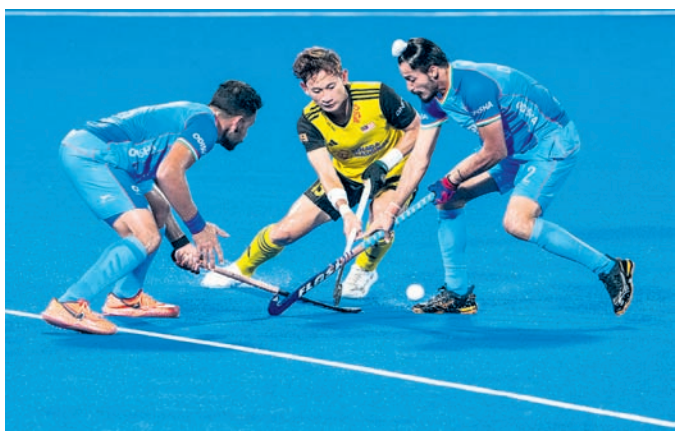
Sinner in sublime form

Jannik Sinner returned to the US Open semifinals by beating No 10 Lorenzo Musetti 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 Wednesday night in the first all-Italian matchup in a men's major quarterfinal. The No 1 seed continued what's been an easy title defense and Friday will face No 25 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, who beat No 8 Alex de Minaur 4-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5, 7-6 (4). Sinner is into his fifth straight Grand Slam semifinal and with a win Friday would reach the finals of all four majors this year. He has won 26 consecutive matches in majors on hard courts. That includes the past two Australian Open titles along with his triumph in New York a year ago. "It was a great performance. Very solid, especially starting very, very well," Sinner said. Meanwhile Felix Auger-Aliassime got past Alex de Minaur 4-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5, 7-6 (4) at the US Open across 4 hours, 10 minutes Wednesday to reach his second Grand Slam semifinal — and second at Flushing Meadows.

ASIA CUP

India's dominating win over Malaysia

Harmanpreet and Co secure a sensational comeback win, inch closer to Asia Cup final



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), Sept 4: India thrashed Malaysia 4-1 in their second Super 4 stage match of the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament here Thursday.

Manpreet Singh (17'), Sukhjeet Singh (19'), Shilanand Lakra (24), and Vivek Sagar Prasad (38') scored for the Indian team.

Having conceded a goal in the second minute of the game, India responded by scoring two goals in two minutes to take the lead. Lakhra then added a third with the hosts heading to the lemon break 3-1 ahead.

India then intensified pressure on their opponents as Vivek Sagar scored from a penalty corner in the 38th minute.

India will take on China in their finals Super4s game Saturday. The country had been held to a 2-2 draw by South Korea Wednesday.

Meanwhile China improved their chances of making it to final of the Asia Cup with a 3-0 win over defending champions Korea Thursday. A brace from Benhai Chen and Jiesheng Gao helped Anthony Farry's men to score three vital points.

Harmanpreet's milestone

Hockey India congratulated Harmanpreet Singh, the stalwart drag flicker, on completing 250 international caps.

Ecstatic on achieving this milestone in front of the home crowd, and receiving his 250th jersey from the team's chief coach Craig Fulton earlier in the day, Harmanpreet expressed, "This is a very special and emotional moment for me. I have received a lot of love from hockey fans throughout my career so far, and I am grateful for all the support.

"The last few years have been extremely special, not only because we have won the back-to-back Olympic medals but also because I have my daughter coming in for some of the matches and cheering me on. It has been a very memorable journey so far, and I wish to continue contributing to the legacy of Indian hockey," stated Harmanpreet Singh, whose milestone was celebrated with loud cheers from the evening spectators at Rajgir Sports Complex.

SHORT TAKES

Good start for Gukesh

Samarkand: Seeking to prove himself across formats, reigning world champion D Gukesh of India began his campaign in the FIDE Grand Swiss here with a crushing victory over France's Etienne Bacrot in the first round. The Indian ace used all his resources at the right time to deliver a knockout punch when the situation arrived and his choice of opening – the Caro Kann -- was deemed as a perfect defense to counter Bacrot. Winning with black means that Gukesh will play with white pieces in the next game and his expertise there is well known. The youngest ever world champion has already done enough, but if he wins this event, it will be an icing on the cake.

