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RACING FOR GLORY: Runners and riders in action during the Handicap at Laytown Races in County Meath, Ireland

# Services of 13K teachers to be regularised: CM

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Friday announced that the services of over 13,000 teachers appointed under various schemes will be regularised and said that 45,000 more will be recruited over the next three years.

He made the announcements while addressing the state-level Teachers' Day celebration and Chief Minister's Education Award Ceremony in Bhubaneswar. To check dropout rates, the CM said the state government has already extended midday meal scheme till Class X and also introduced 'Madho Singh Haat Kharcha' scheme under which a one-time incentive of ₹5,000 is provided to ST students getting enrolled in Classes IX and XI.

Majhi said in order to provide quality education to students, the state government has appointed around 20,000 teachers, including 13,000 un-

'India will say sorry'

India as the 'vowel' between Russia and China in the BRICS grouping, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick

Friday said New Delhi will be at the negotiating table and will try to make

a deal with President Donald Trump in

a month or two months. I think India is going to be at the table, and they're

going to say they're sorry, and they're going to try to make a deal with

Donald Trump," Lutnick said in an

be on Donald Trump's desk how he

wants to deal with (Narendra) Modi,

and we leave that to him. That's why

in the world into a "massive

refining hub and oil money

A video of Modi and Putin

holding hands and walking

towards Xi, and then all three

forming a close circle as good

friends during the SCO Summit

went viral on social media.

laundromat for the Kremlin,'

he's the President," he added.

Navarro said last week.

New York/Washington: Terming

past 15 months and another 45,000 teachers will be recruited in next three years.

"The to-be-appointed 45,000 teachers will get regular post ing and not under any scheme,' the CM said. Majhi also used the occasion to felicitate teachers and institutions that have made notable contributions to the education sector.

Jharsuguda district was awarded ₹3 crore for securing the top position in the Chief Minister's Education Award programme followed by Khurda district with ₹2 crore and Jagatsinghpur dis trict with ₹1 crore.

At the event, the CM launched the Odisha Curric ulum Framework for School Education -2025 book based on the National Education Policy, and a coffee table book on the occasion of the first year of Shikrut Odisha and launched the 'Padhiba, Gadhiba Odisha Abhivan'.

Two tribal students who had successfully cleared the NEET examination were felicitated.

Three minor

# Rupee hits fresh low against dollar We've lost India to China: Trump US President Donald UTTrump's latest salvo at PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 5: The rupee touched its lowest level but pared all losses before ending 3 paise higher at ₹88.09 against the US dollar Friday amid sustained outflow of foreign funds and renewed concern over additional US tariffs on Indian IT sector exports.

A weak greenback and falling crude oil prices failed to prevent the fall in the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.11 against the US dollar and touched the lowest-ever intra-day level of 88.38 before ending the session at 88.09 against the greenback, up 3 paise from its previous close.

The local unit had lost 10 paise to close at 88.12 against the US dollar Thursday. The unit had recorded its all-time low closing level of 88.15 against the dollar September 2.

"The rupee fell to its record low on rumour of the Trump administration imposing tariffs on the Indian IT sector, taking shares down and USD/INR pair up. However, as news agencies denied the rumour, the rupee recovered slightly though the dollar was still well bid at 87.25 levels,' Anil Kumar Bhansali of Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

"The markets anticipated that the RBI had strongly intervened to keep the rupee up. The rupee has suffered following US President Donald Trump's tariff announcements, and has not been able to recover despite a fall in the US dollar index and rise in Asian currencies, particularly the yuan, with FPIs remaining constant sellers of the currency and equity markets," he said.

US President Donald Trump's latest salvo at India indicates the thinning prospects for a trade deal between Washington and New Delhi. In a social media post, the POTUS remarked the US has lost India and Russia to 'darkest' and 'deepest' China. He went on to sarcastically add that the three nations "may have a long and prosperous future together." Over the last few weeks, India-US ties have witnessed a major downturn after over two decades of close cooperation. The tension began after the collapse of negotiations for a trade deal, as well as Trump's repeated claims that he resolved the military conflict between India and Pakistan in May. The US has also been targeting India for buying Russian oil and arms.

Washington, Sept 5: It looks like the US has lost India and Russia to "darkest" China, President Donald Trump said Friday in his latest remarks as ties between New Delhi and Washington continue to reel under possibly the worst phase in over two decades.

Trump's latest post on social media came days after the bonhomie among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention.

"Looks like we have lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!" the US president said on Truth Social.

The relations between New



Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. The additional tariff has already come into effect from August 27.

In the last few days, several Trump administration officials, including White House trade advisor Peter Navarro, have used offensive language to target India.

India's big oil lobby has turned the largest democracy

# boys drown

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Bhawanipatna, Sept 5: Three minor boys, including two brothers, drowned in separate incidents in Khurda and Kalahandi districts Friday, police said. The first incident took place

at Daruthenga on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar when fire services personnel fished out the body of a 12-year-old boy from a canal. The deceased, Prakash Sethi of Damana village, along with five friends had gone to the canal to make a slow-motion reel by jumping into the water.

"While his friends safely returned to the bank, Prakash could not. He slipped into the deeper section and failed to swim back, the official said. He was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival," a fire offi cial said. In Kalahandi district's Bhawanipatna, two brothers aged 9 and 12 years drowned in a village pond Friday afternoon.

# **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL

If we call a 5-hour bandh for every abuse hurled at Indian mothers last month, the country will stay shut for centuries

# Ajit Pawar's 'threat' to IPS officer sparks row

Mumbai, Sept 5: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar sparked a row Friday after a video in which he reprimanded a woman IPS officer who was carrying out her professional duties against the illegal excavation of murrum in Solapur district went viral.

The incident took place in Kurdu village a few days ago, where SDPO Anjana Krishna had gone to act on complaints of illegal murrum excavation. In the video, Pawar was heard asking the woman officer how she dared to ask him for his number. Pawar purportedly spoke to Anjana Krishna from the

the officer didn't recognise Pawar's voice. The Deputy CM is heard asking her to stop action against illegal excavation of murrum. According to the video clip, the woman officer is heard saying that she could not figure out who the Deputy CM was

"This is the Deputy Chief Minister speaking. Stop your action. I'm telling you to stop the action. Otherwise, I will take action against you," Pawar said. However, the woman officer told him that there was a complaint about illegal mining, and she was helping the complainant and carrying out her professional duties.

"How am I supposed to know you are the Deputy Chief Minister? Sir, please call me directly on my

phone," said the woman officer. Her response angered Ajit Pawar, who then said, "Ek minute, ek minute main tere upar action lunga (One minute ... I will take action against you)." "I myself am talking to you. And you are telling me to call you directly. You don't understand this much. Can you see me (on video call)? I will give you my number... Can you recognise my face? How can you dare to speak to me like this? Give me your number, and I will call you directly. Do you even recognise my face or not? Action will be taken against you."



# DHARITRI CLIMATE FILM FEST IS YOUR CHANCE TO

SHARE IT! CELEBRATE CREATIVITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE BY BRINGING YOUR

IDEAS TO THE SCREEN

NOTE: USE OF GENERATIVE AI IS NOT PERMITTED

THE OR

# First millennial teen to attain Sainthood

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago, Sept 5: At a Catholic school in Pope Leo XIV's hometown, fifth graders read comic books about Carlo Acutis' life entitled "Digital Disciple." They draw pictures of what the teenage Italian computer whiz might have had as his cellphone wallpaper. They discuss the miracles that allegedly occurred thanks to Acutis' intercession.

In the run-up to Acutis' canonisation Sunday, it is all Acutis, all the time at the Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish and school in Chicago. The parish was the first in the United States to take its name from Acutis, who died in 2006 at age 15 and is about to become history's first millennial saint.

In recent years, Acutis has shot to near rockstar-like fame among many young Catholics, generating a global following the likes of which the Catholic Church hasn't seen in ages. Much of that pop-

ularity is thanks to a concerted campaign by the Vatican to give the next generation of faithful a relatable, modern-day role model, who used his technological talents to spread the faith. He's not a world figure like

Mother Teresa or St. John Paul II, but rather a "saint

next door," said the Rev. Ed Howe, the pastor at Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish in Chicago's Northwest Side, "He's someone who I think a lot of young people today say, 'I could be the saint next door."

Leo, a Chicago native, will declare Acutis a saint Sunday in his first canonisation ceremony, alongside another popular Italian, Pier Giorgio Frassati. Both ceremonies had been scheduled for earlier this year but were postponed following the death in April of Pope Francis

It was Francis who had fervently willed the Acutis sainthood case forward, convinced that the church needed someone like him to attract young Catholics to church while addressing the promises and perils of the digital age.

Acutis was precociously savvy with computers before the social media era, reading college-level textbooks on programming and coding as a youngster. But he limited himself to an hour of video games a week, ap-

parently deciding

long before TikTok that human relationships were far more important than virtual ones.

"Carlo was well aware that the whole apparatus of communications, advertising and social networking can be used to lull us, to make us addicted to consumerism and buying the latest thing on the market," Francis wrote in a 2019 document. "Yet he knew how to use the new communications technology to transmit the Gospel, to communicate values and beauty.'

Leo inherited the Acutis cause. but he too has pointed to technology - especially artificial intelligence - as one of the main challenges facing humanity.

For his admirers. Acutis was an ordinary kid who did extraordinary things, a typical Milan teen who went to school, played soccer and loved animals. But he also brought food to the poor, attended Mass daily and got his less-than-devout parents back to church.

# eisure



#### JESSICA CHASTAIN RECEIVES STAR ON HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME

Jessica Chastain received her Hollywood Walk of Fame star Thursday near the Pantages Theatre, where she received the 2,819th star. Celebrated for her Oscar-winning career with two additional Academy Award nominations, she was joined at the ceremony by fellow Oscar winners Al Pacino and Viola Davis.

#### KATHERINE WATERSTON BOARDS GREENGRASS'S UPCOMING FILM

Hollywood actor Katherine Waterston is the newest addition to the cast of Oscar-nominated director Paul Greengrass's upcoming feature film. According to *Deadline*, Andrew Garfield is set to lead the yet-untitled film, playing the role of a legendary rebellious leader who formed an army to oppose King Richard II.



accuracy • reliability • trust

Today is reserved for your hobbies and obsessions. Doing the things you love will give you a high, and it will reflect in the way you treat your loved ones, says Ganesha. Your mind may not be at work, but your seniors may thoughtfully allow some concessions.

#### **TAURUS**

The day is coloured in the shade of arguments and bel-ligerence for most part of today, predicts Ganesha. You may spend the afternoon in lengthy business discussions with friends. Things will look up by evening as you might get some special treatment from your soul mate.

#### **GEMINI**

You are likely to be begin the day by setting new goals and benchmarks for yourself. But minor problems will spoil your plans. In the afternoon, your financial standing may give you a slight scare. Ganesha advises you not to lose heart. You may spend a spiritual evening

#### **CANCER**

Your relationship with your lover may get a little messy today. But it has little to do with the lack of love, and more with too much of it. The two of you will get extremely emotional, and if your sweetheart has the same sun sign as yours, the situation may get ridiculously emotional.

Have you ever marvelled at how circus artists do all the tightrope? Well, don't be too sur-prised at their abilities, because as far as Ganesha sees, today you have some pretty good skills yourself as you balance business and pleasure. On the home front, be proud of your children as they excel in academics and sports

# Ganesha foresees you up the

ante today. You will set new limits for yourself and break existing barriers today. The afternoon may see you being alarmed about the health of your finances. Trivial matters will spoil your spirits, but attain the next level by spending the evening in spiritual

Possibilities are you want to run away today... at least when it comes to work. You would love to take a break and perhaps tour. Call it allow you to learn many things about life and work. So, it's well worth the effort. Let your ingenuity flow freely, and stump people with your pledge and promise.

## **SCORPIO**

A maddening passion will grip you early in the day today. You shall be willing to go over the edge of the world to lease your beloved. Ganesha sees you being equally sensitive and gentle with the elderly. For some, marriage news is likely to come in

# **SAGITTARIUS**

The welfare of your children is going to be of supreme priority for you today. Afternoon promises to bring good news about their academic performance. Later in the day, meditation and prayer will take the lion's share of your time.

## **CAPRICORN**

Love will top your priority list once again, and will make innumerable demands that you will strive to meet, says Ganesha. If you currently have any research work on hand, expect a breakthrough today. This besides, you will reminisce the good old days and will long to relive time spent together with family and friends.

# AQUARIUS

You may get a chance to fulfill some promises today. Those of you in the legal profession will find things going well for them. You aim to excel in whatever you do, and if nothing else, you will derive huge work satisfaction. Some good news by afternoon will lighten the day, says Ganesha.

## **PISCES**

While you have cultivated a wide network of acquaintanc es. it is that core group you have nurtured over the years that will stand you in good stead now. In times of need, it is good to know that you can bank on their support. Today, you will get your chance to experience the benefits of their friendship, says Ganesha.

# Alia's global glory

Mumbai: Levi's has announced Bollywood superstar Alia Bhatt as its new Global Brand Ambassador, a collaboration that marks a defining moment in the brand's journey as it reimagines denim for the new era. Bringing together an iconic label and one of the most influential stars of her generation, this partnership blends fashion and film with the promise of lasting global impact.

The timing is pivotal. Women's fashion has embraced oversized silhouettes, relaxed fits, and wide-legged denims as essentials rather than passing trends. Levi's, long synonymous with denim innovation, is leading this shift, and Alia is set to amplify its vision. Sharing her excitement, Alia said denim is deeply personal yet universally connective, celebrating individuality across generations — a philosophy she feels Levi's has always championed.

Alia's global appeal makes her a nat-

With

ma-



knowlthat stars like edging Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Deepika Padukone, and Katrina Kaif often rotate among the top spots, she humbly revealed that she never considered herself among the top 10, choosing instead to focus on the projects that inspire her. Addressing the subject of recognition, Priyanka highlighted the importance of giving actresses due credit in big, hero-driven

jor upcoming films like Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War and Shiv Rawail's action-drama Alpha, her international profile continues to rise. Beyond cinema, she has ventured into production, built her apparel Ed-a-Mamma, and made her mark on global red carpets. Levi's, with Alia at

the forefront, is expanding its women's portfolio into expressive, style-led, comfort-first fits - redefining denim as a bold statement of identity and self-expression.

Priyanka:

label

blockbusters. She clarified that performers shouldn't claim more than in films such as Krrish, Don, and Agneepath, she played supporting parts. At the same time, she emphasised that contemporaries like Deepika in Chennai Express and Ram-Leela or Katrina in Rajneeti significantly shaped their films' success with their distinctive contributions.







Bhubaneswar: The fiveday 31st Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2025, organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, commenced here at Rabindra Mandap, Friday. The event marks over three decades of celebrating India's performing arts.

The festival carries forward the vision of the late Padma Vibhushan Guru

Kelucharan Mohapatra to nurture appreciation for classical arts. The inaugural ceremony was graced by veteran

theatre exponent Ananta Mahapatra, former Revenue Board member and SAIL Director Ashok Kumar Trip athy, UMSL Vice Chairperson Paramita

Panda, and Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, who lit the ceremonial lamp. They were felicitated by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director of Srjan and Dean, FACIS, SSU.

The opening evening featured a captivating perform-Mohapatra

ance by Odissi exponent Sujata and her daughter Preetisha Mohapatra. Their pres-

entation included Guru Vandana and Satvakama Jabala, a philosophical tale from the Chhandogyopanisad, choreographed by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra. The mother-daughter duo's interpretation resonated strongly. symbolising the lineage

of values and artistry passed across generations. This was followed by Devatmayee - The Soul of the Gods by Manipuri exponent Smt. Bimbavati Devi and her troupe, Manipuri

> tion explored the concept of the Mother Goddess in Manipuri traditions alongside Vedic interpretations, blending indigenous music with Vedic chants.

Nartanalaya. The produc-

The event is being supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Odisha Department of Odia Literature, Language and Culture while Orissa POST and *Dharitri* are print media partners. RESHMI YADAV. OP

# onam

A performance by

Sujata Mohapatra(R) and her daughter Preetisha

Mohapatra(L)

**Mumbai:** At a time when Punjab has been reeling under devastation and widespread loss, actress Sonam Bajwa has stepped forward as a symbol of empathy and resilience. Known for her elegance on screen, she has now revealed an equally inspiring side off screen — one rooted in compassion and meaningful action.

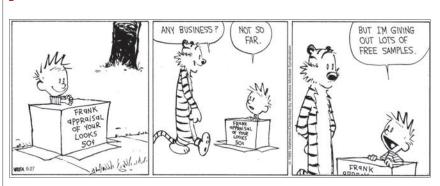
A touching video from Punjab recently showed families thanking Sonam for helping rebuild their homes. For many, her support was more than just about restoring shelter; it symbolised the return of dignity, stability, and hope during their darkest times.

Earlier this week, Sonam penned an emotional note on social media, expressing solidarity with flood-affected communities. She wrote that her heart goes out to Punjab, acknowledging the pain caused by the disaster while praising the state's spirit of unity and resilience. Sonam revealed that she has been donating to organisations engaged in rescue and relief efforts, urging her fans to contribute in any way they can. Her appeal, grounded in sincerity, has already begun to create a visible impact

# **PEANUTS**



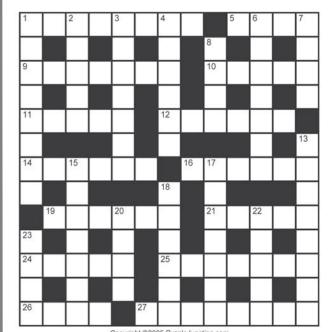
## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## BREVITY



#### POST **CROSSWORD**



24 Up and about

25 German city

26 Picture card

27 Most unusual

Across 1 Labratory item

5 Colourful fish

9 Bram Stoker

character

10 Angler's basket

11 Maui neighbor

12 It's under foot

14 Pays

16 Bird of prey 19 Cereal grass 21 Mustard choice

attraction

6 Stave off

1 Tykes

<u>Down</u>

2 It may be found on a shirt 3 Kind of

4 Offshoot

alternative 20 Vega's

18 Paper clip

constellation 22 Court figure

7 Place for a

8 Mark left by

lecture

Zorro?

15 Make damp

17 Bank examiner

13 Send

23 Rubberneck

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.

