



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

AP PHOTO

Services of 13K teachers to be regularised: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi 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 under various schemes, in the

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 posting 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 district with ₹1 crore.

At the event, the CM launched the Odisha Curriculum 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 Abhiyan'.

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

Rupee hits fresh low against dollar

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.

We've lost India to China: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Co-operation 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

'India will say sorry'

New York/Washington: 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. **P10**

in the world into a "massive refining hub and oil money laundromat for the Kremlin," Navarro said last week.

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.

Three minor boys drown

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Bhawani-patna, 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 official 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

AGENCIES

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

phone of an NCP worker. However, 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 talking to.

"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."

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, apparently 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.

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ARIES
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-ligence 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 doing meditation.

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.

LEO
Have you ever marvelled at how circus artists do all those tricks while walking the tightrope? Well, don't be too surprised 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.

VIRGO
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 well-being.

LIBRA
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 re-energising yourself, but the trip shall 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 the evening.

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 acquaintances, 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.



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.



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 natural fit. With ma-

Priyanka: Credit where it's due

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra has often shared candid thoughts on the dynamics of hero-led films and the recognition actresses deserve. In an earlier conversation, she reflected on how the industry ranks actors, admitting that the positions constantly shift after every major release. While acknowledging that stars like 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

blockbusters. She clarified that performers shouldn't claim more than what their roles demand, noting that 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.

Captivating Odissi marks day I of GKCM Award fest



Bhubaneswar: The five-day 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 Tripathy, UMSEL 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 performance by Odissi exponent Sujata Mohapatra and her daughter Preetisha Mohapatra. Their presentation included

Guru Vandana and Satyakama Jabala, a philosophical tale from the Chhandogyaopanisad, 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 Nartanalaya. The production explored the concept of the Mother Goddess in Manipuri traditions alongside Vedic interpretations, blending indigenous music with Vedic chants. 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

Sonam wins hearts

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.

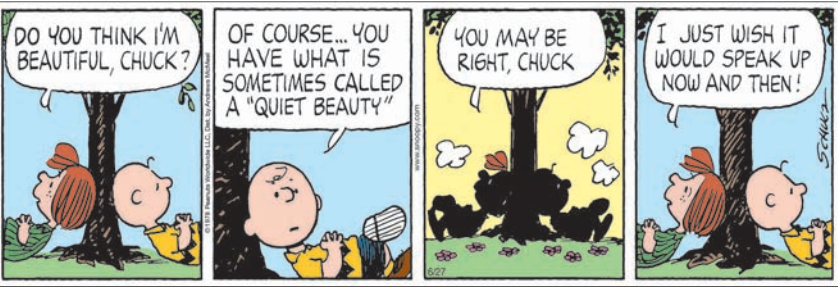
A touching video from Punjab recently showed families thanking Sonam for helping rebuild their homes. For many, her support was more than just about restoring shelter; it symbol-

ised the return of dignity, stability, and hope during their darkest times.

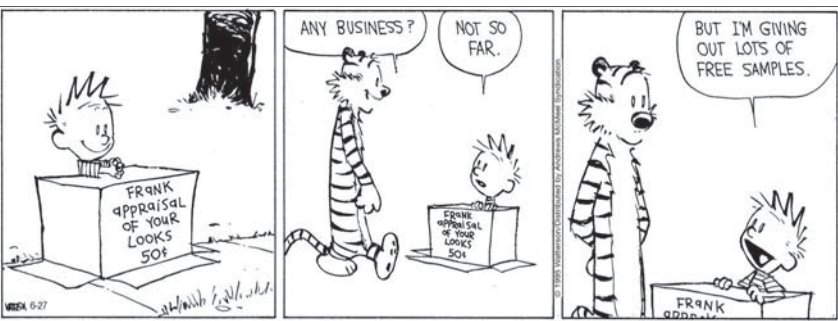
Earlier this week, Sonam penned an emotional note on social media, expressing solidarity with flood-affected communities. She wrote that her heart goes out to Punjab, acknowledging the pain caused by the disaster while praising the state's spirit of unity and resilience. Sonam revealed that she has been 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.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