AFC qualifier in Goa

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Thursday announced that Goa will host the country's AFC Asian Cup Final Round Qualifier Group C match against Singapore October 14. The AIFF posted the decision on its social media pages. "The AFC Asian Cup Final Round Qualifier Group C match between India and Singapore October 14, will be held at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in Fatorda, Goa," it stated. The two teams are scheduled to play each other twice in October. The away leg will be held October 9 at the National Stadium in Singapore. The group winners will qualify for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia, which will feature 24 teams in all, including the hosts.

Eves eye fresh start

Hangzhou: An injury-plagued Indian women's hockey team will look to put behind past struggles and hope for a winning start against lower-ranked Thailand in its opening match of the Asia Cup beginning here on Friday. India, ranked ninth in the world, will start favourites against World No 30 Thailand in the Pool B match. India are the highest ranked team in the pool alongside Japan (12), Thailand and Singapore (31) and are expected to top the group. In fact, India are the second highest-ranked side in the tournament behind World No 4 China.

Blue Colts beat Bahrain 2-0 in AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, Sept 4: India began their AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers campaign with a 2-0 victory against Bahrain at the Suheim Bin Hamad Stadium here.

Muhammed Suhail (32') and Chingangbam Shivaldo Singh (90+5') scored the two goals, as India registered three points in the first game of Group H Wednesday.

In a frantic match that saw end-to-end action throughout the 90 minutes, the Blue Colts had an early scare in the eighth minute, when Bahrain's Mahmood Abdulla closed down on India goalkeeper Sahil and managed to steal the ball inside the penalty area.

However, with an open goal staring him in the face, he hit the side-netting.

India gained some composure after that early Bahrain miss and began to construct

chances, hitting Bahrain on the break. Striker Parthib Sundar Gogoi had a couple of half-chances around the quarter-hour mark, but lacked the finishing touch.

India's attacks left them vulnerable at the back, and Abdulla had another chance when he got in behind the defence, but missed again.

At the other end, the Blue Colts thought they had scored when Ricky Meetei Haobam threaded a ball through to Mohammed Sanan, who put it past the keeper, but was soon flagged offside.

CAFA Nations Cup: India in playoffs

Blue Tigers qualify for third-place match at expense of Tajikistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hisor (Tajikistan), Sept 4: The Indian football team secured a berth for the CAFA Nations Cup third-place match on head-to-head record after tournament co-hosts Tajikistan and Iran played out a 2-2 draw here Thursday.

India, who were earlier in the day held to a goalless draw by Afghanistan, had beaten Tajikistan 2-1 in their tournament opener, and that result proved to be vital for Khalid Jamil's squad as far as their progression was concerned.

India and Tajikistan ended with four points each but Jamil's side finished second in Group B on the basis of head to head result.

India will play their third-fourth place match September 8, and their opponents will be known Friday, after the

completion of the two Group A matches in Tashkent.

Mohammad Mohebi (38' 47') put Iran on course with his two strikes but Shahrom Samiev (58t') and Zoir Dzhuraboev (78') brought Tajikistan back into the contest with their second-half goals.

However, that was not enough for Tajikistan to remain in contention for the third-place match.

Earlier in the day, the Indian team could not make use of the chances that came its way.

India had lost to Afghanistan in their last meeting during the second round 2026 World Cup Qualifiers in March 2024.

WORLD BOXING

SAKSHI AND BARTWAL WIN ON OPENING DAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Liverpool, Sept 4: Indian boxers Pawan Bartwal and Sakshi Chaudhary registered contrasting wins on the opening day of the World Boxing Championships here Thursday.

Sakshi, a World Boxing Cup gold medallist, advanced to the women's 54kg pre-quarterfinals with a Referee Stops Contest (RSC) win against Ukraine's Viktoriia Shkeul, who was making her senior debut.

Making full use of her height advantage, the Indian dominated with a flurry of combinations, compelling the referee to issue three standing counts before halting the contest in the second round.

Bartwal, on the other hand, opened India's campaign with a hard-fought split-decision victory over Brazil's Michael Douglas da Silva Trindade in the men's 55kg opening round.