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

# SOLUTIONS

MAKESDOMEDIA

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# wntown



# **Audit SCB open heart surgery deaths: HC**

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Orissa High Court has expressed concern over the rising mortality rate among patients undergoing open heart surgery at the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) wing of SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH), Odisha's largest government-run healthcare facility in Cuttack, and has directed an audit to ascertain

According to hospital data, nearly 17 per cent of patients who underwent such procedures between January 2023 and August 2025 died after sur-

"The cause of death after open heart surgery, which is rising, needs a thorough investigation. Mortality risks may be lowered by engaging patients in supervised cardiac rehabilitation programmes, ensuring adherence to medication, and imparting lifestyle guidance,' observed a division bench comprising Justice SK Sahoo and Justice V Narasingh in its order Thursday.

SUPERINTENDENT TO FURNISH COMPLETE DATA ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF SURVIVING OPEN HEART SURGERY PATIENTS

COURT ASKED THE STATE **GOVERNMENT TO CONSTITUTE** ANOTHER TEAM OF 'COMPETENT CTVS SPECIALISTS IN ORDER TO MEET GROWING DEMAND AND REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PATIENTS WHO ARE OTHERWISE FORCED TO OPT FOR TREATMENT IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS

ADMISSION TO BRING DOWN THE NUMBER OF CASES WHERE PATIENTS LEAVE AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE

Underlining that identifying the reasons for mortality is of 'seminal importance', the HC said such an exercise would go a long way in restoring the confidence among patients in opting for open heart surgeries at SCBMCH.

Between January 2023 and August 2025, 385 surgeries were conducted at SCBMCH's CTVS wing. Of those, 65 patients died after surgery, taking the mortality rate to 16.88 per cent.

In 2023, 186 patients were admitted for open heart surgery. Of them, 21 left against medical advice. Out of 165 surgeries performed, 15 patients died after the procedure.

In 2024, there were 181 admissions, and 46 patients left against medical advice. Of the 135 surgeries conducted that year, 24 patients died. Between January and August 2025, 138 patients were admitted and 53 of them left against medical

formed during this period, 26 patients died.

The HC directed the medical superintendent of SCBMCH to furnish complete data on the current status of surviving open heart surgery patients. It also asked the state government to constitute another team of 'competent' CTVS specialists in order to meet growing demand and reduce the financial burden on patients who are otherwise forced to opt for treatment in private hospitals.

The bench further stressed the need for counselling patients at the time of admission to bring down the number of cases where patients leave against medical advice.

The Health and Family Wel fare department Secretary assured the HC that an audit of mortality causes would be carried out, if not already un dertaken.

The HC directed the super intendent of SCBMCH to place on record the minutes of such a 'Death Review Board' or equiv alent body by September 26, the date fixed for the next hearing

# On Teachers' Day, Prez honours 2 from Odisha Guv, CM pay tributes to first VP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: President Droupadi Murmu presented the prestigious National Teachers' Awards 2025 to Basanta Kumar Rana and Tarun Kumar Dash of Odisha for their exemplary contribution to teaching and learning, at an event in New Delhi on the occasion of Teachers' Day, Friday. The two were among the 81

teachers - 45 from the Department of School Education and Literacy and 21 from the Department of Higher Education - from across the country felicitated by the President on the occasion.

"Building the character of students is the primary duty of a teacher," the President said. calling upon the teaching community to pay special attention to every child, particularly girls and students from disadvantaged backgrounds, stressing



President Droupadi Murmu presenting the award to Basanta Kumar Rana and Tarun Kumar Dash

that inclusive and compassionate teaching can help bridge educational gaps in society.

Rana, a teacher at Kondel NUPS in Malkangiri, received the award for his innovative pedagogy and community engagement that improved student attendance and participation.

"Through awareness rallies. roadshows, puppet shows, and a monthly mobile community library, he strengthened the school-society bond. By introducing initiatives like 'talking walls' and a 'stone alphabet and number garden', he transformed the campus into an interactive learning space that fosters foundational literacy and numeracy and beyond," the Ministry of Education said. Dash, a teacher in Koraput, has introduced a series of literacy and creativity-driven programmes like 'Katha Chitra', which has been turning students into storytellers and filmmakers, and 'My

Reading Book' and 'My Picture, My Story' which have been encouraging children to create their own illustrated books.

"His 'News Nest' initiative uses newspapers to teach vocabulary and current affairs, while 'Mai Bhi Speaker' boosts public speaking skills of students. 'Millet Kranti' campaign by Dash integrates nutrition and cultural education, promoting healthy eating through weekly millet-based meals in school," it said.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Gover nor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik and others Friday paid tributes to Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's first Vice President, on the occasion of his birth anniversary, also observed as Teachers' Day

Kambhampati in a post on X said, "On the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. I pay respectful tributes to the great philosopher, teacher & statesman. His life and ideals continue to guide us as we cele-

**#HappyTeachersDay** 

The CM expressed hope that

teachers will continue their relentless efforts to shape a bright

Gurus shape life to be beautiful. The blessings of gurus are the greatest in life. On this sacred Guru Diwas, I pay my humble tribute to the ideal Guru as well as to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the former President of India.

NAVEEN PATNAIK I LEADER OF OPPOSITION

post, said: "On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan India's first Vice President and the sacred Guru purnima, heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all.

"Providing quality education to students along with the re sponsibility of developing their inherent talents rests with the teachers, and therefore, they and believe that teachers will continue their relentless efforts to properly fulfil this responsi bility and shape a bright future for the children," he added.

Patnaik said, "Gurus shape life to be beautiful. The blessings of gurus are the greatest in life. On this sacred Guru Diwas, I pay my humble tribute to the ideal Guru as well as to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan,

# Jr teachers thank CM for regular appointments

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Odisha Junior Teachers' Association met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhion at the State Guest House here Friday and expressed their gratitude to him for announcing the regular appointment of over 13,000 schematic junior teachers appointed in 2025 as 'regular teachers'.

Hundreds of junior teachers from various districts of Odisha met the Chief Minister and expressed their appreciation for

the government's continuous efforts to prioritise primary education in the state and implement various constructive measures. During the event, Maihi interacted with the teachers and advised them to provide quality education in He said, "There will be ma-

ny challenges in life, but every problem should be turned into an opportunity. A teacher should never forget his/her fundamental duties under any circumstances.

# Bad weather: CM's flight diverted to Kolkata PRESS TRUST OF INDIA | BIJU PATNAIK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | DRIVE BY EXCISE DEPT

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5**: A plane carrying Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi was diverted to Kolkata Friday morning, after it failed to land in Bhubaneswar due to inclement weather, a state minister said.

Majhi, who was on a five-day tour to Delhi, was scheduled to land at Bhubaneswar airport around 9:45am.

"The flight could not land at the airport here, and was diverted to Kolkata due to bad weather," Urban Development Minister KC Mohapatra told reporters. Majhi returned to Bhubaneswar after halting for around an hour at Kolkata airport. The CM was welcomed by School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond and other BJP MLAs at the Biju Patnaik International Airport.

Airport Director Prasanna Pradhan said Majhi's flight hovered over the airport for around 21 minutes amid heavy rain, before being diverted to Kolkata.

In a statement, the state government said the state-level Teachers' Day function to be attended by Majhi had to be postponed to 3pm from 11:30am.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: In a massive statewide crackdown on illicit liquor and narcotics between September 1 and 4, the Excise department has arrested 511 people for their alleged involvement in illicit liquor and narcotics trade, according to an official statement Friday.

During this period, enforcement teams detected 902 cases, and seized narcotics and liquor valued at Rs 3.91 crore.

In all, 29 cases were regis-

tered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, resulting in the seizure of 320 kg ganja and 560 gram brown sugar, the statement added.

Excise teams detected 254 cases, arrested 148 people, and seized contraband valued at Rs 1.39 crore September 4.

In the statement, the department reiterated its commit ment to a zero tolerance policy against illicit liquor and narcot ics, ensuring strict enforcement to protect public health and safety across the state.

# Overprotective parenting tied to student anxiety: Study

New Delhi, Sept 5: If you tend to be overprotective or always try to control your child's every move, it might backfire when they face the pressures of uni-

New research from McGill University and UCLA has warned that first-year undergraduates raised by overly cautious or controlling parents are more likely to experience heightened anxiety during the stressful transition to college.

The takeaway? Giving your child room to grow, face challenges, and develop coping skills might be the best gift you can offer before they step into the world of higher education, said the researchers of the study after surveying 240 first-year students at McGill University during the initial six weeks of the fall semester.

Participants completed a series of questionnaires designed to assess their upbringing in terms of parenting style, current anxiety symptoms, and the variety of stressors they faced during this significant life transition — ranging from housing difficulties and personal loss to even life-threatening situations.

Their findings revealed a clear pattern students with highly protective parents showed a stronger link between stressful experiences and feelings of anxiety.

"We found that students with very protective parents experience greater anxiety when faced with stress," said Lidia Panier, the lead author and a PhD student in McGill's Department

of Psychology.

The study, "Parental overprotection between moderates the association between recent stressor exposure and anxiety during the transition to university" is published in journal Development and Psychopathology.

While the study doesn't prove that overprotective parenting directly causes anxiety, it supports previous research connecting such parenting styles with insecure attachment and difficulties managing emotions — both known risk factors for anxiety.

Panier added that overprotective parenting might also be a reaction to a child's own anxious behaviour, creating a cycle where both parent and child reinforce each other's fears. "These interpretations are not mutually exclusive,' she explained.



**OrissaPOST** 

**PARTITION SUIT** 

# HC: DNA test for rival party's parentage unwarranted

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Orissa High Court has upheld an order of the lower court declining the DNA test of a man, observing that "directing for DNA test of the child on the face of admission of the mother would be an insult to her motherhood and against the law enumerated in Section 112 of the Evidence Act".

It is to be borne in mind that forcing a person to undergo DNA test affects his right to privacy, the single bench Judge Justice BP Routray stated while dismissing the Civil Miscellaneous Petition. "In a suit for partition, the prayer for DNA test to determine parentage of rival party is unwarranted. It is to be borne in mind that forcing a person to undergo DNA test



affects his right to privacy, Justice Routray said.

The litigation arose over the partition suit of the property of a joint family with a prayer for a DNA test to determine the parentage of the rival party. The Civil Judge (Senior Division), Kuchinda, had turned down the prayer.

Apart from this, it is inconceivable how the DNA test would be relevant in a case of partition where the status of the parties as members of a joint family is required to be seen to determine their respective shares, Justice Routray ruled in the judgement.

It is important to be reminded here that recognition of a person as the son of another is not required to be determined through blood relation only and what is important is his recognition in society as such.

The defendant is 58 years old now. So the trial court has rightly observed that direction for a DNA test at this stage would not bring any fruitful result, the Single Bench concluded.



RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION: People from Muslim religion take part in Jashn-E-Eid Milad Un Nabi procession at Buxi Bazar in Cuttack, Friday

# 600 more e-buses in 'Ama Bus' fleet soon



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The state government has decided to add 600 electric buses to the fleet of 'Ama Bus' service, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra said here Friday.

He said that the state requires around 1,000 e-buses to meet its growing demand. Two hundred e-buses will be procured by the state government, while the remaining 400 will be provided by the Union government.

In the first phase, 25 e-buses will be deployed in Sambalpur, followed by phased introduction in Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Berhampur and Angul, he said.

"With the rollout of 600 e-buses, Odisha is taking a decisive step towards greener cities and smarter urban transport," Mohaptra added.

The services will be operated by Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) under its 'Aam Bus' initiative, aimed at providing safe, affordable and green transport, the minister further said.

Odisha has already secured the 5th position nationally in e-bus operations, achieving a significant milestone in sustainable mobility with a fleet of 450 e-buses, officials said.

Across the country, 14,329 e-buses are in operation under flagship schemes such as PM-E Bus Sewa and PM-E Drive, from which Odisha is actively benefiting, they said.

# CLASSIFIED

# LOST

I, Sri Sashibhusan Mallick, S/o Sudarshan Mallick At Guansol, Karanjamala, Bhadrak has lost my Certificate along with Grade Sheet of BTech BPUT Reg. No. 1701297013 during flood on 20.07.2025.

# Govt picks TCS for AI-powered IFMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Friday said it has been selected by the Odisha government to design and implement an AI-enabled Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS).

The IFMS 3.0 will automate the state's comprehensive public finance workflows, marking a key advancement in the state's digital transformation roadmap, a release said, but did not divulge the size of the contract.

"TCS has partnered with the Government of Odisha to design and implement Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) 3.0," as per the release.

TCS has been working with the state government since 2005, beginning with the integrated Odisha Treasury Management System.

The collaboration progressed through three generations of IFMS solution, the implementation of IFMS, followed by IFMS 2.0, culminating in the launch of IFMS 3.0

"As part of this programme, TCS will also implement its AI Workbench, an open-source solution designed to support



AI/ML projects in designated operational areas, including model development, monitoring, and retraining," the release said.

This enables the systems to apply analytics and machine learning to decision-making and operational processes, with features such as multi-lingual chatbot interactions to enhance user experience.

The assistant is developed to address FAQs, automate service desk procedures, and carry out functional tasks, aiding IFMS users.

ing IFMS users.
Girish Ramachandran, President - Growth Markets and Public Services at TCS, said that

with real-time financial visibility, enhanced precision, and a future-ready architecture, this platform will empower Odisha to deliver more effective public services

Tej Paul Bhatla, Senior Vice President and Head Government Business, India at TCS, said: "This new system unifies budgeting, payments, receipts, and accounts into a single source of truth. With AI-assisted insights and intuitive workflows, IFMS 3.0 will allow officials to monitor programmes in real time, accelerate reporting, and make confident, data-driven decisions."

# Revisit campus poll decision: OPF to govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Odisha Parents Federation (OPF) has urged the state government to reconsider its plan to resume college elections, citing growing concerns over campus violence, political interference, and student safety.

In a letter addressed to Higher Education department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aravind Agrawal, the outfit expressed apprehension over recent incidents of violence and disruptions in colleges, including the

FM College self-immolation case in Balasore. "Atrocities against girls, influence of po-

litical parties, and the trend of creating 'student brokers' instead of genuine leaders have created an unsafe environment for students, the letter read.

"We strongly believe the current situation is not conducive for conducting elections. We urge you to ensure college campus remain safe and students are not exploited for political gains," the letter stated.

# Over 4K rape cases in 15 months: BMJD



NN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Newly appointed Biju Mahila Janata Dal (BMJD) president Snehangini Chhuria, Friday, alleged that more than 4,000 rape cases have been reported in the state during the last 15 months under the BJP government.

Addressing the media, Chhuria accused the government of failing to ensure women's safety and dignity in the state, asserting that the BMJD will act as the voice of neglected and marginalised women and fight for their justice.

"The women of Odisha have become unsafe and their dignity has been severely undermined," Chhuria said.

She recalled that under former

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, women were empowered through Mission Shakti, which enabled them to showcase their skills, gain recognition, and achieve a respectable status in society.

However, she alleged that in just 15 months, Mission Shakti—a programme that uplifted and empowered women—is now on the verge of closure.

Chhuria further claimed that women and students, driven by atrocities and lack of support, have been forced to take extreme steps, including ending their lives.

"Incidents of rape and harassment are reported in newspapers almost every day, yet the BJP government has failed to take meaningful or concrete action," she added.

# XIMU gets new VC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** Fr KS Casimir, SJ was appointed as new vice-chancellor of XIM University (XIMU), effective from September 5, read an official release

Fr Casimir brings a wealth of experience in academic leadership and a vision for advancing the university's mission. After his stellar leadership roles in higher education for over two and a half decades at Loyola Higher Education institutions in Hyderabad, he assumed the mantle of leadership as the XLRI Delhi-NCR director in August 2022. He brings his rich and varied experience both in academics and administration to his new mission.

On Friday, the university community gathered to bid farewell to the outgoing VC Fr Antony R Uvary, SJ, who served with distinction since 2019



# TPCODL launches APSCC-BBSR-2 Circle Min reviews road



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha, has taken another significant step in strengthening the state's power distribution network with the inauguration of the new Area Power System Control Centre (APSCC-BBSR-2) at Talabania, Puri

The facility was inaugurated by Puri MLA Sunil Kumar Mohanty, in presence of TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh, along with members of the senior leadership team.

The launch marks a major milestone in modernising distribution operations and enhancing consumer services. By centralising 11kV operations, previously managed through decentralised divisional AP-SCCs, the new centre enables better monitoring of power distribution, faster response to outages and more efficient handling of consumer service requirements. All remote- and

locally-operated PSS under the BBSR-2 Circle will now be progressively integrated into control through this APSCC.

Equipped with advanced technology and real-time monitoring systems, APSCC-BBSR-2 will Circle significantly strengthen operational efficiency. The facility will allow for improved visibility of the distribution network, enabling better planning, quicker restoration during interruptions and enhanced reliability of supply. Consumers across Khurda. Puri, Nayagarh and Balugaon divisions will directly benefit from more consistent and dependable power services.

pendable power services.

Speaking on the occasion,
Singh said, "The inauguration of APSCC-BBSR-2 Circle
is a significant step towards
strengthening our distribution network and enhancing
consumer services. By adopting advanced technology, we
are not only improving operational efficiency but also ensuring safe, reliable and consumer-centric electricity supply
across our regions."

# Min reviews road construction from Sundarpada to Jatni

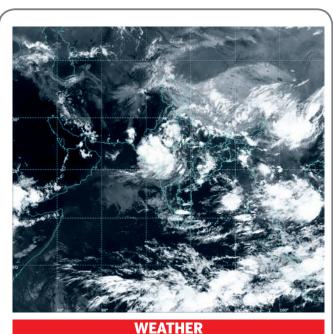
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Law, Works, and Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan inspected the status of the under-construction road from Sundarpada to Jatni here Friday, and instructed the contractors and departmental officers to complete construction by the end of November.



The Minister directed offi cials to expedite the process and convert the 13.5 km-long road into a four-lane stretch. He also reviewed drainage, sewerage, and electrification utilities works, which often cause delays during road widening. Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, former minister Suresh Kumar Routray, chief engineer (Roads) Dhyanachand Nayak, chief construction engineer (Bhubaneswar) Manoj Mahanand, superintending engineer Sachin Sahu, along with officials from various line departments and representatives of the contracting agency, were present during the minister's visit.