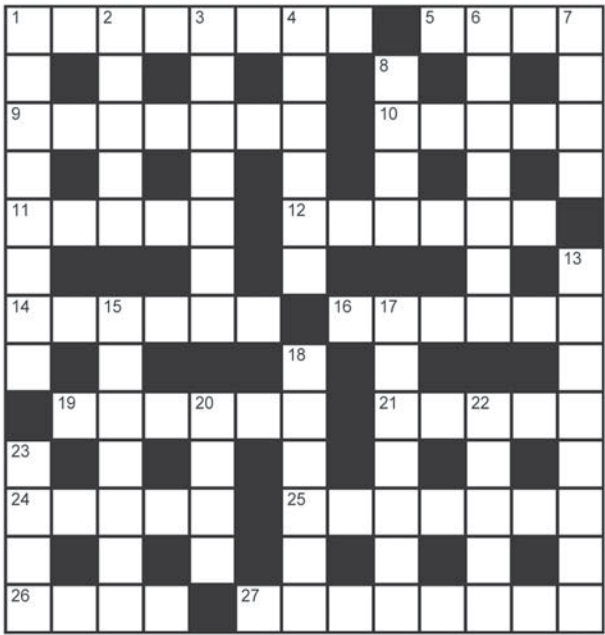


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- Labratory item (4,4)
- Colourful fish
- Bram Stoker character
- Angler's basket
- Mau neighbor
- It's under foot
- Pays
- Bird of prey
- Cereal grass
- Mustard choice

Down

- Tykes
- It may be found on a shirt
- Kind of attraction
- Offshoot
- Stave off
- Up and about
- German city
- Picture card
- Most unusual

Place for a

- lecture
- Mark left by Zorro?
- Send
- Make damp
- Bank examiner
- Paper clip alternative
- Vega's constellation
- Court figure
- 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		

SOLUTIONS

L	F	E	S	U	T
H	U	M	O	U	R
G	N	R	A	T	I
T	E	N	D	A	N
M	A	K	E	S	D
I	S	T	A	L	L
A	L	O	H	A	T
M	A	O	Z	A	
T	E	R	R	I	B
N	E	E	B	E	E
S	T	U	M	P	S
S	S	E	S	T	P

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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

(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,” Mohapatra 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 designed to address FAQs, automate service desk procedures, and carry out functional tasks, aiding 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.”

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



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 APSCCs, 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 Circle will 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.

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.”

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 political 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



PNN & 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

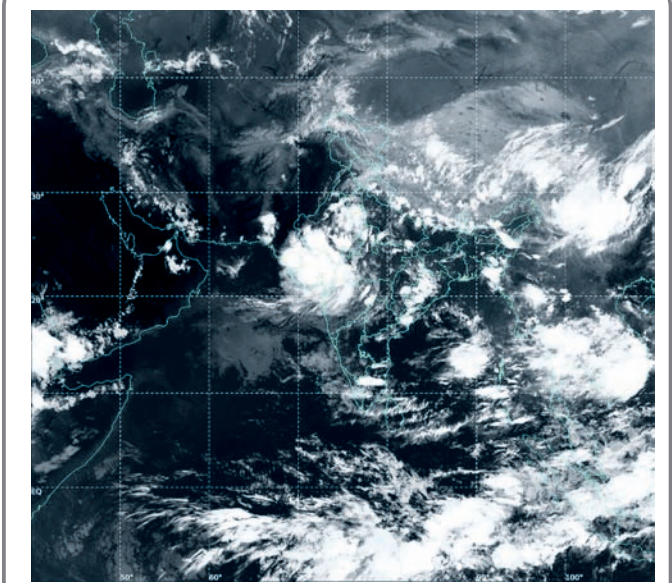
Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, women were empowered through Mission Shakti, which enabled them to showcase their skills, gain recognition, and achieve a respectable status in society.

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.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.33 ▲ 0.11	SENSEX	80710.76 ▼ 7.25	GOLD	₹107,580 ▲ ₹1163
EURO	103.34 ▲ 0.45	NIFTY	24741.00 ▲ 6.70	SILVER	₹124,764 ▲ ₹844



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

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

3 students injured as plasters from school roof falls on them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"Last year, we had 180 students. This year, only 31 remain—mostly those who have

“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.”

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

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

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.

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

Tender Notice No. ST/OT/LHS/KUR-494,
Dt : 29.08.2025

**NAME OF WORK: 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 AHATHAGAR YARD), CT-65
(HINDOL ROAD - MERAMANDALI), JB-
12 (GHANTIKHAL NIDHIPUR - NARAJ
MARTHAPUR), CT-42 (DHENKANAL -
SATSANGHAR) AND CT-43 (MATTAGA-
KANDARPUR) AND LIMITED HEIGHT
SUBWAY AT TRESPASSING
LOCATIONS BETWEEN KEREJANGA -
JARAPADA, KANDARPUR -
RAGHUNATHPUR, JAKHPURA -
JENAPUR, INCLUDING PROVISION OF
METEOROLOGICAL AND LIGHTS FOR DAILY
MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION
UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**

Tender Value	₹ 5,26,77,029.64
EMD: ₹ 4,13,400.00	

Bidding Start Date : 08.09.2025

**Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100
Hrs. of 22.09.2025.**

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

Complete information including e-tender
documents of the above e-tender is
available in website - www.irops.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are
advised to submit their bids 15 days
before the date of closing of tender to note
any changes / corrigendum issued for this
tender.