Amit Mishra calls time on cricket

The veteran leggie ends 25-year-long career, announces retirement from all forms of cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

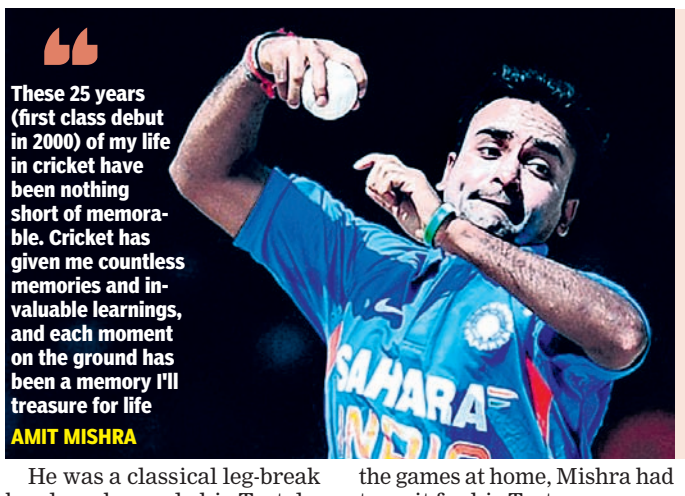
New Delhi, Sept 4: Veteran India leg-spinner Amit Mishra Thursday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a career spanning more than two decades.

Having last played for India in 2017, the 42-year-old Haryana cricketer continued to feature in the IPL till the 2024 edition. Mishra confirmed his retirement to PTI over phone.

"I have decided to retire," said Mishra.

In a statement, Mishra said the decision was largely based on repeated injuries and the belief that the younger generation needed to take over.

Mishra represented India in 22 Tests, 36 ODIs and 10 T20s. His Test career yielded 76 wickets, while in ODIs he snared 64 scalps.



> These 25 years (first class debut in 2000) of my life in cricket have been nothing short of memorable. Cricket has given me countless memories and invaluable learnings, and each moment on the ground has been a memory I'll treasure for life
> AMIT MISHRA

He was a classical leg-break bowler who made his Test debut against Australia in 2008, five years after he made his India debut in an ODI against South Africa in 2003.

With Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble starting most of the games at home, Mishra had to wait for his Test cap.

It was a successful debut for him as he took a five-wicket haul in the first innings before picking a couple of more in the second essay. It ultimately became his only five-wicket haul in the traditional format.

His last competitive game was for Lucknow Super Giants in the 2024 IPL season. His international career stagnated after R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja entered the scene.

CAREER RECORDS

- Amit Mishra racked up 535 wickets in a exemplary first class career while he collected 252 and 285 in List A and T20 cricket
- In the IPL alone, he took 166 wickets at a stellar average of 23.98 and a very acceptable economy rate of 7.36
- He remains the only bowler to take three hat-tricks in the IPL

DULEEP TROPHY

Gaikwad cracks superlative 184

Bangalore: Ruturaj Gaikwad produced a batting masterclass to rescue West Zone from early trouble and put them in control at stumps on day one of 2025/26 Duleep Trophy semi-final against Central Zone at the BCCI COE Ground 2 Thursday. Walking in at 10/2 with fast bowlers Khaleel Ahmed and Deepak Chahar making the ball talk, Gaikwad dug in before opening up once conditions eased to hit a humungous 184 off 206 balls, laced with 25 fours and a six. He marched forward to reach his eighth first-class century in 131 deliveries and reached his 150 in just 178 balls.

South Zone batters make merry

Bangalore: Wicketkeeper-batter N Jagadeesan hit a composed century to put South Zone in command at stumps on day one of their 2025/26 Duleep Trophy semi-final against North Zone at the BCCI COE Ground 1 Thursday. After making a cautious start, Jagadeesan brought up his fifty off 124 balls before shifting gears after lunch break to get his hundred in just next 60 deliveries. With South Zone reaching 297/3 in 81 overs, Jagadeesan closed the day unbeaten on 148 off 260 balls, laced with 13 fours and two sixes to anchor South Zone's innings and keep the bowlers at bay.

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