# | MARKET WATCH | EOURSES | INDEX VARIATION | SENSEX 80710.76 ↑ 7.25 | COMMODITIES | INDEX VARIATION | GOLD ₹107,580 ↑ ₹1163 | EURO 103.34 ↑ 0.45 | NIFTY 24741.00 ↑ 6.70 | SILVER ₹124,764 ↑ ₹844



WEATHER							
	BBSR	CTC	<b>FORECAST</b>				
Max Temp	30.6°	29.8°	Partly cloudy sky				
Min Temp	25.9°	23.8°	with one or two spells of rain or				
-lumidity	89%	94%	thundershower				
Rainfall	0.2mm	1.2mm					

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# Alert as Jalaka swells again flooding farmland, villages

Balasore, Sept 5: Heavy rainfall caused by a low-pressure system has triggered the fourth wave of flood in the Jalaka river in this district. Flowing through Basta block, the river has crossed the danger level, inundating over a hundred hectares of farmland in 12 panchayats. Low-lying villages and roads are submerged under 2-3 feet of water

At Mathani, the Jalaka river's alert level is 6 metres and the danger level is 6.5 metres. By 2am Friday, the water had risen to 6.56 metres. By Friday noon, it reached 6.79 metres and slightly receded to 6.71 metres by 7pm, resulting in the fourth flood and leaving farmers panicked.

Panchayats affected include Baharda, Kudia, Mathani, Duduhansa, Rautpada, Gadapada, Sadanandapur, and Brahmanda, along with Srirampur and Rasulpur in the Sadar block. Roads such as Mathani-Baharda Chatan and Gahira Simulia–Rautpada are submerged under 2-3 feet of floodwater, disrupting com-



munication. Floodwaters have also entered the Gandhi Chhak electricity office, Kudia school, and Kudia village. Residents along the riverbanks are living in fear.

Authorities are on high alert, with NDRF, ODRAF, and fire services deployed, Tehsildar Sushant Pattnaik said.

Meanwhile, at National Highway 5 in Gobindpur along the Budhabalanga river, the alert level is 7.21 metres and the danger level is 8.13 metres. By Thursday evening, the water reached 7.34 metres at the alert mark and decreased to 6.88 metres Friday evening. Low-ly-

ing areas in Sadar and Remuna blocks have been flooded. Kneedeep floodwater was flowing on Baincha road affecting traffic.

At Rajghat, the Subarnarekha river's alert level is 9.45 metres and danger level 10.36 metres. By Thursday afternoon, the water was at 6.60 metres, which increased to 7.56 metres by Friday evening, according to the Irrigation department.

Considering the rainfall situation, District Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas has cancelled leaves of all officials and instructed them to remain stationed at headquarters.

# **Elephant poacher** held after evading arrest for 18 months

PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Sept 5: Police and Forest officials in Mayurbhanj district have arrested a man for his alleged involvement in elephant poaching and illegal tusk trade in Similipal National Park range in November 2023. officials said Friday.

The accused, identified as Jogeswar Dehuri (28) from Thakurgoda village under Jashipur police station, was arrested from his residence Thursday after evading author ities for 18 months.

A non-bailable warrant (NBW) had been issued against him due to the case's sensitiv-

So far, 22 accused have been arrested in this case and one person is still at large

Following his arrest, Dehuri's bail petition was rejected, and he has been sent to judicial custody.

In 2023, Forest officials had found the carcass of an elephant with its tusks removed in Talabandha wildlife range of Similinal Tiger Reserve (STR) The elephant, aged around 40 years, had died of bullet injuries and poachers had its tusks

# 3 students injured as plasters from school roof falls on them

Bhadrak, Sept 5: Three students of a government-run school in Bhadrak district were injured Friday morning after cement chunks from their school roof fell on them. officials said

The incident occurred at Bahumagheri School under Basudevpur block in the coastal district during Teachers' Day celebrations, they said.

The injured students have been identified as Shubhashree Kala and Shakuntala Mandal of 'Shishu Vatika' (pre-school) and Srabani Kala of Class III, they said.

According to the school officials, the cement chunks fell on the students when they were walking on the verandah, causing injuries to their head and body. All three were rushed to Basudevpur Hospital for treatment. They were returned to their homes after getting required treatment, the officials

Speaking about the incident. school headmaster Prasanta Maji expressed concern over the unsafe condition of the school building.



The children survived only due to the grace of the God and the blessings of their parents, Maji said.

The school building is in such a vulnerable state that even teachers feel unsafe during classes. Rainwater seeps through the roof, and plaster frequently falls off during rains, the headmaster said.

Highlighting the dire state of the infrastructure, Maji said parents have started pulling their children out of the school due to safety concerns.

"Last year, we had 180 students. This year, only 31 remain-mostly those who have no other option," he added. The headmaster said he had reported about the school's con dition to the District Collector Block Development Officer

Officer (DEO). However, Maji claimed that no repair work has been initi-

(BDO), and District Education

ated even after months. Local residents and parents have demanded urgent action to prevent any further mishaps and ensure the safety of students.

Meanwhile, the District Col lector has enquired about the health condition of the injured students from the headmaster

# Contractor arrested for duping locals of ₹40L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Sept 5: A contractor was arrested for allegedly defrauding many Semiliguda residents of ₹40 lakh by promising house construction and supply of building materials, police said Friday.

The accused, Upendra Mohanty of Saraswati Nagar, Semiliguda, reportedly collected money from locals under false pretenses, then disappeared. Two victims filed complaints with the Cyber Police Station, prompting an investigation that led to his arrest in Angul district.

At a press conference held at 3:30pm at Koraput Police Headquarters, the Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) confirmed the arrest and detailed the allegations.

In the first case, Sungadi Damu, 28, of Beheraguda, reported July 28 that Mohanty took ₹20 lakh in three instalments via cheque after assuring him of building a house. Mohanty allegedly vanished after receiving the money and switched off his phone.

In the second case, Prafulla Kumar Pangi, 58, of Saraswati Nagar, claimed August 23 that Mohanty borrowed ₹20 lakh, promising repayment within two months. He failed to repay and absconded

Police have registered two cases under Section 318(4) of the Bharativa Nyava Sanhita (BNS). Mohanty has been produced in court. Investigators are now checking for additional

"Upendra Mohanty used his profession as a contractor to cheat people," the ASP said. "Strict legal action will follow, and we are verifying whether more individuals were duped."

# Tension over man's death in road accident

Chhatrapur: Protesters blocked the road connecting Chhatrapur to Gopalpur for over five hours Friday after a man was killed by a mining truck near Gopalpur Port late Thursday night. The victim, Narayan Pradhan of Matikhalo village under Chamakhandi police limits, was riding his motorcycle with his wife when a head-on collision with another bike caused him to fall. A truck heading to the port ran over him. The driver fled the scene, and Pradhan was declared dead at Chhatrapur Sub-Divisional Hospital. Villagers and family members demanded a job for Pradhan's wife and that the port authority cover the children's education expenses. After talks failed, they staged the road blockade. The protest ended following the intervention of Sub-Collector Shibashish Baral, Tehsildar Sambit Sangramjit Sahu, SDPO Chandan Ghadei, and other officials. However, the issue remains unresolved, and tensions could rise again.

# Headmaster loses ₹3.53L in cyber fraud

Patana: Kamala Kant Pati, headmaster of a government-run school in Patana and district secretary of the Primary Teachers' Union, became a victim of cyber fraud Thursday evening, losing a total of ₹3.53 lakh from his bank accounts and credit card. Reports say hackers transferred ₹1.22 lakh from Pati's Bank of India account in Patana branch. ₹1.33 lakh from his salary account in Bank of India branch at Ghatagaon, and ₹98,000 from his credit card. Officials said this is the first case of such a large-scale cybercrime reported in the Patana area. The fraud occurred when Pati received a WhatsApp message allegedly from Purna Chandra Amanta, Block Education Officer of Patana, regarding an RTGS transaction. Trusting the message, Pati opened the linked app and entered his personal details, including his Aadhaar number, his name, and his mother's name, and made a nominal payment. Soon after, he received three messages in his mobile confirming deductions from his account. Pati immediately informed the bank branch in Patana, which froze his account. He then filed complaints with Patana police, Keonjhar Cyber Police, and the Cyber Crime Cell in Bhubaneswar via toll-free number 1930.

# 60 Ganjam teachers get CM's award



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur**, **Sept 5**: Teachers were honoured with the Chief Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence during district-level Teacher's Day celebrations held at the 150-year-old Onslow Institution here Friday.

About 60 teachers received the CM's award, along with mementos and certificates of excellence, from Ganiam Collector V Keerthi Vasan, the chief guest at the event. The Collector also congratulated one Block Education Officer (BEO) award recipient and four state-level teachers' award winners.

The celebrations extended beyond government schools. Students from private institutions — including The Public School, New Age Euro School and Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir — observed the day with customary rituals to show respect to their teachers.

# Chinese sailor missing after falling from ship

PNN & AGENCIES

Paradip, Sept 5: The authorities of Paradip Port have launched a search operation to locate a Chinese sailor, who fell into the sea water from a ship Friday morning, police said. Personnel of the ODRAF, CISF and Odisha Marine Police, besides scuba divers, are engaged in the search operation, they said.

In a bid to save the Chi-

nese national, another sailor from Bangladesh had jumped into the sea, a police officer said, adding that he was later rescued. The Chinese sailor accidentally fell into the water while setting a ladder, an official said. The incident took place when a Chinese vessel was about to depart after unloading at the Paradip International Cargo Terminal (PICT), he said.

# भारतीय जन संचार संस्थान Indian Institute of Mass Communication

(A Deemed to be University) Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, JNU New Campus, New Delhi - 110067 (Advt. No. 01/2025)

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Deemed to be University under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Government of India with its main campus in New Delhi and Regional Campuses at Aizawl, Amravati, Dhenkanal, Jammu and Kottayam, invites ONLINE applications from eligible candidates for 01 Post of Professor and 20 Posts of Assistant Professor in the field of Mass Communication.

Details of proforma for application, pay scale, eligibility qualifications, etc. are available in vacancy section on the website of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication i.e.

http://www.iimc.gov.in/vacancy The last date to submit Online applications: 6th October, 2025.

CBC 22103/11/0003/2526





**Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority** 

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, is testing the Integrated Portal with new IEPF e-Forms to ensure faster, seamless, and transparent claim settlement by bringing MCA, Depositories, PFMS, and Companies on a single platform.

Investors/Depositors whose shares, dividends, deposits, or debentures have been transferred to IEPF under the Companies Act, 1956/2013 may file refund claims online. Please refer to the Instruction Kit for Claimants available at www.iepf.gov.in under Help & FAQs

## How to file the claim in the new portal?

- 1. Go to IEPF Website(www.iepf.gov.in) > Navigate to services > Click on Refund/Claim refund
- 2. Register on MCA website (www.mca.gov.in): Create a Login ID & Password in MCA 21
- 3. Online Filing of IEPF-5 Form: The IEPF-5 Form to be submitted online and acknowledgment shall be sent on the registered email, along with pre-filled auto-generated indemnity bond.
- The IEPF-5 form submitted by the claimant will undergo PAN verification. The claimant's Demat ID will be validated using the PAN, and the account number linked to the Demat ID will be pre-filled in the form for refund processing.
- 5. Original Documents to be sent to Company: Courier the complete set of the IEPF-5 form to the Nodal Officer of the company along with other support documents. All print/photocopies must be self-attested. Postal receipt should be submitted under **Pending for Action** tab.

# **General information**

On receiving the original documents, the concerned company will verify the claim against their records within 30 days of filing and upload an "E-Verification Report (EVR)" on the MCA portal, indicating either approval or rejection of the claim. Based on the EVR recommendation, the Authority will process the case according to IEPF

> Claimants shall receive an email notification on approval or rejection of their claim on their registered email ID.

## NOTE:

- File e-Form IEPF-5 only when all required documents are available.
- The claimant can track the status of share transfer and amount transfer by logging in with their MCA ID.
- To track your claim, log in to your MCA21 account > Navigate to My Application > Check under the Under Processing tab for the status.
- IEPFA acknowledges communication from the verified contact details only, provided by claimants while filling IEPF form 5 online.
- Claims rejected by companies in EVR are summarily rejected.
- For discrepancies, claimants must approach the concerned company and its Nodal Officer to rectify
- IEPFA urges all investors to update nomination details to ensure that investments do not remain unclaimed or unpaid.
- Claimant can raise their grievances by raising tickets on IEPF website under Services > Raise Tickets.



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# Aditya Alumina Refinery, Centurion University to set up veterinary hosp



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: In a significant step towards strengthening rural animal healthcare and promoting sustainable livelihoods, Aditya Alumina Refinery, Kansariguda (a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited, Aditya Birla Group) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) to establish a state-of-theart Veterinary Care Hospital in Kansariguda area.

This pioneering initiative, under Hindalco's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, aims to provide high-qual-

ity veterinary services for cattle, goats, poultry, and stray animals, addressing the critical need for accessible animal healthcare in rural communities.

The veterinary hospital will be supported by a dedicated Animal Health Van equipped with mobile ambulatory services, ensuring comprehensive outreach across 50 villages in Kansariguda and Laxmipur areas. The facility will play a key role in improving livestock health, enhancing productivity, and supporting the economic well-being of rural

households. "This initiative reflects our deep commitment to inclusive growth, sus-

tainable development, and making a meaningful difference at the grassroots level through veterinary care," said Mazhar Beig, Unit Head and President, Aditva Alumina Refinery.

In addition to veterinary services, the project adopts a holistic approach to community development by promoting sustainable livelihoods, enhancing income generation, and empowering rural communities through improved animal husbandry practices.

Centurion University will serve as the implementing partner, bringing in technical expertise and on-ground operational support to ensure the effective rollout and long-term success of the initiative.

The MoU was formally signed by Beig and Anita Patra, Registrar, Centurion University., in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY (1) Tender Notice No. MSM-CALIBRATION-MI-20-25

NAME OF WORK : ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE OF HYDRAULIC AND EXCEPT MAIN ENGINE AND SL SYSTEM) OF 140 T BD CRANE OF THREE YEARS Approx cost of the Work (₹): 7,26,694.15

EMD (₹): 14,500.00 (2) Tender Notice No.

MSM-TESTING-LMLT-21-25 NAME OF WORK: TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF LIFTING MACHINERY, LIFTING TACKLES AND PRESSURE PLANTS OF CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPOT OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS Approx cost of the Work (₹): 12,00,586.64

EMD (₹): 24,000.00 Completion period of the work : 60 Months (for Both Tenders) Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500

1500 Hrs. of 22.09.2025 (for SI. No. 2) Manual offers are not allowed against thi ender, and any such received shall be ignored. Complete details and Tender document will be available at website

https://www.ireps.gov.in

Assistant Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Frt.), Sambalpur

Dt: 29.08.2025

NAMEOFWORK SIGNAL & TELECOM
WORK FOR PROVISION OF LIMITED
HEIGHT SUBWAY IN LIEU OF LEVEL
CROSSING NO. 357 (BARUVA MANDASA), JD-1 (DAITARI - TOMKA),
CT-29 (RAJ ATHAGARH YARD), CT-65
(HINDOL ROAD - MERAMANDALI), JB12 (GHANTIKHAL NIDHIPUR - NARAJ
MARTHAPUR), CT-42 (DHENKANAL SADASHIBPUR), CP-8 (MATTAGAJPUR
- KANDARPUR) AND LIMITED HEIGHT
SUB WAY AT TRESPASSING
LOCATIONS BETWEEN KEREJANGA JARAPADA, KANDARPUR JARAPADA, KANDARPUR AGHUNATHPUR, JAKHAPURA JENAPUR, INCLUDING PROVISION OF METERS AND TOOLS FOR DAILY MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION UNDERKHURDAROAD DIVISION.

EMD: ₹4,13,400.00 Bidding Start Date: 08.09.2025 ender Closing Date and Time: At 1100

Hrs. of 22.09.2025. No manual offers sent by Post/ Courie Fax or in person accepted against such e read of in person 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-tende locuments of the above e-tender invallable in website: www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days pefore the date of closing of tender to not any changes / corrigendum issued for thi

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer

PR-554/Q/25-26

Call Centre: Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm







True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



**BABUDOM** 

**BYTES** 

# **Lateral Paralysis**

hen the Modi sarkar unveiled its lateral entry scheme in 2018, it promised to shake up the ossified steel frame of Indian governance with an injection of fresh ideas and outside expertise. The pitch was seductive: cut through the red tape by bringing in private-sector professionals who had navigated markets, managed scale, and thought beyond the dusty rulebooks of North Block. Seven years later, the scheme finds itself in limbo, more a footnote in babu chatter than the revolution it once claimed to be.

The reasons are hardly mysterious. For one, the government stumbled headlong into the reservation debate. By defining lateral entry posts as "single-post cadres" and therefore outside the ambit of constitutional quotas, it invited criticism of bypassing affirmative action. Politically, that was never going to fly. Instead of addressing it headon—say, by designing a transparent system of reserved slots—the government blinked, quietly withdrawing advertisements for 45 posts last year and pretending it was all part of a grand re-think.

Then there's the talent pool problem. Rather than attracting the best of India's boardrooms, applications have disproportionately come from PSU mid-managers keen to stay in Delhi. Add to that a salary structure pegged to government scales, which is far below what senior private-sector leaders command. The only people willing to take the plunge are those who view it as a lifestyle move, not a national calling.

Even for those who did make it in, the experiment was underwhelming. Experts hired for their domain knowledge found themselves lost in the labyrinth of file notings and procedural niceties, their skills underused. Innovation can't flourish when you're reduced to navigating the same bureaucratic sludge as career civil servants.

What was meant to be a bold reform now appears to be yet another committee-bound exercise, caught between the imperatives of social justice, the realities of compensation, and the unwillingness to redefine roles. Unless the government creates a distinct lateral track with clear mandates, competitive pay, and built-in accountability, this scheme will remain exactly what it is today.

#### **Urjit's curious comeback**

The irony is rich. Urjit Patel, the Reserve Bank Governor who famously walked away mid-term in 2018, citing "personal reasons" while ev-

Dilip Cherian eryone whispered "government interference," is now India's man at the International Monetary Fund. The very establishment that once bristled at his autonomy streak has wheeled him back into the spotlight, this time with a global

This isn't just about Patel. It's about India's shifting calculus on credibility. In a world where IMF boardrooms are weighing debt distress in Sri Lanka, precarious reserves in Bangladesh, and the fiscal overhang of climate finance, New Delhi seems to have decided that reputation trumps resentment. Patel, with his inflation-targeting discipline and IMF pedigree, offers both gravitas and a familiar technocratic face.

But the backstory matters. His 2018 resignation was the first time in decades that a sitting RBI Governor quit abruptly, sparking debates about the Centre's overreach. Shaktikanta Das's smooth succession only deepened suspicions of a "yes-man" preference. Fast forward to today, and Patel's quiet rehabilitation raises uncomfortable questions: has the government truly come to value institutional independence, or is this simply a case of redeploying a skilled insider abroad, where his autonomy won't sting quite as much?