Pr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer,
SR-554/G/25-26 Khurda Road

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.

BC 07110/12/0006/2526



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.



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

far worked in silos. The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) of the environment ministry that promotes sustainable

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

HEALTH

Vaccines: Tiny shots, mighty shields

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

*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.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

of the day

quote

For more 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 brilliance and a deep commitment to society

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

The state government has recruited 19,800 employees of various categories during the past seven years out of which 5,215 are teachers. The government wants to recruit quality teachers for imparting quality education in government schools

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 inter-district 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 mine also collapsed.



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 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT

'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



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 immigration 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 official said.

Mumbai on alert over threat of 34 bombs, 400 kg RDX



AGENCIES

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

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

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

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.

A case was registered at Worli police station against an unidentified person under section 351 (criminal intimidation) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and sub section 2,3 and 4, he 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 Gujarat, 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 advised

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

The Yamuna river at Delhi's Old Railway Bridge is flowing in severe flood situation but with a falling trend, and is expected to recede to 207.15 metres by Friday night.

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, Banaskantha and Rajkot.

In Rajasthan, rivers like Mahi, 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 into severe flood levels.

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 and Fatehpur.

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 in PLOS Genetics, looked at the 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



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 species resulting from how its genes interact with the surrounding environment -- but also how information in genes is

passed on through generations. "This study helps us understand 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 the Autonomous University of Barcelona, said. The authors wrote, "Our findings show the presence of hyper-(crossovers) spermatocytes

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 Sybiha.

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



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

PTI PHOTO

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 Delhi, 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-

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 cir-

culated among police networks.

With the help of local intelligence and secret informers, the man was traced and apprehended, police said. During interrogation, Priyadarshi 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.

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 undergoes sex reversal from ZZ genotypic males to phenotypic females at high incubation temperatures."

of the day quote

Therefore, if some troops appear there, especially now, during military operations, we proceed from the 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 years to create the conditions for a two-state solution



ELINA VALTONEN | FOREIGN MINISTER, FINLAND

According to diplomatic law and in response to Australia's action, the Islamic Republic has also reciprocally reduced the level of Australia's diplomatic presence in Iran



ESMAIEL 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 appeal.

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.



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 | FOREIGN MINISTER, EGYPT

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



'Department of War' soon in US

REUTERS

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 permanent.

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



RENAMING AIMS TO REFLECT 'WARRIOR ETHOS,' SAYS DEFENSE SECRETARY HEGSETH
CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL NEEDED, BUT REPUBLICANS UNLIKELY TO OPPOSE
CRITICS ARGUE NAME CHANGE IS COSTLY AND UNNECESSARY DISTRACTION

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

The US Department of Defense was called the War Department until 1949, when Congress consolidated 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

used not only by officials at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, but also military installations around the world.

An effort by former President Joe Biden to rename nine bases that honored the Confederacy and Confederate leaders was set to cost the Army \$39 million. That effort was reversed by Hegseth earlier this year.

The Trump administration's government downsizing team, known as the Department of Government Efficiency, has sought to carry out cuts at the

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 also held the Housing Secretary portfolio, stepped down after admitting underpaying tax on a new home she recently bought on the south coast of England.

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

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.

Hamas releases hostage video

REUTERS

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 recorded.

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



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.

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 beforehand. The military did not provide any evidence that militants were using the building.

The building's management issued a statement saying that it was being used for Palestinians displaced by the war, denying that it had been used for anything other than civilian



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

HOWARD LUTNICK | US COMMERCE SECRETARY

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

Anutin Charnvirakul elected Thai PM

REUTERS

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.



ANUTIN PREVAILS WITH BACKING OF BIGGEST PARTY 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, every 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."

40% of their oil from Russia. 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.

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, because we all know eventually the customer is always right."