Whatever the answer, the signal to the international community is clear: India is fielding a heavyweight at the IMF table. For Patel, it's a redemption arc. For the Centre, it's a test of whether it can project technocratic credibility abroad while still wrestling with political interference at home.

Sometimes, the louder message lies not in the appointment itself, but in the contradictions it quietly papers over.

## The lone whistle in the Himalayas

In Uttarakhand, where every monsoon brings fresh reminders of the Himalayas' fragility, the real story isn't just about a few illegal eco huts tucked away in Munsiyari. It's about the one man who refused to look away. Sanjiv Chaturvedi, Chief Conservator of Forests, has once again done what few babus dare—call out wrongdoing in black and white, no matter how powerful the players involved.

Chaturvedi is not new to this. A Magsaysay Award winner, he has made a career out of exposing corruption, whether it was in AIIMS or the Haryana Forest department, often paying the price through transfers, inquiries, and isolation. In Munsiyari, he flagged how rules were bent, approvals bypassed, and public revenue siphoned off under the guise of eco-tourism. More importantly, he named names and demanded real accountability, urging nothing less than CBI and ED investigations. That takes courage in a system where blowing the whistle often means blowing up your own career.

Interestingly, the Centre only stirred into action after his report landed on desks, ordering the state forest department to prosecute those responsible. Without Chaturvedi's doggedness, the issue would likely have been buried under the usual rubble of "development" projects.

Share a babu experience! Follow  $dilip the cherian @twitter.com.\ Let's\ multiply\ the\ effect$ 

# WISDOM CORNER

It is very important to know who you are. To make decisions. To show who you are.

Water is the key to dealing with the twin challenges of poverty and growth.

Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope

# THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1860: American social reformer and pacifist Jane Addams, cowinner (with Nicholas Murray Butler) of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1931, was
- 1901: Republican William McKinley, the 25th president of the United States (1897–1901), was shot this by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist, at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, and died eight days
- 1944: Germany fired the first long-range V-2 missile at an Allied target during World War II.
- 1966: South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd, who rigorously developed and applied the policy of apartheid, was stabbed to death by a temporary parliamentary messenger who was later ruled insane.

## FOCUS BHUBANESWAR

# BEATING THE HEAT

Bhubaneswar became the first Indian city to release an Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan (IHCAP) to comprehensively tackle two growing crises-rising heat stress and the explosion in air conditioning demand.

Heat stress is not new to India. Over the past two decades, the country has experienced increasingly frequent and intense heatwaves that have claimed thousands of lives, reduced worker productivity, and strained health systems. But the crisis has changed. Cities are now caught in a vicious cycle of heat and cooling: higher temperatures and humidity drive-up air-conditioning use, which worsens the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect and greenhouse gas emissions. This, in turn, makes cities even hotterand more dependent on cooling.

It is precisely this cycle that Bhubaneswar's IHCAP seeks to break. It is India's first city-level plan that integrates urban planning, green buildings, sustainable cooling, and heat adaptation measures under one umbrella.

#### A city on the frontline of heat

Bhubaneswar has long been one of India's most heat-affected cities. Over the last four decades, average temperatures and humidity levels have risen steadily across the year. Even more worrying is the rise in night-time temperatures. which robs people of relief and increases health risks. Today, heat stress stretches from February to October. As per the IMD's "Feels Like" index, which uses temperature and humidity to measure heat stress, the city endured nearly 230 days of Yellow or Orange heat alerts in 2024.

Rapid urbanisation has further compounded heat stress. Between 2018 and 2024, Bhubaneswar's built-up area grew by 23%, while vegetation declined by nearly 10% and



under an intermediate climate warming scenario, a 'normal hot day' in 2050 will feel like today's extreme heat days. the city, therefore, will have to rely on cooling to survive

water bodies by a staggering 75%. The result is a far more pronounced UHI effect, with the city now 2–5°C hotter than surrounding rural areas.

The impacts are already evident. Outdoor workersfrom construction crews to street vendors—lose 20–30% of productivity and wages to heat stress. Overall, the city lost 8.6% of its annual income due to heat stress. At the same time, AC ownership has more than doubled in just two years, rising from 6% of households in 2021 to 15% in 2023. Cooling now accounts for one-third of the city's electricity use-and nearly two-thirds in peak sum-

mer months. Looking ahead, the situation could worsen dramatically. Under an intermediate climate warming scenario, a "normal hot day" in 2050 will feel like today's extreme heat days. The city, therefore, will have to rely on cooling to survive. Under a Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario, therefore, electricity demand from cooling could rise 7.6 times by 2050 compared to current levels.

#### What the IHCAP offers Against this backdrop, Bhu-

baneswar's IHCAP lays out a comprehensive five-pillar

Cool the city: Expand greenery, revive water bodies, promote cool roofs, and redesign streets to reduce UHI. Cool buildings: Implement

energy conservation building codes and promote climate-responsive designs to reduce heat absorption and enhance indoor comfort. Sustainable cooling for all: Ensure access to affordable,

efficient, and climate-friendly cooling solutions such as efficient fans and ACs, district cooling systems, and white roofs for low-income homes. Enhance heat resilience:

Strengthen electricity, water, and health systems; build cooling shelters and provide cool bus stops and public water kiosks.

Adapt to heat: Update heat alert thresholds to account for humidity and night-time temperatures, provide insurance for vulnerable workers, and expand awareness campaigns.

If implemented effectively, these interventions could reduce surface temperatures by 0.5-9.4°C, depending on the type of measure, and cut the city's cooling-related electricity demand by 44-67% compared to the BAU scenario.

#### **Beyond Bhubaneswar**

The IHCAP connects two national policies that have so far worked in silos. The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) of the environment ministry that promotes sustainable

Plan (HAP) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which focus primarily on early warning and heat adaptation. By unifying them, the IHCAP offers a comprehensive framework to address heat stress that other cities can adapt and adopt.

Scaling this framework,

however, will require significant policy reforms. NDMA's HAP guidelines must be updated to include heat mitigation and sustainable cooling measures. City master plans and building codes will also need revision. For example, the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code, 2024 for commercial and institutional buildings and the Eco-Niwas Samhita 2024 for residential buildings cover only a fraction of upcoming construction. In Bhubaneswar, just 25% of commercial and institutional buildings and a mere 1.5% of residential construction fall under these codes. Likewise, master plans do not consider UHI, heat mitigation strategies or the need for heat-resilient

By mid-century, India will be home to 600-700 million urban residents, most of them in heat-stressed cities. Without integrated action, we risk a future where outdoor work becomes unsafe for millions, inequality deepens, and cities completely rely on cooling appliances to survive.

infrastructure.

Bhubaneswar's however, shows that cities can avoid this dystopian future and break the vicious cycle of heat and cooling through scientific modelling, innovative planning, and forward-looking policy.

Note:Bhubaneshwar's IHCAP is developed by iFOREST in collaboration with the Singapore-ETH Centre, which is running the Cooling Singapore program.

The writer is CEO of International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST)

#### **SPECTRUM** HEALTH

Chandra Bhushan

**CITY-LEVEL** 

**PLAN THAT** 

**INTEGRATES** 

PLANNING,

**BUILDINGS**,

COOLING,

**AND HEAT** 

**MEASURES** 

**UNDER ONE** 

**UMBRELLA** 

**ADAPTATION** 

**SUSTAINABLE** 

**URBAN** 

**GREEN** 

**BHUBANESWAR** 

IS INDIA'S FIRST

# Vaccines: Tiny shots, mighty shields



Dr Shaktiprasad Pradhan

**HERD IMMUNITY IS AN INDIRECT DEFENCE MECHANISM AGAINST A** COMMUNICABLE **DISEASE THAT OCCURS WHEN** A POPULATION **IS RESISTANT THROUGHOUT VACCINATION** 

significant weapons in the global public health care against various contagious dreaded diseases. Over a couple of century, several deadly diseases like polio, measles, smallpox etc. have been prevented and reduced by using the vaccines. Vaccines aid elderly, adults, pregnant women, children and infants to grow up a healthy along with blissful living. Edward Jenner an English physician and scientist developed the first vaccine against smallpox. Vaccines are employed for averting and controlling one or more diseases caused by virus, bacteria or parasites. Human body is edified by several vaccines that provide long-term immunity against various pathogens. All the vaccines are ensured with utmost safety. The vaccine manufactures strictly follow the USFDA guidelines framed time to time related to vaccines manufacturing and storage conditions. Rigorous studies on safety and efficacv of vaccines using various phases of clinical trials have been followed even after their

introduction. The vaccines have eternal impact on the public health care system and widely available with an economy friendly range. Administration of vaccines is advantageous for both vaccinated and the unvaccinated people around them, since there will be less chance of spreading out of infections if most of the people of a community will be vaccinated and immunized.

For the encounter of several microbes routine vaccination is essential during pregnancy, after birth of infant, when toddler and till become adult. The new born and toddlers tolerate vaccination very well with receiving of multiple vaccinations simultaneously. In some cases hypersensitive reactions may occur which are mild and short terms by nature. The herd immunity through vaccination is a potential approach for the complete eradication of smallpox and almost for the polio until now worldwide. It is the indirect defence mechanism against a communicable disease that occurs when a population is resistant throughout vaccination or development

of immunity through earlier Generally the infants are

susceptible to highest number of infectious diseases so delay and interruption in their vaccination must be avoided. In India all the infant and children are vaccinated against Rotavirus, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis, Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Tuberculosis etc. which are free of cost including the booster doses. The Oral Polio Vaccine & Rotavirus Vaccine both are administered orally so termed as drinkable vaccine but most of the other vaccines are administered parenterally. Administration of vaccines is very simple and quick process. The combined form of vaccines contains vaccines against a number of diseases in the same syringe, meant for reducing the numbers of injections to a child.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization was officially launched first time by the WHO in 1974 and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Government of India in 1978 with an aim to immunize

all children against tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertusis and tuberculosis. The Ministry of Health, Government of India has provided an in sequence vaccination timetable of various vaccines to facilitate a welltimed programme of immunisation throughout the country, which is called as the National Immunization Schedule. It is most extensively followed by the public health care professionals helping millions of pregnant women, infants and children against several vaccine preventable diseases. Based on the safety and effectiveness new vaccines against other childhood infectious diseases are also included in various immunization programmes time to time. In 2011 the case of Polio was last reported in India and the WHO in 2014 announced India to be Polio free. Timely vaccination following the National Immunization Schedule can easily prevent from dreaded diseases similarly a remarkable delay can cause life risk. The writer is

Principal-Koustuv Research Institute of Medical Science, Bhubaneswar

# Fearless journalism

Sir, September 5, 2025 marks the 8th death anniversary of journalist Gauri Lankesh, whose gruesome murder sent shockwaves through India's body politic. The cowardly act was one of countless attempts to stifle free speech in India for years. Ms. Lankesh was a fearless independent journalist and one who gave voice to many causes, and always stood for justice. Eight years on since her ghastly murder. the trial is still to be completed, and painfully it has been moving at snail's pace. It is all the more distressing that of the 18 accused in the murder, 17 are already out on bail due to the languid nature of the trial, and one is said to be absconding. In such a dismal scenario getting Ms. Lankesh's killers convicted will remain a dream. Ms. Lankesh will ever be remembered as a brave journalist, one who fought not just corruption, but also bigotry and the purveyors of communal hatred. She might have fallen to the bullets and the ink in her pen might have drained forever, but her brand of intrepid journalism will live on, which can never be subjugated by vitriolic right-wing fringe communal groups.

# Disturbing student deaths

Sir, A spate of student deaths at BITS Pilani, Goa is very disturbing. Undue pressure, harassment through ragging and crucial mental health issues have been cited as possible reasons for five deaths within a year. Students at higher centres of learning direly need communication and coordination besides continuing education. They have to be kept engaged and energetic. A relook at the curriculum and exam pattern is the need of the hour. Introduction of systematic and consistent wellness courses cannot be overemphasized. At the same time, enhancing campus security and keeping an eagle's eye on unwanted visitors should not be optional extras. The committee formed by the Goa government has the onerous task of advising ways and means for a safe and secure life for youngsters other than unearthing reasons for the unfortunate deaths

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

TO THE EDITOR

columns (between 600-1000

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



# TWO STATES





DEATH **NEWBORNS** 

# **Indore's MY Hospital** continues to tackle rats

RATS BIT THE FINGERS OF ONE NEWBORN IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU) AT THE 75-YEAR-OLD FACILITY, WHICH IS AMONG THE BIGGEST IN MP, WHILE ANOTHER WAS BIT ON THE HEAD AND SHOULDER. ONE OF THE INFANTS DIED TUESDAY. WHILE THE OTHER PASSED AWAY WEDNESDAY

Indore, Sept 5: The rat menace in Madhya Pradesh governtrao Hospital (MYH) in Indore has once again come to the fore following the death of two newborn girls at the facility, with some stakeholders decrying the state of affairs despite several crore rupees getting spent on pest control and cleanliness.

Rats bit the fingers of one newborn in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the 75-year-old facility, which is among the biggest in MP, while another was bit on the head and shoulder. One of the infants died Tuesday, while the other passed away Wednesday, officials said.

In 1994, after the plague outbreak in Gujarat's Surat, MYH was fully evacuated for a few days in a drive under then Indore District Magistrate Sudhi Ranjan Mohanty, who later became the state's chief secretary, that saw the elimination of 12000 rats, an official said Friday.

In 2014, a similar campaign at MYH under then Indore Divisional Commissioner (Revenue) Sanjay Dubey saw around 2500 rats being killed, he added.

"Contact with infected rats can spread various diseases in humans, the most prominent among them being rat-bite fever and plague. Some diseases can also spread through rat urine, faeces, saliva, hair or fleas or ticks found on them. veterinarian Dr Narendra



Chauhan told PTI

However, MYH authorities are quick to point out that the two newborn girls died of serious pre-existing health problems and congenital deformities rather than rat bites.

Dr Brajesh Lahoti, head of MYH's paediatric surgery department, who is facing charges of negligence in duty, emphasised rat bites cannot cause the death of a human being.

"In villages, rats keep coming out while farmers are working in their fields. Sometimes we (doctors) are also bitten by rats while on duty here in the hospital or elsewhere," the senior doctor pointed out.

The MYH administration, on its part, has asked the state government to blacklist the private firm which has been contracted to provide manpower for cleaning, security, pest control and data entry processes.

Officials said the firm, which

receives several crore rupees from the government for these

services, has been fined Rs 1

lakh in connection with the

MYH officials also blamed food items brought by attendants of patients for the proliferation of rats

"The administration has asked attendants of patients not to bring food items from outside to the hospital. A helpline number has also been issued to inform if rats, cockroaches and bedbugs etc are seen in the hospital," an official said.

Amulya Nidhi, convener of NGO 'Jan Swasthva Abhivan Madhya Pradesh', however, alleged the MYH administration was trying to escape responsibility with such statements.

The two newborn girls who died during treatment at MYH were bitten by rats in the ICU, which is considered extremely safe and where breast-feed-

ing babies are admitted. Attendants of patients are not allowed to enter the ICU. The MYH administration has full the ICU," Nidhi said.

The deaths of the newborns are serious violation of child rights, infection-control protocols and hospital safety stan-

On the complaint of Nidhi on behalf of 'Jan Swasthya Abhiyan Madhya Pradesh', the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) issued a notice to the District Magistrate and has sought an action taken report (ATR) within three days.

The MYH management has so far taken disciplinary action against six officials, including suspension and removal from the post, in connection with the two deaths

Incidentally, this is not the first case of rats attacking newborns in MYH.

In 2021, rats nibbled the heel of a child in the nursery (where newborns are kept for care).

Officials said, during the rat elimination campaign in 2014, it was estimated there were 8,000 rat burrows on the MYH campus.

Eyewitnesses said burrows can be seen even now, adding that rats enter the facility when the burrows fill up with rain-

The junk lying in the old building of the hospital also provides a suitable place for rats to home in, they said.

**CONTRABAND SEIZURES, SECURITY LAPSES** 

# Call for reforms in Kerala prisons



With repeated incidents of contraband being seized from prisoners and multiple officials facing disciplinary action for giving inmates a free

hand, experts are now calling for major reforms to ensure that prisons in Kerala become centres of true reformation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 5: On a quiet residential lane in Kochu Kadavanthra in this coastal city, officers from Kerala's Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) raided the home of a mid-level prison officer.

What they uncovered would expose more than personal misconduct -- it would throw a light on a growing crisis in the state's correctional system.

Shiras Basheer, an assistant prison officer at Ernakulam district jail, was already under surveillance when officers entered his home earlier this year.

The allegations were grave-

yond his known income. By the time the preliminary investigation ended. VACB had traced Rs 76 lakh in unexplained wealth.

plying narcotics to prisoners,

and possessing assets far be-

The raid followed a monthlong intelligence operation that had led to Basheer's suspension from the service.

According to the suspension order, Basheer maintained "close ties with narcotic peddlers" and used those connections to funnel drugs into the jail -- a task he allegedly carried out with the help of contacts outside, who collected payments on his behalf.

The incident, serious in isolation, is one of several in Kerala's prison governance.

In July, just weeks after Basheer's suspension, one of the state's most notorious inmates -- Govindachamy, convicted in the high-profile Soumya rape and murder case - escaped from Kannur Central Jail.

With repeated incidents of contraband being seized from prisoners and multiple officials facing disciplinary action for giving inmates a free hand, experts are now calling for major reforms to ala become centres of true reformation.

A two-member committee formed to look into security issues in Kerala prisons, following the jailbreak of Govindachamy, has also found the need for changes.

Retired High Court Judge Justice C N Ramachandran Nair, who is part of the two-member committee in vestigating prison reforms in Kerala, has said that several changes are necessary to en sure that jails become genuine centres for reformation. The other member of the commit tee is former State Police Chief Jacob Punnoose.

Justice Nair noted that one of the major issues is prison overcrowding.

"Currently, jails are accommodating 40 per cent more prisoners than their original capacity. Also, the number of iail staff is low. Hence, it is very difficult to monitor the prison ers at all times. We have gone through news reports about the illegal nexus between prison officials and inmates. But we need to conduct a proper inqui ry into it," he told PTI.

There are a total of 57 jails in the state, including three central prisons.

As of Wednesday (3 Septem ber 2025), the maximum capac ity of these facilities is 7,828 inmates. However, the current prison population stands at 9.184, according to statistics from the Jail Department.

"There is no doubt that more prisons are required in the state. In our report, we will rec ommend setting up new jails including at least one addition al central prison. Only then can true reformation be possible, Justice Nair said.

# MP to give '4th-time pay scale' to 1.5L teachers



The chief

minister also

transferred ₹330

crore into the

accounts of 55

lakh children of

class I-VIII (1-8th)

for purchasing

school uniforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Sept 5: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Friday announced to provide the benefit of the 'fourthtime pay scale' to nearly 1.5 lakh teachers of government schools in the state, which will require additional Rs 117 crore annually.

He was speaking at the state-level Teachers' Day programme in the state capital, where he also transferred Rs 330 crore for the purchase of school uniforms for 55 lakh

children. "The government will give the fourthtime pay scale to assistant teachers, senior teachers of educational cadre, primary teachers of new educational cadre and secondary teachers. This will benefit 1.5 lakh teachers in the

state," Yadav said. A proposal will be brought in the cabinet for this purpose, and teachers will get the gift of the fourth-time pay scale from 2025-26. This will put an additional burden of Rs 117 crore on the government,

he said. The chief minister also transferred Rs 330 crore into the accounts of 55 lakh children of class I-VIII (1-8th) for purchas-

ing school uniforms. He also said that Sandipani schools are being opened in the state. The academic results of children from government schools has been better than those from private schools. This has been the best result in the last 15 years, Yadav added. The chief minister said that in the Indian tradition, guru (teacher) occupies an important place. "In ancient times, the guru used to prepare future rulers. Maharshi Vishwamitra took Lord Ram and Lakshman with him and destroyed the demons by giving them knowledge of weapons and scriptures. Similarly, after killing Kansa, Lord Krishna reached Maharshi Sandipani's ashram in Ujjain and performed many divine acts," he said. "India is moving ahead with

strength under

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our scientists developed have modern Sudarshan Chakra and handed it over to the army for protection from the enemy.'

Former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan had said that in-

stead of celebrating his birthday, the day should be celebrated as Teacher's Day to acknowledge the contribution of teachers. Since then, teachers are honoured September 5 in the country, he said.

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel and Yadav also honoured a number of

teachers on the occasion. Welcoming the decision of the government to give fourthtime pay scale to the teachers, Madhya Pradesh Shikshak Sangh President Chatraveer Singh Rathod said the CM has fulfilled their long pending demand and the move will substantially benefit the teachers in the state.

# Tourism boost for Kuno, Gandhisagar

While Gandhisagar Forest Retreat is aimed at placing Madhya Pradesh firmly on the map of adventure tourism, Kuno Forest Retreat is envisioned as a hub for wellness and wildlife tourism

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 5: To take eco-tourism and adventure tourism to new heights, Madhva Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB) announced two significant events for this vear.

These two big events are the Gandhisagar Forest Retreat will begin from September 12 at Gandhisagar Dam in Mandsaur district, and the Kuno Forest Retreat, which will commence from October 5, near Kuno National Park in Sheopur district. Both Gandhisagar and Kuno have emerged as hubs of eco-tourism and adventure tourism.

While Gandhisagar Forest Retreat is aimed at placing Madhya Pradesh firmly on the map of adventure tourism, Kuno Forest Retreat is envisioned as a hub for wellness and wildlife tourism.

With this, Kuno National Park (KNP), which witnessed the historic reintroduction of cheetahs, is now set to present a unique blend of eco-tourism and cultural heritage. The retreat will redefine tourism with a strong focus on environmen-



tal protection and community participation.

These events will not only attract tourists from across India and abroad but also create employment opportunities for local communities.

Managing Director of MPTB, Sheo Shekhar Shukla, said in a press conference recently. Shukla, who is also Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Culture in the Madhya Pradesh government, told IANS that both these events have been designed to ensure that, along with tourism, environmental conservation. community participation, and sustainable development remain top priorities.

"Visitors high-quality, fully equipped

glamping and indulge in water, land and aerial adventure activities including parasailing, paramotoring, jet skiing, hot air ballooning, jungle safari, night walks and stargazing, Shukla said.

Along with the all-season tent city, boat safari, boat spa, yoga and wellness sessions, local cuisines, handicraft displays and cultural performances will connect tourists closely with the culture and lifestyle of Madhya Pradesh.

"The initiative not only aims to establish Madhya Pradesh tourism at the national and international level, but will also boost the regional economy and create new local employment opportunities," Shukla added.

# THIRUVONAM DAY

# Youth Cong stages 'Kolachoru' protest over custodial torture

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thrissur (Kerala), Sept 5: The Youth Congress Friday marked Thiruvonam with a symbolic protest in front of the DIG office here, highlighting the alleged custodial torture of

The agitation, termed the 'Kolachoru Samaram' (Rice with Blood Protest), saw activists donning police uniforms and masks of the accused officials to present the incident.

They also laid banana leaves on the ground near the office barricades as a symbolic gesture of resistance. The case dates back to April

lam president V.S. Sujith was allegedly subjected to brutal assault while in custody. After nearly two years of legal proceedings, visuals of the incident came to light following

an RTI order from the State In-

5, 2023, when Congress manda-

formation Commission. Sujith has alleged that the police attempted to suppress the case by offering bribes

He claimed that both he and local leader Varghese Chov-

vanur were offered up to Rs 20 lakh to remain silent

He also named Suhair, then a police driver and now working with the Revenue Department, as one of those who attacked him. Despite his role, no case has been registered against Su

hair, Sujith alleged.

"They tried to buy my silence, but I insisted on legal action. That is why the officials backed off," he said, demanding action against all five accused

Sujith stated that the assault was triggered when he questioned the police for allegedly intimidating his friends who were standing by the roadside.

The Youth Congress has vowed to intensify its agitation until strong action is taken against those responsible.

## **REAL KERALA STORY**

# Onam procession greeted by Prophet's Day celebrants

Onam is celebrated by Malayalis across the world, cutting across religious beliefs, as a state festival in memory of a glorious era when the land was ruled by King Mahabali, when all people were treated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept **5:** The Onam celebrations in Kerala Friday witnessed a unique gesture at Yakkara-Murikkavu in Palakkad district when a procession led by a Mahabali-clad person was greeted by 'Duff' drums by the Madras-

as equals

sa students of a nearby Juma Masjid, an act described as a 'real Kerala story' by many.

The students were celebrating the "Nabi Dinam" (Eid-e-Milad), which coincided with the "Thiruvonam" day in the month of Chingam in the Malayalam calendar this year. The Prophet's Day, Eid-e-Milad, is the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed.

In a display of the real 'Kerala Story,' the occasion was cheered by television channels.

As King Mahabali reached Murikkavu, where the Eid-e-Milad procession was underway, accompanied by the 'Chenda' percussion instrument, the children who had come from the mosque greeted them with their Duff drums, bringing cheer to the onlookers



"It was a great spectacle. I have not experienced such a delight in the last five years, Das Kalasala, who donned the role of Mahabali in the procession, told reporters.

The cross-religion spectacle was described by many as the "real Kerala story", in an apparent reference to the controver-

sial movie "The Kerala Story" that centered around the alleged radicalisation and conversion of young Hindu women to Islam in

The Murikkavu Juma Masjid representatives also said it was a great message from Kerala for the whole world.

Onam is celebrated by Mala-

yalis across the world, cutting across religious beliefs, as a state festival in memory of a glorious era when the land was ruled by King Mahabali, when all people were treated as equals.

Meanwhile, in a statement, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan greeted the people on the Prophet's Day.

"The ideals of equality and friendship are at the heart of the messages of the Prophet Muhammad. The memory of the Prophet gives us the energy to lead a happy social life with a high level of humanity," he said in the message.

"Let us work together to make this world more beautiful and a place where everyone can live together in harmony," the Chief Minister said.

# national



I appeal to **Omar Abdullah** to take up with the Centre the issue of ₹1,630 crore, sanctioned under Prime Minister's package for River Jhelum, that was not used here

MEHBOOBA MUFTI PEOPLES

## **'LONGEST TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE SINCE 2022 TO BE VISIBLE SEPTEMBER 7-8**°

The longest total lunar eclipse visible from India since 2022 will occur on the intervening night of September 7 and 8, astronomers said. They added that this is the first time since July 27, 2018, that an entire total lunar eclipse can be observed from all parts of the country





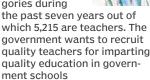
than 14 years, Dr Saha has inspired students with his expertise in forensic

and neuropsychology, while also building institutions like the Neuropsychology Lab and supporting child abuse victims with compassion. His recognition is truly well-deserved, reflecting both academic bril-

liance and a deep commitment

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

The state government has recruited 19,800 employees of



MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

I consider the unresolved border dispute with China as the biggest challenge. The

second major challenge is the proxy war being run by Pakistan against India GEN ANIL CHAUHAN | CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### TN Governor, CM Stalin greet Malayalis on Onam

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi and Chief Minister M K Stalin Friday extended greetings to those celebrating the harvest festival, Onam, in the state. "Warmest greetings to all Indian brothers and sisters across the world on the auspicious occasion of Onam. We celebrate the return of the benevolent King Mahabali, whose timeless virtues of righteousness, compassion, devotion, and selflessness remind us of the very foundations of our civilisational ethos," Ravi said.

#### Teenage girl stabbed in northeast Delhi market

New Delhi: An 18-year-old girl was allegedly stabbed by an acquaintance in northeast Delhi's New Mustafabad area, police Friday said. She is currently under treatment for a stab wound in abdomen at the GTB Hospital. According to a complaint, police said the attacker had been harassing her for days, and stabbed her Thursday evening when she again rebuffed him.

### **Woman Naxalite killed** in encounter in Ch'garh

Raipur: A woman Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security forces in a forest area along the border of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts in Chhattisgarh Friday, official said. The encounter broke out when a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Narayanpur and Dantewada and Special Task Force (STF), both units of the state police force, was out on an anti-Naxal operation along the interdistrict border, he said. "So far, the body of a woman Naxalite has been recovered from the site along with one .303 rifle and two BGL (Barrel Grenade Launcher) launchers and other items of daily use," he said.

### 3 die after van plunges into open cast mine

Dhanbad (Jharkhand): At least three people died after a van carrying workers plunged 150 feet into the water accumulated at the bottom of an open cast mine in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district Friday, an official said. The incident took place after a landslide occurred in the open cast mine in BCCL Area-4 in Ramkanali police station area. Several houses and some temporary structures near the

# Mumbai on alert over threat India welcomes of 34 bombs, 400 kg RDX all recent efforts to

hreat, the official said

highest footfall on the roads on

akhs of people are expected

to come out on the streets

Saturday as the city bids adieu

the name of an organisation

called 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi' in

the threat message, claimed 14

terrorists had entered the city

and planted 400 kg of RDX in

34 vehicles for blasts, he said.

Worli police station against

an unidentified person under

section 351 (criminal intimi-

dation) of Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita and sub section 2.3

and 4, he said.

A case was registered at

idols in the sea, other water

bodies as well as artificial

police are taking maximum

precaution as there will be



Mumbai. Sept 5: The Mumbai police are on alert after receiving a threat message claiming 14 terrorists had entered the city with 400 kilograms of RDX that had been planted in 34 vehicles, an official said Friday.

The threat message was received on the Whatsapp helpline of the traffic police Thursday amid the metropolitan force making security arrangements for Anant Chaturthi, the 10th day of the Ganesh festival, Saturday, the official said.

"This is the same traffic police WhatsApp helpline on which police had received threat messages in the past. which later turned to be hoaxes. The Crime Branch has launched an investigation, and Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and other agencies have also been informed," the official said.

The sender, who mentioned

## Genuine plot or just another hoax? The Mumbai Police said that it is capable of handling any threat; all

precautionary measures have been taken. The Lashkar-e-Jihadi is an unknown terror group, and hence the call may well be a hoax. However, the police are leaving no stone unturned as Pakistan and Bangladesh-based groups have been planning major strikes in India. However, there has been a pattern in the least one year, where the number of hoax calls has gone up in India. On Monday, one person was arrested after he made a hoax bomb threat call about blowing up a railway station in Maharashtra's

Prima facie, it seems a hoax, but police are investigating the source of the message with the help of technical analysis, the official added.

Speaking about the bomb threat, the official said police are taking maximum precaution as there will be highest footfall on the roads on immer-

Lakhs of people are expected to come out on the streets Saturday as the city bids adieu to Lord Ganesh by immersing idols in the sea, other water bodies as well as artificial ponds.

"Earlier also traffic police have received bomb threat messages. There is no need to panic. Security has been beefed up at key locations and combing operations are underway. Mumbaikars are urged not to believe in rumours. They must report any suspicious activity," another official said.

# end war in Ukraine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: India Friday said it supports an early end to the Ukraine conflict and return of an enduring peace in the region.

The comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came amid renewed push by Washington to end the war in Ukraine.

"As far as the conflict in Ukraine is concerned, we welcome all the recent efforts towards establishing peace in Ukraine," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"We hope that all parties will proceed ahead constructively. India supports an early end of the conflict and the establishment of an enduring peace,' he said at his weekly media briefing.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday discussed the Ukraine conflict with his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Svbiha.

Following his phone conversation with Jaishankar. Sybiha said he informed his Indian counterpart about the "current battlefield situation and Ukraine's efforts to achieve a just peace"

"We rely on India's authoritative voice and active role in supporting the full cessation of hostilities and broader international peace efforts," he said on social media.

The Ukrainian foreign minister said he and Jaishankar



We hope that all parties will proceed ahead constructively. India supports an early end of the conflict and the establishment of an enduring peace

RANDHIR IAISWAL I MEA SPOKESPERSON

agreed to meet on the margins of the UN General Assembly later this month.

The Jaishankar-Sybiha talks came three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in China's Tianjin.

In the meeting, Modi conveyed to Putin that India welcomes all the recent efforts towards establishing peace in Ukraine and that it is humanity's call to find a way to resolve hostilities as soon as possible.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dialled Modi Saturday, two days before Modi's meeting with the Russian president.

After the phone conversation with Modi, Zelenskyy said India is ready to make the necessarv efforts and to deliver the appropriate signal to Russia.

# Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra face lookout notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 5: The Mumbai police have issued a Lookout Circular (LOC) against Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra in connection with a ₹60 crore cheating case, officials said Friday.

The LOC was issued by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police as the couple makes frequent international trips, an official said.

The case was registered against the actor and her husband at Juhu police station on August 14 for allegedly duping a businessman of nearly ₹60 crore in a loan-cum-investment deal he said.

A Lookout Circular is a mechanism used to prevent a person from leaving the country or to track their movements, typically by issuing an alert to immigra-

tion and border control points. The case was later transferred to the EOW for investigation. Sixty-year-old businessman Deepak Kothari, a resident of Juhu, had lodged a complaint in this connection, the official said

Kothari is a director of a non-banking financial company (NBFC) named Lotus Capital Finance Services. According to the complainant,

he came in contact with Kundra and his actor wife through one Rajesh Arya.

Kundra and Shetty were directors of Best Deal TV Private Limited, a home shopping and online retail platform. Through Arya, they sought a loan of ₹75 crore, but to avoid higher taxation, they showed it as an investment. They also promised monthly returns and repayment of the principal amount, the of ficial said.

# '22 river monitoring stations record severe flood situation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: The Central Water Commission Friday warned of widespread flooding across several states, with 22 river monitoring stations reporting 'severe flood' situation and 23 others 'above normal' water levels.

According to the daily flood situation report, eight stations each in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and one each in Guiarat, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal are in 'severe flood' category.

Another 23 stations, including in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, have recorded 'above normal' water levels. The Central Water Commission (CWC) said inflow forecasts have been issued for 46 dams and barrages, including 12 in Karnataka, six in Telangana, five in Andhra Pradesh, and several in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand. Authorities have been ad-

vised to regulate dam operations strictly as per standard protocols to prevent downstream flooding.

with a falling trend, and is exnected to recede to 207.15 metres by Friday night.

Banaskantha and Rajkot.

In Rajasthan, rivers like Ma-

and Fatehpur.

The Yamuna river at Delhi's Old Railway Bridge is flowing in severe flood situation but

into severe flood levels.



In Gujarat, heavy flows are likely to continue for the

next two to three days in rivers such as Narmada, Tapi. Damanganga and Sabarmati. prompting high alerts in districts including Bharuch, Surat, Vadodara, Sabarkantha,

hi, Sabarmati, Chambal and Banas are rising, with severe flood warnings in Pratapgarh, Banswara, Udaipur, Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar. Maharashtra is bracing for very heavy rainfall in Dhule, Nandurbar, Palghar, Thane and Pune, which may push rivers such as Tapi, Vaitarna, Bhima and Koyna



Uttar Pradesh continues to face a grim situation, with the Ganga, Yamuna, Ramganga and Ghagra rivers flowing above danger levels in districts such as Mathura, Ballia, Shahjahanpur, Barabanki, Farrukhabad



Newly introduced horsewomen riders show their skills during an event to induct new dogs and horsewomen riders for Hyderabad City Police in Hyderabad, Telangana

# PILOT HELD FOR FILMING WOMEN WITH SPY CAMERA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: A pilot of a private airline was arrested for allegedly trying to film a woman on a hidden camera in Shani Bazar in southwest Del-

hi, police said Friday. The woman raised an alarm when she saw the 31-year-old man recording videos of her in the market in Kishangarh vil-

so how information in genes is

lage here Saturday, they said. Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Southwest) Amit Goel said he allegedly used lighter-shaped spy camera to film videos of unsuspecting women. A case under sections 77 (voyeurism) and 78 (stalking) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered at Kishangarh police station, and an investigation was taken up. During the



investigation, CCTV from the area was thoroughly reviewed. and the suspect's image was circulated among police networks With the help of local intelligence and secret informers, the man was traced and apprehended, police said. During interrogation, Privadarshi allegedly confessed to recording women without their consent. A hidden spy camera was recovered from his possession, they said. Further investigation into the case is underway, officials said.

# Warming temperatures can impact animals' reproduction: Studies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Two studies have found that extreme temperatures can change how a species reproduces, with one reptilian species becoming more resilient to climate change, while the other displaying a 'sex reversal' with a biological male growing into a functional female

Findings highlight that temperature not only impacts climate, but can also change how life is propagated, having profound implications for an increasingly warmer future, researchers said.

The team, including researchers from the Autonomous University of Barcelona

in Spain, said that driven by human activity in the form of contamination and climate

change, including greenhouse gas emissions and extreme temperatures, biodiversity is disappearing at an alarming rate.

However, how the changing environment directly affects reproduction and survival of species is not clearly known, they said. One of the studies, published

Guibe's ground gecko -- a lizard species native to the warm ecosystems of Madagascar in Africa. The researchers found that in

extremely hot conditions, the lizard species showed an increase in 'recombination' -- a process which creates genetic diversity and heightens a species' chances of adapting to a changing climate and, therefore, is fundamental for the

in PLOS Genetics, looked at the propagation of a living being.