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

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

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.



business

of the day quote

In 2025, FSSAI's focus on stricter labelling, organic food standards, and consumer awareness is shaping 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 value contribution will keep rising

PRAVEEN SOMESHWAR | MD & CEO, DIAGEO

With the rate cut coinciding with the Navratri and the festive season, sentiment would get a timely boost. Coupled with new launches, softer interest rates and improved affordability, this should drive a stronger second half for the automobile sector

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, saying 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 previous year.

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.



This is an 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, HATSUN AGRO PRODUCT

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



After SBI, BoI, 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 of insolvent Reliance Communications 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 Anil 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 August 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 spokesperson of Ambani said the action of Bank of Baroda pertains to matters dating back more than 12 years. "It is pertinent to note that Anil D Ambani 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.

GST IMPACT

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 lakh.

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 statement.



Prices of company's premium SUVs - Harrier and Safari, will see a price reduction of 1.4 lakh and ₹1.45 lakh respectively, it added.

"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

Toothpaste ads caught in US-India tensions



- Trump tariffs stoke anger in India over American brands
- Dabur pushes nationalism to counter rivals in toothpaste market
- Modi urges the use of 'Swadeshi' or Indian goods
- Amul cartoons, Rediff ad emphasise 'Made in India' products

US last week imposed tariffs of up to 50% on imported Indian goods, prompting Modi's supporters to start a WhatsApp campaign to boycott American brands including McDonald's, Pepsi, Apple

REUTERS

Chennai, Sept 5: Dabur, Indian 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 United States.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday reiterated his call to use "Swadeshi", or made-in-India goods. Children should "make a list" of foreign-branded goods, Modi said, while teachers should push them to not use them.

US President Donald Trump last week imposed tariffs of up to 50% on imported Indian goods, prompting Modi's supporters to start a WhatsApp campaign to boycott American brands including McDonald's, Pepsi and Apple.

Consumer goods company Dabur, valued at \$11 billion, took out a front-page newspaper advertisement this week carrying photos of unbranded toothpaste packs that resemble Colgate packaging. Without naming its rival, the ad said India's favourite toothpaste brand was American, and Dabur was the "Swadeshi" choice.

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

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 Euromonitor 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

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 gain from that sentiment at least for this week and next? That's literally what all these brands are doing," he said.

Others using a 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.

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 local.

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

KARTHIK SRINIVASAN | COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

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 sources.

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

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



Group, sources said.

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 Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) 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 process.

Adani Enterprises, Dalmia Bharat Cement, Vedanta Group, Jindal Power and PNC Infrastructure had submitted bids to acquire JAL.

JAL was admitted to the corporate 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 Delhi-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 companies.

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

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 highest accolade in the Indian coal mining sector, recognising excellence in sustainable mining, environmental management, safety standards and social re-



4TH YEAR ON TROT

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 excellence.

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.

MCE launches CEV-V Range



BHUBANESWAR: Mahindra Construction Equipment (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, 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 Debajyoti Roy- Managing Director, TRS Engineering.

Rivalry rewind in US Open



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

REUTERS

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

to beat fourth seed Pegula and will face an American in the final for a third straight year .

The three-times Grand Slam champion is bidding to win her first major this season after defeats in the Australian and

I'm trying to process that right now. It's absolutely 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

India's Yuki Bhambri ended a semifinalist at the US Open men's doubles event with partner Michael Venus, marking his deepest run at a Grand Slam tournament. Bhambri went down 7-6 (2) 6-7(5) 4-6 in a thrilling contest against the experienced sixth seed British 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 Amritraj, Vijay Amritraj, 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, topping 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 Pietrangeli, 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 after 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 semifinal 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.

Eves kick off campaign with dominating win



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou (China), Sept 5: Udit 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 minutes.

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.

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 corners 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, Udit 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 September 8.

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 CEO Todd Greenberg is in talks with the spinner, who ended his Indian Premier League (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 half-century 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 Neeraj 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

REUTERS

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 America.

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 Tagliafico 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-



mo's net.

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 header.

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."

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 second 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 Praggnanandhaa scored his first victory in the event, defeating Ivan Zenlyanskii who is playing under the FIDE flag because Russia is banned. In the open section of this \$855000 prize money events, Alireza Firouzja of France, Parham Maghsoudloo of Iran and Anton Denchenko 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"

REUTERS

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.

The move was inspired by Skate Canada's 2022 decision to eliminate gender requirements for national-level ice



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

"We hope that maybe change 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 medalist and member of the International Skating Union's Ice Dance Technical

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

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 medalist with Guillaume Cizeron, joined forces for a gala performance to advocate the acceptance of same-sex partnerships in competitive figure skating, Aalto and Colling thought they too could spread the message.

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