The Guibe's ground gecko (scientific name 'Paroedura guibeae') also displayed a greater DNA fragmentation and changes in chromosomal structures, revealing that temperature not only affects gene expression -- behaviour of a the Autonomous University of species resulting from how its Barcelona, said. The authors wrote, "Our findgenes interact with the surrounding environment -- but al-

passed on through generations "This study helps us under stand that global warming not only affects the climate, but also influences the adaptation mechanisms of animals to survive," co-author Laura Gonzalez Rodelas, a researcher from

ings show the presence of hyper-(crossovers) spermatocytes

**Findings highlight** that temperature not only impacts climate, but can also change how life is propagated, having profound implications for an increasingly warmer future

in individuals exposed to both high and low temperatures.'

The second study, published in the journal GigaScience, focused on the central bearded dragon ('Pogona vitticeps'), a lizard species typically found in Australia's arid and semi-arid regions.

The central bearded dragon

is known to be capable of changing sex if eggs are incubated at high temperatures.

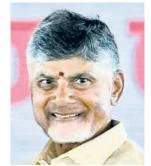
'Temperature-induced sex reversal' allows a biological male individual to develop into a functional female, and genome sequencing can help identify genes critical to sex determination and understand how the species' environment can change gene behaviour that define an individual's sex, the researchers said.

The study says, "The central bearded dragon (Pogona vitticeps) is widely distributed in central eastern Australia and adapts readily to captivity Among other attributes, it is distinctive because it under goes sex reversal from ZZ ge notypic males to phenotypic females at high incubation temperatures.'





# national



Children should be given education instead of wealth. **Teachers hold the key to the** future. I may neglect some issues, but never education

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

# **MAURITIUS PM TO VISIT INDIA FROM SEPT 9-16**

Prime Minister of Mauritius, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, will begin an eight-day visit to India from September 9 to explore ways to further shore up bilateral ties in several key areas such as defence, trade and investment





he aware of their plight. The AIADMK will form the



support and ensure a lasting solution to the dam row EDAPPADI K PALANISWAMI I AIADMK GENERAL SECY



be in custody. There have been two appeals -- filed in 2022 and in 2024 -- that were rejected by high courts. One SLP was filed in 2023 but was withdrawn in 2024 KAPIL SIBAL | SENIOR ADVOCATE





now resorted to other means SUVENDU ADHIKARI | BJP LEADER





openly started threatening India Stop buying Russian oil. Stop being a part of BRICS. Support US & dollar or

Why the fake Vishwaguru

@mr mayank

## SHORT **TAKES**

#### Punjab CM Bhagwant **Mann hospitalised**

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was hospitalised Friday evening after he complained of exhaustion and low heart rate, a statement issued by a hospital in Mohali said. It said that on arrival, the vitals of Mann (51) were assessed and stabilised. "Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was brought to Fortis Hospital, Mohali, after he complained of exhaustion and low heart rate,' the hospital statement said.

## 20-year-old shot dead in Pune city

Pune: In an apparent revenge killing, the son of an accused in the murder case of NCP leader Vanrai Andekar was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Pune's Nana Peth area Friday evening, police said. The deceased was identified as Ayush Ganesh Komkar (20), Vanraj Andekar's maternal nephew. The incident took place around 7.45 pm in the parking area of the housing society where he lived.

# **MEA: Flood data being** shared with Pakistan on humanitarian grounds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: India Friday said it has been sharing flood data with Pakistan through diplomatic channels on humanitarian ground even as the Indus Water Treaty remains suspended.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has been sharing the flood data with that country through the Indian high commission in Islamabad. "We have been sharing

high flood data with Pakistan through our diplomatic channels as and when it is required. This sharing of data is happening through our high commission in Islamabad," he said.

"You've seen the kind of rainfall that is happening in that part of India and that part of the world. And this is being done based on humanitarian considerations," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

A day after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, India announced a series of punitive measures against Pakistan, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with New Delhi asserting that "blood and water" cannot flow together. India has been maintaining that the Indus Waters Treaty will remain in "abeyance" until Islamabad "credibly and irrevocably" abjures support to cross-border terrorism.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions May 10.

To a question on expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Jaiswal said it is an ongoing process.

"This year, both Armenia and Azerbaijan submitted applications for membership. Due to time constraints, a decision on the issue could not be taken by member states in Tianjin," he said.

# **India declines to comment** on Trump's latest remarks



*Trump's latest remarks came days after after the* bonhomie among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: India Friday declined to respond to US President Donald Trump's remarks that New Delhi is inching closer to China even as it rejected as "inaccurate and misleading" White House Trade advisor Peter Navarro's attack on it for procurement of Russian crude oil.

"Looks like we have lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!," the US president said on social media.

Trump's latest remarks came days after after the bonhomie among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global at-

At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal did not respond to questions on Trump's post. "I have no comments to offer on this post at this time," he

said responding to a question. Jaiswal, however, firmly rejected Navarro's offensive remarks on India in the last few days.

"We have seen the inaccurate and misleading statements made by Navarro, and obviously reject them," Jaiswal said. Last week, Navarro accused

being an "oil money laun-

dromat for the Kremlin" and described it as "strategic free loading" New Delhi continuing to buy Russian weapons while urging American defence firms to transfer sensitive military technologies and set up manufacturing plants in India.

Jaiswal said India and the US are engaged on issues relating to trade, "The relationship between the United States and India is very important for us. Both our countries share a comprehensive global strategic partnership, which is anchored in our shared interests, democratic values and robust people-to-people ties," he said. The external affairs ministry spokesperson also repeated his previous remarks that the partnership has weathered several

'We remain focused on the

substantive agenda that our two countries have committed to, and we hope that the relationship will continue to move forward based on mutual respect and shared interests," he

Jaiswal also referred to a joint military exercise that is underway between Indian and American troops in Alaska. Asked about reports of

uncertainty over the annual Quad summit that India has to host over its frosty ties with the US, Jaiswal said he would not like to comment on speculations on the issue. The relations between New

Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

The 25 per cent tariff has already come into effect and additional levies are due from August 27.

India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and un reasonable" and even wondered why it has been singled out for the punitive action. Surprisingly, the US has not imposed any punitive measure on China the largest importer of Russian crude oil.

Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics.

India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in Feb-

Consequently, from a mere 1.7 per cent share in total oil imports in 2019-20. Russia's share increased to 35.1 per cent in 2024-25, and it is now the biggest oil supplier to India.

# Boundary dispute with China tops India's security concerns: CDS

New Delhi, Sept 5: The unresolved boundary dispute with China is the biggest national security challenge followed by Pakistan's proxy war and its strategy of "bleeding India by a thousand cuts", Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said Friday.

The top military official identified regional instability and its impact on India, and the preparations needed to handle future battlefield scenarios with high technology components in a rapidly challenging environment as the third and fourth major challenges. In an address at an event in

Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur, the chief of defence staff (CDS) said dealing with threats emanating from two adversaries with nuclear weapons is another major challenge facing India as it will have to be prepared for any kind of conventional warfare. Gen Chauhan said the

armed forces were given full operational freedom to conduct Operation Sindoor and its aim was not only to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, but also to draw a "red line"on cross-border terrorism.

In first such public comments, the CDS also said that the National Security Advisor (NSA) played a significant role in planning and implementaterms of providing guidance to the military that included target selection, deployment of troops, framework for de-esca lation and use of diplomacy.

However, the highlight of his address was his elaboration of India's national security challenges

"I consider the unresolved border dispute with China as the biggest challenge. The second major challenge is the proxy war being run by Paki stan against India," Gen Chauhan said. "Pakistan's strategy has been to 'bleed India by a thousand cuts. It means keep hurting India slowly at a regular interval and keep the flow of blood continuing in the country." The military official said the third biggest security challenge is emanat ing from the regional instabil ity, especially the way India's neighbouring countries are facing social, political, and economic unrest.

Such a situation impacts India as well, he said. "The fourth challenge would be what kind of warfare we will have in future. Wars are changing rapidly. Future wars will not be confined to land, air and water. It will include space. cyber and electromagnetic domains. It will be a challenge for us to make adjustments and keep ourselves ready for such a scenario," he said.



Flood-affected villagers gather to collect relief materials, at Talwandi Rai Dadu village of Ajnala, in Amritsar district, Puniab

# Ashoka emblem at Srinagar's Hazratbal shrine sparks row

Srinagar, Sept 5: Engraving the national emblem on the renovation plaque of the Hazratbal mosque here has sparked a controversy as locals and political leaders have lashed out at the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, with its chairperson calling for registering FIRs against those opposing it.

The plaque was vandalised by unidentified people and the national emblem removed with stones. Hours later, Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Darakshan Andrabi called for arresting and booking the "hooligans" under the Public Safety Act (PSA), terming them "militants". In a statement posted on X, the ruling National Conference (NC) said it has always upheld the guiding principle of Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. 'Sher-i-Kashmir ka kya irshaad

-- Hindu, Muslim, Sikh Ittihaad.



Unity, mutual respect, and dignity for all faiths remain central to our ideology. It is in this spirit that concerns have been raised over certain practices at the revered Hazratbal shrine. As the spiritual heart of our people, Hazratbal holds immense sanctity, and any activity within it must reflect the sensitivities of the devotees and the principles of faith." "The Waqf, being a community trust sustained by the contributions of ordinary Muslims, carries a responsibility of transparency, accountability, and respect for traditions. The management of such sacred spaces should remain above controversy and free from actions that may hurt the sentiments of worshippers," it said.

# suffers engine fault PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Air India Express** 

**Delhi-Indore flight** 

Indore, Sept 5: A Delhi-Indore Air India Express flight with 161 passengers on board Friday suffered an engine fault during its descent at the airport here prompting the pilot to make a 'PAN-PAN' call for non-life threatening emergency, but the aircraft landed safely soon

The plane landed 20 minutes behind its schedule at the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport soon after a suspected oil filter issue was detected mid-air, and everyone on board was safe, they said. "After receiving informa tion about a technical fault

afterwards, officials said.

in one of the engines of the Air India Express plane coming from Delhi to Indore, we took all precautions and the aircraft landed at the Indore airport at 9.55 am. As per the schedule it was supposed to land at 9.35 am," Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport's Director Vipinkant Seth told PTI.

The crew members of the flight - IX 1028 - and all 161 passengers are completely safe, he said. Seth said that the pilot of the plane sent a 'PAN-PAN signal to the Air Traffic Control (ATC), after which fire and medical arrangements were made at the airport as per the standard operating procedure (SOP). Talking about the incident, a spokesperson of Air

India Express said, "Due to a suspected oil filter issue during descent into Indore, following standard operating procedures, the crew landed safely. Our pi lots are well-trained to carry out such precautionary measures." 'PAN-PAN' is an internationally valid signal used in maritime and air radio communication. In aviation, it indicates an urgent situation that requires assistance but is not immediately life-threatening.

# Experts warn of rising nicotine device use in schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Educators, school principals and health experts Friday raised an alarm over the rising threat of newage nicotine devices such as vapes, e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches and heated tobacco products (HTPs) invading

Gathering at a national conference organised by Mothers Against Vaping (MAV) on Teachers' Day, they came together with a united call to action and pledged to 'Stop the Entry of Novel Nicotine Products in Schools'

'Mothers Against Vaping' is

a united front of mothers dedicated to combating the "vaping crisis" among youths.

stricter enforcement is needed are widely available online. A still flouting the ban.'

"Despite TOFEI (Tobacco-Free Educational Institution) guidelines being in place, teachers tell us that students continue accessing these products online with ease," said

A Srija, Economic Advisor,

"We already have a law, the

Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019, but since products like e-cigarettes recent study revealed that 35.6 per cent of online sellers are

Ministry of Education.

Srija added that teachers are

also raising pressing concerns.

"What should I do if I find a

vape in a student's bag? How do

I respond without isolating the

child? Hence, we urgently need

← The experts asserted that as the availability of such devices is not getting curbed despite a lot of efforts, behavioural change is critical to understanding and intervening accordingly **← Children must be** 

equipped to say "no" through awareness, peer support and strong parental and teacher guidance, they suggested

a clear set of school-based protocols for intervention, steps that teachers can follow when e-cigarettes are found among

students," she said. The ex-

perts stressed that combating

this growing threat requires collective and sustained action across the ecosystem, from students and parents to teachers and policymakers. "We are not even seeing the tip of the iceberg: the problem is much bigger than it appears. As an educator with three decades of experience, I'm still learning alarming new realities.

"If this is the case for someone like me, what about a child from a less-exposed background or parents who have no idea what's happening?" said Rashmi Malhotra, Headmistress, Delhi Public School, RK Puram.

Children are experimenting with products labelled as

"herbal" vapes, easily available online, Malhotra said. "Misinformation, peer pressure and glamorisation on social media mislead them into believing it is safe. The truth is, most children are stepping into this unaware and unprepared -- it is like handing them a car without teaching them how to drive," she added.

Stressing the importance of noticing early warning signs among students, Pramod Sharma, vice president, member, management committee, Genesis Global School Noida, said, "In most cases, it is the school that first notices early warning signs of abnormal behaviour in a child.

# international



Displacement means liquidation and the end of the **Palestinian cause and there** is no legal or moral or ethical ground to evict people from their homeland

BADR ABDELATTY

used not only by

Washington,

DC. but also

military instal-

lations around

An effort by

former President

Joe Biden to rename

nine bases that honored

the Confederacy and Confeder-

ate leaders was set to cost the

Army \$39 million. That effort

was reversed by Hegseth earli-

The Trump administration's

government downsizing team,

known as the Department of

Government Efficiency, has

sought to carry out cuts at the

Pentagon

the world.

officials at the

## **2 POWERFUL AFTERSHOCKS PUMMEL AFGHANISTAN**

Two powerful aftershocks struck eastern Afghanistan 12 hours apart, triggering fears of more deaths and destruction Friday in a region where earthquakes have killed about 2,200 people as rescuers battled mountainous terrain and harsh weather



some troops appear there. especially now, during military fact that these will be legitimate

targets for destruction VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

The process led by France and Saudi **Arabia is the most** significant international effort in



ELINA VALTONEN I FOREIGN MINISTER, FINLAND

**According to** diplomatic law and in response to Aus tralia's action, the **Islamic Republic** has also recipro-

cally reduced the level of Australia's diplomatic presence in Iran ESMAEIL BAGHAEI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, IRAN

### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Google hit with \$3.5bn fine from EU

London: European Union regulators Friday hit Google with a 2.95 billion euro (\$3.5 billion) fine for breaching the bloc's competition rules by favouring its own digital advertising services, marking the fourth such antitrust penalty for the company as well as a retreat from previous threats to break up the tech giant. The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive branch and top antitrust enforcer, also ordered the US tech giant to end its "self-preferencing practices" and take steps to stop "conflicts of interest" along the advertising technology supply chain. Google said the decision was "wrong" and that it would

#### 475 detained during immigration raid

Savannah (US): Some 475 people were detained during an immigration raid at a sprawling Georgia site where South Korean auto company Hyundai manufactures electric vehicles, according to a Homeland Security official. Steven Schrank, Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations, said at a news briefing Friday that the majority of the people detained were from South Korea. "This operation underscores our commitment to jobs for Georgians and Americans," Schrank said.

## 2 die in small plane crash

# **Greenwood Village (US):**

Two people died when a small plane crashed and caught on fire near a suburban Denver airport Friday, officials said. The crash happened just south of Centennial Airport and was initially reported as an explosion, Deborah Takahara, a spokesperson for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, said. Firefighters found the Beech BE35 airplane engulfed in flames, with the fire threatening to spread to a nearby building and some diesel-powered generators.

#### Darfur landslide claims about 200 children

Cairo: The deadly mountain landslide in Sudan's western region of Darfur over the weekend killed as many as 200 children, a prominent aid group said Friday, with rescue operations in the area still underway. More than 1,000 people, many of them buried in mud, are believed to have lost their lives in the Aug 31 landslide. Save the Children said 150 people, including 40 children, survived and were receiving medical treatment.

# 'Department of War' soon in US Anutin Charnvirakul

Washington, Sept 5: US President Donald Trump plans to sign an executive order Friday to rename the Department of Defense the "Department of War," a White House official said Thursday, a move that would put Trump's stamp on the government's biggest organization.

The order would authorize Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, the Defense Department and subordinate officials to use secondary titles such as "Secretary of War," "Department of War," and "Deputy Secretary of War" in official correspondence and public communications, according to a White House fact sheet.

The move would instruct Hegseth to recommend legislative and executive actions required to make the renaming

Since taking office in January, Trump has set out to rename a range of places and institutions, including the Gulf of Mexico, and to restore the original names of military bases that were changed after racial justice protests.

Department name changes are rare and require congressional approval, but Trump's fellow Republicans hold slim majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives. and the party's congressional



AIMS TO REFLECT

WARRIOR ETHOS,

SAYS DEFENSE SECRETARY

**HEGSETH** 

**CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL** 

**NEEDED, BUT REPUBLICANS** 

UNNECESSARY

DISTRACTION

leaders shown little appetite for opposing any Trump's initiatives.

**UNLIKELY TO OPPOSE** The US Department of **CRITICS ARGUE NAME CHANGE IS COSTLY AND** Defense was called the War Department until 1949, when Congress consoli-

dated the Army, Navy and Air Force in the wake of World War Two. The name was chosen in part to signal that in the nuclear age, the US was focused on preventing wars, according to historians.

Changing the name again will be costly and require updating signs and letterheads

"Why not put this money toward supporting military

families or toward employing diplomats that help prevent conflicts from starting in the first place?" said Democratic Senator Tammy Duckworth, a military veteran and member of the Senate's Armed Services Committee.

Pentagon in a bid to save money.

#### LONG TIME IN THE MAKING

Critics have said the planned name change is not only costly, but an unnecessary distraction for the Pentagon.

Hegseth has said that changing the name is "not just about words — it's about the warrior ethos.

This year, one of Trump's closest congressional allies, Republican US House of Representatives Oversight Committee Chair James Comer, introduced a bill that would make it easier for a president to reorganize and rename agencies

'We're just going to do it. I'm sure Congress will go along if we need that ... Defense is too defensive. We want to be defensive, but we want to be offensive too if we have to be,' Trump said last month.

Trump also mentioned the possibility of a name change in June, when he suggested that the name was originally changed to be "politically correct." But for some in the Trump administration, the effort goes back much further.

# elected Thai PM

Bangkok, Sept 5: Thailand's Anutin Charnvirakul was elected prime minister Friday after breezing through a parliamentary vote, trouncing the candidate of the Shinawatra family's once-dominant ruling party to end a week of chaos and political deadlock.

With decisive opposition backing, Anutin easily passed the threshold of more than half of the lower house votes required to become premier, capping off days of drama and a scramble for power during which he outmanoeuvred the most successful political party in Thailand's history.

Shrewd dealmaker Anutin has been a mainstay in Thai politics throughout years of turmoil, positioning his Bhumjaithai party strategically between warring elites embroiled in an intractable power struggle and guaranteeing its place in a succession of coalition governments.

His rout of rival contender Chaikasem Nitisiri was a humiliation for the ruling Pheu Thai party, the once unstoppable populist juggernaut of influential billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra, who left Thailand late Thursday for Dubai, where he spent the bulk of his 15 years in self-imposed exile



**IN PARLIAMENT** 

TYCOON THAKSIN LEAVES THAILAND WITH RULING **PARTY IN DISARRAY** 

ANUTIN WINS TWICE AS MANY VOTES AS RIVAL

Anutin led from the start and won 63% of the votes, with double the tally of Chaikasem.

He was mobbed by a phalanx of media as he left the chamber, his aides fending off a scrum of journalists who jostled and shouted as he edged slowly towards a waiting car.

"I will work my hardest, ev ery day, no holidays, because there is not a lot of time," Anutin said, his face lit up by bursts of camera flashes. "We have to ease problems quickly.

# Lammy appointed **UK Deputy PM**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 5: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer Friday appointed Foreign Secretary David Lammy as Deputy Prime Minister in

a major Cabinet reshuffle following the resignation of Angela Rayner over a tax underpayment row. Rayner, who al-

so held the Housing Secretary portfolio. stepped down after admitting underpaying tax on a new home she recently bought on

Lammy, 53, has been promoted to the post of Deputy PM with additional charge as Justice Secretary.

the south coast of England.

As part of the reshuffle, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper shifts to succeed him as Secretary of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and British Pakistani

Shabana Mahmood gets elevated to the Home Office from the Ministry of Justice as part of a wide-ranging reset at the top tier of government.

Rayner, 45, a powerful leader within the Labour Party, handed in her resignation after a sped-up independent ethics inquiry concluded that she had breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct by failing to seek out

specialist tax advice to ensure she paid the correct stamp duty on the property.

Starmer expressed his regret at losing his senior-most minister after Sir Laurie Magnus, his Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards, informed him that his deputy cannot be considered to have met the "highest possible standards of proper conduct"and therefore was in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

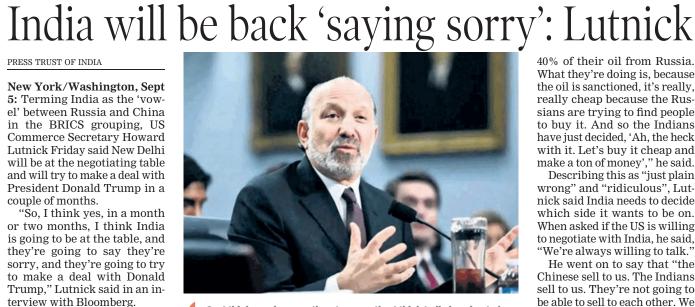
er this year.

New York/Washington, Sept 5: Terming India as the 'vowel' between Russia and China in the BRICS grouping, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick Friday said New Delhi will be at the negotiating table and will try to make a deal with President Donald Trump in a couple of months.

"So. I think yes, in a month or two months, I think India is going to be at the table, and they're going to say they're sorry, and they're going to try to make a deal with Donald Trump," Lutnick said in an interview with Bloomberg.

"And it will be on Donald Trump's desk how he wants to deal with (Narendra) Modi, and we leave that to him That's why he's the President," he added.

Lutnick was also asked about Trump's Truth Social post where the American President wrote, "Looks like we've lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest, China. May they



So, I think yes, in a month or two months, I think India is going to be at the table, and they're going to say they're sorry, and they're going to try to make a deal with Donald Trump

have a long and prosperous future together! President Donald J. Trump."

Trump also posted an old photo of Prime Minister Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader

Xi Jinping.

Criticising India for its purchases of Russian oil, Lutnick said that before the Russian conflict, India bought less than two per cent of its oil from Russia and "now they're buying What they're doing is, because the oil is sanctioned, it's really, really cheap because the Russians are trying to find people to buy it. And so the Indians have just decided, 'Ah, the heck with it. Let's buy it cheap and make a ton of money'," he said

40% of their oil from Russia

Describing this as "just plain wrong" and "ridiculous", Lutnick said India needs to decide which side it wants to be on When asked if the US is willing to negotiate with India, he said 'We're always willing to talk.'

He went on to say that "the Chinese sell to us. The Indians sell to us. They're not going to be able to sell to each other. We are the consumer of the world. People have to remember, it's our \$30 trillion economy that is the consumer of the world. So eventually they all have to come back to the customer, be cause we all know eventually the customer is always right.'

He said that India doesn't vet want to open its market, stor buying Russian oil and stop being a part of the BRICS.

# Hamas releases hostage video

Tel Aviv, Sept 5: Hamas released a video Friday of two Israeli hostages seized from a music festival in Israel in October 2023, and one said he was being held in Gaza City, where the Israeli military has launched a major offensive to wipe out the militant group.

Guy Gilboa-Dalal and Alon Ohel are two of 48 people still being held by Hamas in Gaza, with 20 thought to be still alive.

Palestinian militants took 251 hostages into the enclave after its cross-border attack on southern Israeli communities in 2023 that killed about 1,200 people, triggering the war. More than 64,000 Palestinians have since been killed in Gaza, local health authorities say, with much of the enclave laid in ruins and its residents facing a humanitarian crisis.

The video was edited and featured an exhausted-looking Gilboa-Dalal speaking for around three-and-a-half minutes. He is seen in a car for some of the video dated August 28. Reuters could not independently determine when the video was

He says that he is being held in Gaza City along with several other hostages and that he is afraid of being killed by Israel's



The Israeli military bombed

a high-rise building in the city's

west on Friday that it said was

being used by Hamas and that

civilians had been warned be-

forehand. The military did not

provide any evidence that mil-

itants were using the building.

issued a statement saying that

it was being used for Palestin-

ians displaced by the war, de-

nying that it had been used for

anything other than civilian

The building's management

GAZA MILITANTS HOLD 48 HOSTAGES, 20 SAID TO BE ALIVE ISRAELI MILITARY SAYS IT CONTROLS ALMOST HALF OF GAZA CITY

**HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS HAVE CONDEMNED HOSTAGE VIDEOS** NETANYAHU DESCRIBES VIDEO AS 'CRUEL PROPAGANDA'

HIGH-RISE GAZA CITY BUILDING COLLAPSES AFTER ISRAELI STRIKE

offensive on the city.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the military last month to capture Gaza's largest urban centre, Gaza City, attacking what the government calls the last bastion of Hamas. An Israeli military spokesman said Thursday that it now controls about 40% of the city, where about one million people lived prior to the war. The military controls about 75% of Gaza.

purposes.

Footage showed the moment the building was struck, collapsing moments after impact and sending thick clouds of smoke billowing over nearby tent camps sheltering Palestinians.

Across Gaza, 30 Palestinians were killed by the military on Friday, including 20 in Gaza City, Gaza's health ministry said.

In the video, Gilboa-Dalal, 24, appears to be in the backseat of a car that is being driven around. As the car passes by buildings, he identifies one as belonging to the Red Cross. Hamas has refused to allow the Red Cross to see the hostages. At one point, Ohel, 24, is also seen.

# Pak, China launch CPEC 2.0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 5: Pakistan and China have formally launched the second phase of the controversial CPEC project and signed 21 agreements and joint ventures worth about \$8.5 billion.

The MoUs were signed in Beijing Thursday, on the concluding day of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, when he met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and attended an investors' conference.

According to the Dawn newspaper Friday, the agreements covered cooperation in the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, as well as in areas like science and technology, information technology, media, investment, and agriculture. The total worth of the MoUs and joint ventures is about \$8.5 billion, it said. The PM Office in an official statement said during talks

meeting as "most productive" "Both sides also agreed to

continue working closely on the next phase of the upgraded CPEC 2.0, with its five new corridors," it said. India opposes the CPEC

which will link Xinjiang in Chi na and the Gwadar port in Paki stan's Balochistan, as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The CPEC is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI is seen as an attempt by Beijing to further its influ ence abroad with infrastruc ture projects funded by Chinese investments all over the world.

The PMO statement said during the meeting, Prime Minister Sharif highlighted the "significant contribution" of the CPEC to Pakistan's socio-economic development in the past decade.



# business



unprecedented and visionary reform. For the dairy industry, the reduction of **GST** across key categories including milk products and ice cream is truly a blessing

RG CHANDRAMOGAN | CHAIRMAN,

#### **NOTHING'S FIRST** INDIA STORE SOON

Nothing Co-Founder Akis Evangelidis announced Friday the London-based consumer tech company will open its first flagship store in India this year, while its sub-brand CMF is setting up its global headquarters in the country. He also revealed that Nothing's smartphone, Phone (3), is being manufactured in India and is now also being exported





In 2025. **FSSAI's focus** on stricter labelling, organic food standards

ing industry practices at a time when India's organic food market has already reached \$1,917 million in 2024 and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 20.13 per cent to \$10,807 million by 2033

NILESH LELE | PRESIDENT, CHAMBER FOR ADVANCEMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES

India is already among the top three markets for Diageo globally, and a key growth market for **Diageo Plc...With** premium and luxury contributing to over a third of our NSV, our val-



cut coinciding with the Navratri and the festive season, sentiment would get a timely boost.



ANUJ SETHI | SENIOR DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

## SHORT **TAKES**

#### SpiceJet flies into red

New Delhi: Flying into the red, SpiceJet Friday reported a net loss of ₹238 crore for the three months ended June, saving expenses related to grounded aircraft and subdued leisure travel demand impacted the financials. The budget carrier, which had been facing multiple headwinds, raked in a total income of ₹1.190.56 crore in the first quarter of the current financial year. The same stood at ₹2.067.21 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. In a statement. SpiceJet said the results were significantly impacted by the geopolitical situation with a neighbouring country and airspace restrictions in key markets. which led to subdued leisure travel demand. "The delay in returning grounded aircraft to service, owing to global supply chain disruptions and engine overhaul challenges. further compounded the situation." it added.

# OYO's PAT doubles

New Delhi: IPO-bound travel tech platform OYO's profit after tax (PAT) more than doubled to ₹200 crore in the first quarter, on the back of robust revenue growth. Founder Ritesh Agarwal shared in an email to the top management Friday. The email, accessed by PTI, also mentions that the company's revenue grew 47 per cent to ₹2,019 crore in the April-June period, from ₹1,371 crore in the year-ago period. The revenue growth was led by premiumisation of hotel inventory and better room utilisation, Agarwal said in a email. The gross booking value (GBV) reached ₹7,227 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, marking a significant 144 per cent increase year-on-year from ₹2,966 crore a year earlier. OYO had recorded a profit after tax of ₹87 crore in the corresponding quarter of the

## Adani Power okays 1:5 stock split

New Delhi: Adani Power Friday said it has received shareholders' approval for a stock split in the ratio of 1:5 through a postal ballot notice issued August 1, 2025. The resolution has been considered as duly passed with the requisite majority, as mentioned in the postal ballot notice dated August 1, a regulatory filing stated.

# Tata cars to get cheaper by up to ₹1.45L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Tata Motors Friday said it will cut passenger vehicle prices ranging between ₹65,000 and ₹1.45 lakh effective September 22 to pass on the full benefit of GST reduction to customers.

The Mumbai-based auto major said that its small car Tiago will see a price drop of ₹75,000, Tigor ₹80,000, and Altroz ₹1.10

Similarly, the price of compact SUV Punch will come down by ₹85,000 and that of Nexon by ₹1.55 lakh.

Mid-sized model Curvv would also see a price cut of ₹65,000, Tata Motors said in a



Prices of company's premium SUVs - Harrier and Safari, wll see a price reduction of 1.4 lakh

"In line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision, the Hon'ble Finance Minister's intent and our Customer First philosophy, Tata Motors will

**GST** on passenger vehicles, effective September 22 2025, is a

progressive and timely decision that will make personal mobility more accessible for millions across India

SHAILESH CHANDRA | MD, TATA MOTORS PASSENGER VEHICLES

fully honour the intent and spirit of this reform by passing on the entire benefit of the reduction in GST to our customers," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD Shailesh Chandra said.

Chandra noted that the GST rate cut will make the com-

pany's popular range of cars and SUVs even more accessible across segments, enabling first-time buyers and accelerating the shift towards new-age mobility for a wider spectrum of customers.

The GST Council, earlier this week, approved limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent, effective from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

Under it, petrol, LPG and CNG vehicles of less than 1,200 cc and not more than 4.000 mm length and diesel vehicles of up to 1,500 cc and 4,000 mm length would move to the 18 per cent rate.

All automobiles exceeding 1,200 cc and longer than 4,000 mm will be charged with a 40 per cent levy.

# After SBI, Bol, Bank of Baroda declares RCom, Anil Ambani as fraud



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: After State Bank of India and Bank of India another lender Bank of Baroda has classified the loan account o insolvent Reliance Communica tions as fraudulent and named its former director, tycoon Anil Ambani, citing alleged misutilisation of loans granted more than a decade back, according to a regulatory filing.

RCom said it has received a letter from BoB dated September 2 conveying its decision to classify the loan account of the company and promoter Ani Ambani as "fraud".

Bank of Baroda had sanctioned ₹1,600 crore and another ₹862.50 crore in line of credit to the company. Of the total ₹2,462.50 crore, ₹1,656.07 crore remains outstanding as on Au gust 28, according to the lenders letter disclosed by RCom in the regulatory filing. "The account was classified as non-performing asset (NPA) with effect from June 5, 2017," the letter said.

While RCom is undergoing corporate insolvency resolution proceedings to find a suitor to take over the company and clear its liabilities, BoB in the letter said currently there is no active resolution plan that is approved by the NCLT. It went on to state that the declaration of fraud is based on findings/observations in forensic audit reports and "such classification is in line with the principles of natural justice".

In a statement, a spokespersor of Ambani said the action of Bank of Baroda pertains to matters dat ing back more than 12 years. "It is pertinent to note that Anil D Am bani served as a non-executive director on the board of RCom from inception in 2006 until his resignation from the board in 2019, over six years ago," it said.

# and ₹1.45 lakh respectively, it **Toothpaste ads caught** in US-India tensions



US last week imposed Consumer goods company Dabur, valued at \$11 billion, tariffs of up to 50% on took out a front-page newspaimported Indian goods, per advertisement this week prompting Modi's carrying photos of unbranded toothpaste packs that resemble supporters to start a Colgate packaging. Without WhatsApp campaign to naming its rival, the ad said India's favourite toothpaste boycott American brands brand was American, and including McDonald's, Dabur was the "Swadeshi"

Pepsi, Apple

Chennai, Sept 5: Dabur, Indi-

an rival of Colgate-Palmolive,

is making its toothpaste a

test of nationalism by asking

consumers to shun American

brands, as companies intensify

promotion of local goods amid

worsening trade ties with the

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi Thursday reiterated

his call to use "Swadeshi", or

made-in-India goods. Chil-

dren should "make a list" of

foreign-branded goods, Modi

said, while teachers should

US President Donald Trump

last week imposed tariffs of

up to 50% on imported Indian

goods, prompting Modi's sup-

porters to start a WhatsApp

campaign to boycott American

brands including McDonald's,

Pepsi and Apple.

push them to not use them.

United States

there, not "Born here", it said, referring to the unnamed toothpaste, in a font styled with the red. white and blue of the American flag.

choice.

Dabur declined to comment on the advertisement, and Colgate did not respond to queries

from Reuters. Colgate has a 43% share of India's toothpaste market, followed by the Indian unit of Unilever, home to Pepsodent brand in the country. Dabur is in third place with a 17% share, according to Euromon-

itor data for 2024. India's population of 1.4 billion is a major market for American consumer goods, often purchased from US online retailer Amazon.com, and over the years the reach of US

■ Trump tariffs stoke anger in India over American brands

- Dabur pushes nationalism to counter rivals in toothpaste
- Modi urges the use of 'Swadeshi' or Indian goods
- Amul cartoons, Rediff ad emphasise 'Made in India'

brands has expanded deep into smaller towns

The Dabur ad in the Times of India newspaper even carried a QR code that took consumers to a shopping link on the Amazon India website, which captures about a third of domestic online sales

Karthik Srinivasan, a communications consultant, called the advertising strategies of Dabur and others "moment marketing".

"How can we How can we gain from that gain from that sentiment at sentiment at least for least for this this week and next? week and next? That's literally what all That's literally these brands are doing what all these brands are do-

KARTHIK SRINIVASAN COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

similar tactic included Amul, India's largest dairy, which has published cartoons featuring "Made in India" products on its social media accounts, with one animated ad showing its mascot holding an Indian flag and a slab of butter

ing," he said.

Others using a

Indian e-mail provider Rediff, popular years ago before the rise of Yahoo and Google Mail. also took out a newspaper ad calling its service the "mail of India" that helps to keep customers' business intelligence

# India defies tariffs, backs Russian oil

New Delhi, Sept 5: India will continue to buy Russian oil as it proves economical, its finance minister said Friday, despite the Trump administration's decision to impose heavy import tariffs on Indian goods due, in part, to its energy purchases from Moscow.

As Europe and the US have shunned Russian oil over Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. India has taken advantage of discounts on Russian output to become the largest buyer of Russian seaborne crude.

New Delhi has said its pur chases of Russian oil have kept the markets in balance.

US President Donald Trump, who is seeking to broker an end to the Ukraine conflict, has said India's oil imports are helping fund Moscow's war effort and imposed a 50% tariff on imports from India last month.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, speaking on local news channel, said India, the world's third-biggest oil import-



er and consumer, had no plans to eschew Russian supplies. "We will have to take a call

which (supply source) suits us the best. So we will undoubtedly be buying it," she said, adding that India spends most of its foreign exchange on purchases of crude oil and refined fuels. In the fiscal year to March

2025, oil and refined fuels purchases from overseas accounted for about a quarter of India's overall imports.

The Danish offshore wind developer wants to avoid a credit downgrade. "Whether it is Russian oil or

anything else, it's our decision to buy from the place which suits our needs whether in terms of rates, logistics, anything," Sitharaman added.

# OCPL's Manoharpur Mines gets 5-Star rating

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai, Sept 5: Odisha Coal and Power Limited (OCPL)'s Manoharpur Mines has been conferred the prestigious 5-Star Rating by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India for the fourth consecutive year. The recognition was awarded during a function held at Hotel Trident, Mumbai, September 4. OCPL is among a very few companies of India which has been awarded with the 5-Star rating consecutively.

The 5-Star rating is the high est accolade in the Indian coal mining sector, recognising excellence in sustainable mining, environmental management, safety standards and social re-



sponsibility. The award places OCPL's Manoharpur Mines among the top-performing mines in the country, reflecting the company's unwavering commitment to responsible mining and operational excel-

Coal & Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy, Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey, Secretary of Mines and Senior offi-

cials from the Ministry of Coal public sector undertakings and private industry leaders were present at the ceremony The award was received on behalf of OCPL by Ayaskant Kanungo, Chief Operating Officer, Sunil Tripathy, Head of Mines & Prashant Kumar Parida, Mine Engineer, who expressed pride in the team's achievement and reaffirmed OCPL's commitment to sustainable growth and community development.

# Vedanta outbids Adani to acquire JAL

The company made a winning bid of ₹17,000 crore, which translated into a NPV of ₹12,505cr PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Mining conglomerate Vedanta on Friday beat Gautam Adani's Group to make a winning bid for the acquisition of debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates (JAL) for ₹17,000 crore, according to

The bid value translates into Jaiprakash Associates' net present value of ₹12,505 crore.

sources.

JAL, which has interests in real estate, cement, power, hotels and roads, has been dragged into insolvency proceedings after it defaulted on payment of loans.

Lenders of JAL conducted a challenge process for the sale of the company under the IBC.

Multiple bidders participated in the process, but in the end, firm bids were placed by only two entities, Adani and Vedanta Group. Vedanta eventually made a winning bid of ₹17,000 crore, which translated into a NPV (net present value) of ₹12,505 crore, beating Adani



The Committee of Creditors (CoC) meeting was held September 5 to conduct the challenge process. Financial creditors have

claimed a staggering ₹57,185 crore in unpaid dues The National Asset Recon-

struction Company Ltd (NAR-CL) leads the list of claimants after acquiring the stressed JAL loans from a consortium of lenders headed by the State Bank of India.

In April this year, as many as 25 companies showed interest in acquiring JAL.

However, in June, JAL announced that it has received

five bids along with earnest money for the acquisition of the company through insolvency Adani Enterprises, Dal-

mia Bharat Cement, Vedanta Group, Jindal Power and PNC Infratech had submitted bids to acquire JAL. JAL was admitted to the cor-

porate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) through the National Company Law Tribunal, Allahabad Bench, order dated June 3, 2024. It was taken to insolvency proceedings after the conglomerate defaulted on the payment of loans.

JAL has major real estate projects like Jaypee Greens in

Greater Noida, a part of Jaypee Greens Wishtown in Noida (both on the outskirts of the national capital), and the Jaypee International Sports City, strategically located near the upcoming Jewar International Airport. It also has three commercial/

industrial office spaces in Delhi-NCR, while its hotel division has five properties in Del hi-NCR, Mussoorie, and Agra. JAL has four cement plants

in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and a few leased limestone mines in Madhya Pradesh. The cement plants, however, are non-operational. It also has investments in subsidiaries, including Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd, Yamuna Expressway Tolling Ltd, Jaypee Infrastructure Development Ltd, and several other compa-Jaypee Group's another

company Jaypee Infratech Ltd has already been acquired by Mumbai-based Suraksha Group through insolvency process.

# MCE launches CEV-V Range



BHUBANESWAR: Mahindra Construction Equipment (MCE), a part of the Mahindra roup, unveiled its advanced CEV-V Range of machines at Shreenika DM Signature Bhubaneswar here Friday. The new range promises higher productivity, enhanced comfort, and compliance with the latest emission norms. The upgraded models include the Mahindra EarthMaster SX Backhoe Loader and the Mahindra RoadMaster G100 Motor Grader. The RoadMaster G100, powered by a 102 HP engine with 440 NM torque, is designed for road construction on state and national highways. The EarthMaster SX, equipped with a 74 HP engine, features a larger ergonomic cabin and iMAXX telematics for efficiency and operator comfort. Speaking at the launch Rajendra Ashtekar, Head of Customer Care, and Kalpak Kar, Brand Manager, said, "Our consistent efforts to introduce cutting-edge products and technologies, coupled with emphasis on local manufacturing, exemplify Mahindra's strong commitment to the Make in India initiative. The new CEV-V range reaffirms Mahindra's efforts towards the sustainability goals set by the Government of India." Mahindra also continues with CEV-V versions of its EarthMaster SXe Backhoe Loader (55 HP) and RoadMaster G90 & G80 (74 HP). The machines come with a two-year/4,000-hour warranty and are backed by an expanded network of 115+ touchpoints, 50-3S dealerships, 15 Saathi plus service centers, and over 50 retail outlets. With its disruptive proposition of 'Assured Highest Productivity per Liter of Diesel,' Mahindra aims to strengthen its market leadership in the construction equipment sector Dignitaries who graced the occasion were Rajendra Ashtekar- Head of Customer Care, Kalpak Kar - Brand Manager, Kishore Tiwari- ZSM, Sandip Ghosh – ZCCM, Subrat Swain- CCM, Sudhansu Nayak- BDM- Construction Equipment at Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd and Debadutta Roy- Managing Director, TRS Engineering

# Rivalry rewind in US Open Eves kick off campaign



Anisimova defeats Osaka to reach her 2nd Grand Slam final in a row

New York, Sept 5: Amanda Anisimova rallied from a set down to defeat four-times Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka 6-7(4) 7-6(3) 6-3 Thursday and reach the US Open final, where she will take on holder Aryna Sabalenka for another shot at a maiden major crown.

World number one Sabalenka came through her own thriller, beating home hope Jessica Pegula 4-6 6-3 6-4 , but it was Anisimova's stunning display two months after her brutal Wimbledon final defeat that lit up Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Oh my God. It means the world," the 24-year-old Anisimova said after reaching her first final at Flushing Meadows.

Twice New York winner Osaka was playing in her first Grand Slam semi-final since 2021 and embraced the big occasion in the prime-time glare of Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The pair twice traded breaks in a tight opening set, and after a delayed line call by the automated system disrupted play Osaka refocused and let out a big roar when Anisimova hit a shot into the net on set point in the tiebreak.

The 23rd seed struggled to carry the momentum forward in the next set, however, with Anisimova matching Osaka's intensity. After the players traded ferocious hits for 12 games in the next set, Anisimova pounced in the tiebreak to drag the match to a deciding set.

The eighth seed, who lost 6-0 6-0 to Iga Swiatek at the All England Club, powered ahead 4-1 thanks to a forehand winner and held her nerve from there to secure the victory and reach back-to-back Grand Slam finals.

"It just shows that I've worked really hard, especially on my mental game and not giving up," Anisimova said.

Japanese player Osaka said she felt inspired rather than disappointment after her display. "I don't feel sad. It's really weird ... because I just feel like I did the best that I could." she added. SABALENKA BATTLES BACK

Earlier, Belarusian Sabalenka recovered from a nervy start in a rematch of the 2024 title clash, drowning out the partisan fans at the main showcourt

solutely a dream come true. This has been a dream of mine like forever to be in the US Open final and the hope is to be the champion AMANDA ANISIMOVA

French Open finals.

"I badly wanted to give myself another opportunity, another final, and I want to prove to myself that I learned those tough lessons and I can do better in finals," said Sabalenka, who also lost to Anisimova in the Wimbledon semi-finals.

"I have to trust myself, and I have to go after my shots. I felt in that match at Wimbledon I was doubting my decisions, and that was the main thing that brought a lot of unforced errors.

On Friday the action shifts to the men's semi-finals, with Carlos Alcaraz facing 24-times Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic before defending champion Jannik Sinner takes on Felix Auger-Aliassime.

# Bhambri's dream run ends

ndia's Yuki Bhambri ended the US Open men's partner Michael Venus, marking his deepest run at a ment. Bhambri went down 7-6 (2) 6-7(5) 4-6 in a thrillng contest against the experienced

to beat fourth seed Pegula and

will face an American in the

final for a third straight year.

champion is bidding to win her

first major this season after

defeats in the Australian and

The three-times Grand Slam



pair of Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury, but not before scripting history of his own. The 33-year-old Delhi player became only the sixth Indian man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam doubles semifinals, after Anand Amritrai, Viiay Amritrai Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna. Sania Mirza is the only other Indian player to excel in doubles, becoming a world number one and winning tennis Majors. The Indian-New Zealand duo had stitched together an impressive campaign at Flushing Meadows, toppling higher seeded combinations en route to the last four. Their run included victories over fourth seeds Germans Tim Putz/ Kevin Krawietz apart from knocking out 11th seeds Rajeev Ram and Nikola Mektic underlining Bhambri's growing stature on the doubles circuit after injuries curtailed his singles ambitions. "This has been a special week for me. To be playing at this level and in the semifinals of a Slam is a big moment," Bhambri said afte the loss. Bhambri's showing continues a strong season for Indian tennis, coming close on the heels of Bopanna's consistent success on the doubles tour. For the Delhiite, who has endured multiple injury layoffs in the past decade, the semifina finish represents a breakthrough and a potential turning point in the latter half of his career. With the result. Bhambri assured himself a significant boost in rankings and valuable momentum heading into the rest of the season.

**India thrash Thailand** 11-0 in women's **Asia Cup hockey** 

campaign-opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou (China), Sept 5: Udita Duhan and Beauty Dung Dung scored a brace each as India began their campaign in the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 11-0 thrashing of Thailand here Friday.

Udita scored in the 30th and 52nd minutes from penalty corners while Dung Dung struck in the 45th and 54th

India's other goal-scorers were Mumtaz Khan (7th minute), Sangita Kumari (10th), Navneet Kaur (16th), Lalremsiami (18th), Thoudam Suman Devi (49th), Sharmila Devi (57th) and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (60th).

India, currently ranked ninth in the world, led 5-0 at

half time in the Pool B match against the 30th-ranked Thais.

with dominating win

India got a total of nine penalty corners, out of which they converted five, while Thailand did not earn any PC.

India asserted their dominance early on with two field goals from Mumtaz and Sangita in the first quarter. The second quarter saw India being more menacing in attacks and the team added three more goals to extend its advantage. Experienced forward

Navneet and mid-fielder Lalremsiami scored a field goal each in quick succession, followed by a penalty corner conversion from Udita just before the half time break

The second half followed a similar trend as India continued their constant attacks inside Thailand's circle. India won four penalty cor-

ners in the third quarter, and Dung Dung converted one PC in the 45th minute. India shifted gears in the

final quarter, pumping in five more goals to seal a big win.

**The Asia Cup winners** will qualify for the 2026 Women's World **Cup to be held in Belgium and the** 

**Netherlands** 

Mumtaz, Udita and Sharmila scored through penalty corners while Dung Dung and Rutuja struck field goals.

The tournament features eight teams and the top two from each of the two pools will qualify for the Super 4s stage The top two teams in Super 4s will play in the final scheduled for September 14.

India have come into the tournament without the injured duo of veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia and ace drag-flicker Deepika.

After Thailand, India will take on Japan Saturday, followed by the final pool match against Singapore

## SHORT **TAKES**

# **Ashwin's new stint**

Melbourne: Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin could be the first high-profile Indian cricketer to play in the Big Bash League (BBL) after being approached by the Australian board, according to a media report Friday, Cricket Australia CFO Todd Greenberg is in talks with the spinner, who ended (IPL) career last month, over a possible stint Down Under this season, according to reports. "To get someone with Ashwin's credentials to come over here for the BBL will be great at so many levels," Greenberg said. "He's a champion cricketer, who will bring a lot to the Big Bash and to our cricket summer." Ashwin won two IPL titles with Chennai Super Kings before quitting the world's richest T20 tournament last month, saying he would become an "explorer of the game around various leagues".

## Germany's shock loss

Bratislava: Four-time world champions Germany suffered their first away loss in a World Cup qualifier after their shock 2-0 defeat by hosts Slovakia in their opening qualifier for the 2026 tournament Thursday. The Germans, who have set a goal of winning the 2026 World Cup, had never before lost a World Cup qualifier on the road, and they have now lost their last three consecutive matches, following defeats by Portugal and France in the Nations League in June. "We did not show any emotionality in our game today. In terms of emotions the opponents were miles ahead of us," said Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann.

## **ODI: SA overpower Eng**

London: South Africa clinched the ODI series against England with a game to spare after a five-run win in the second match that was set up by a record-breaking 85 by Matt Breetzke at Lord's. Brought in to the Proteas lineup to replace the ill Wiaan Mulder, Breetzke became the first player in ODI history to score at least a halfcentury in his first five matches.

# WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

# **Pugilists continue** winning momentum

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Liverpool, Sept 5: Sumit Kundu (men's 75kg) and Neeraj Phogat (women's 65kg) registered contrasting victories to advance to the pre-quarterfinals of their respective weight categories as Indian boxers continued to impress at the World Boxing Championship in Liverpool, UK, Friday.

Sumit was rarely in any trouble throughout the three rounds against Jordan's Mohammad Alhussien in the men's 75kg first round to win 5:0, while Neerai had to dig deep into her reserves to outlast Finland's Krista Kovalainen and eke out a 3:2 verdict.

India has fielded a 20-member strong contingent in the inaugural World Championships being held under the aegis of the World Boxing, a recently-formed international governing body for boxing, and is looking to continue building on



its strong outings in the World Boxing Cup legs in Brazil and Kazakhstan

Neeraj was first to take the ring on the second day of competition and was under pressure as the Finnish national champion, Kovalainen, mounted a strong comeback in the second round. But the Indian took the attack to her opponent in the third round and got four of the five judges to back her to win the bout and advance.

Sumit then dominated all three rounds against Alhussien to make it to the Round of 16.

# Messi scores brace in home farewell

Buenos Aires, Sept 5: Lionel Messi signed off in style by scoring twice in his final World Cup qualifier on home soil as Argentina beat Venezuela 3-0 Thursday, while Paraguay and Colombia also secured berths at the 2026 tournament in North

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner has not given an indication as to when he plans to retire but the 38-year-old has said that the match against Venezuela would be his last World Cup qualifier at home.

The reigning World Cup champions, who have already qualified for the tournament in Canada, Mexico and the US, controlled proceedings from the opening whistle, creating chances through Nicolas Tagli afico and Franco Mastantuono only to be thwarted by Venezuela goalkeeper Rafael Romo.

Messi broke the deadlock in the 39th minute, the Argentine captain latching onto a pass from Julian Alvarez on a swift counter-attack and firing home into the top-right corner of Ro-



Argentina maintained their relentless pressure in the second half, with Messi remaining the focal point of their attack, but the hosts had to wait until the 76th minute for a second goal, Nico Gonzalez delivering

Being able to finish this way here is what I've always dreamed of. I've experienced a lot of things on this pitch, both good and not so good, but it's always a joy to play in Argentina, in front of our fans

LIONEL MESSI

from the left for Lautaro Martinez to score with a diving

Four minutes later, Messi capped off another excellent performance with a third goal, assisted by Thiago Almada.

"Being able to finish this way here with my people is what I always dreamed of," an emotional Messi said after the match. "For many years I had the affection of Barcelona fans and my dream was to have it here in my country too.

Asked about his possible retirement. Messi who has scored a record 36 goals in South American qualifying, said: "It's not something I like, want or expect. But time is passing, and it's been many years."

September 8. FIDE GRAND SWISS

# **Gukesh held by**

14-yr-old Erdogmus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Sept 5: World Champion D Gukesh was held to a draw by 14-year-old Yagiz Khan Erdogmus of Turkey, while defending champion R Vaishali excelled at the expense of Eline Roebers of Holland in the sec ond round of the FIDE Grand Swiss here Friday.

In the open section, Gukesh squandered a winning position against Erdogmus and eventually had to settle for a draw in a dramatic, time-troubled encounter.

But top seeded Praggnanand haa scored his first victory in the event, defeating Ivan Zen lyanskiii who is playing under the FIDE flag because Russia is banned. In the open section of this \$855000 prize money events. Alireza Firouzia of France, Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran and Anton Demchenko of Slovenia share the lead on two points each.

# Breaking the ice: Same-sex dancers to make Finnish debut

19-year-old Emma Aalto of Finland and 20-year-old Millie Colling of England will compete together in Finnish domestic competitions following a revision to the federation's rules, which now refer to ice dancers as "Skater A" and "Skater B" instead of "man" and "woman"

Helsinki, Sept 5: Two young women are set to become Finland's first same-sex ice dancing team after a landmark rule change by the country's skating federation, paving the way for greater inclusivity in the sport.

19-year-old Emma Aalto of Finland and 20-year-old Millie Colling of England will compete together in Finnish domestic competitions following a revision to the federation's

rules, which now refer to ice dancers as "Skater A" and "Skater B" instead of "man" and "woman". The change was made earlier this year after the duo submitted a request to compete together.

"Now we are allowed to compete in domestic events in Finland... We're the first and only junior level team to do that, Colling told Reuters.

Skate Canada's 2022 decision

to eliminate gender require-

ments for national-level ice

The move was inspired by 'We hope that maybe change

dance teams. Aalto and Colling hope the international skating community will follow suit.

will happen just gradually,

maybe," Colling said. "We have

dreams," Aalto added.

However, no international rule change is currently planned. Former ice dancer Kaitlyn Weaver, a three-time world medallist and member of the International Skating Union's Ice Dance Technical

like, I don't know, three hundred women wanting to skate with that man. And there is this

MILLIE COLLING

Committee, said the issue had been discussed but not formally proposed.

We have to treat this in a way where there's an education piece, there's an understanding, as opposed to putting it forward and then it getting shot down," Weaver said.

She added that the global political climate, including Donald Trump's re-election as U.S. president, has made progress more difficult.

"My concern really is, as the world is shifting into a more

conservative - and it's not just happening in the States, it's happening around the world in certain places - my number one priority is safety of the athletes," she said.

Aalto and Colling met two years ago while skating solo and quickly became close friends.

When former Olympic ice dancers Madison Hubbell and Gabriella Papadakis, the 2022 Beijing Games gold medallist with Guillaume Cizeron, joined forces for a gala performance to advocate the acceptance of same-sex partnerships in competitive fig ure skating, Aalto and Colling thought they too could spread

"I was like, oh, this is amazing. I hoped one day maybe this will be possible," Colling

the message.

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