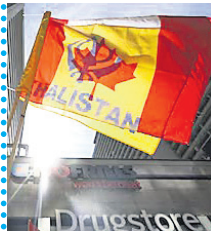




Rare feat

Bhumi Pednekar becomes first Indian actress to attend the prestigious Young Global Leaders Summit 2025 in Geneva

LEISURE | P2



Terror financing

At least two Khalistani extremist groups receive financial support originating from Canada, according to Canadian govt report

INTERNATIONAL | P10



TEC certified chips

Govt announces telecom system using domestically-produced chips gets Telecommunication Engineering Centre certification

BUSINESS | P11



Blockbuster clash

Defending champion Jannik Sinner battles past Felix Auger-Aliassime in the US Open semi-finals to set up a clash with Carlos Alcaraz

SPORTS | P12

6 dead as cable wire of cargo ropeway snaps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Halol (Guj), Sept 6: Six persons died after the cable wire of a cargo ropeway snapped at Pavagadh Hill in Gujarat's Panchmahal district Saturday, officials said.

The incident at Pavagadh Hill, which is famous for the Mahakalika Temple at the summit, occurred around 3pm, they said.

Superintendent of Police Hareesh Dudhat confirmed the six deaths and said police and fire brigade teams were at the spot for rescue and relief operations.

The ropeway, meant to carry different items, was going downhill with six persons when the incident occurred, Panchmahal Collector Ajay Dahiya said.

"The deceased comprise two lift operators, two labourers and two others. The impact of the fall was near the base point where the first tower of the cable is located," he said.

The temple is situated at a height of around 800 metres, with pilgrims either choosing to climb some 2000 steps or use cable cars to reach the summit.

Local officials were, however, not sure of the height from which the cable car fell.

The main ropeway for use by the public has been shut for the past two days due to inclement weather, Dahiya informed.

Pavagadh Hill rises from Champaner in three stages and its plateau lies at an altitude of 1471 feet. The hill top has a heavily patronised temple dedicated to Goddess Kali. It attracts around 2.5 million visitors every year.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Yes, I know. Trump can again take a U-turn without warning... but so can we

Calf dies as vigilantes attack dairy farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Dairy farmers transporting four cows and three calves in a vehicle were intercepted near Palasuni area here by self-proclaimed cow vigilantes, who allegedly assaulted them on the suspicion of cattle smuggling. The incident reportedly led to the death of a calf and left one of the farmers with minor injuries.

According to reports, the farmers had purchased the cattle from Andhra Pradesh under the Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana of the Odisha government and were transporting them. Despite this, the vigilantes suspected them of being involved in illegal cattle trade and stopped their vehicle. A confrontation ensued, during which the farmers were beaten up. One calf died on the spot due to the commotion.

Upon receiving information about the incident, Manches-



SALVAGE ACT: NDRF personnel conduct a search and rescue operation at a landslide-hit area in Akhara Bazaar, Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

ROAD ACCIDENT LEAVES 3 DEAD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 6: Three persons were killed and three others critically injured Saturday afternoon after a speeding car rammed into an auto-rickshaw near Khandhata bridge in Angul town, police said.

The victims were identified as Bansidhar Sethi of Karanda village under Rasol police limits in Dhenkanal district, his wife Kamala Sethi, and the auto-rickshaw driver Mantu Muduli, 30. They died on the spot. Bansidhar's son Sai Sethi, daughter-in-law Sunita Sethi and car owner Biswajit Sahu sustained critical injuries.

According to police, Bansidhar, who had been ailing, had traveled with his family in an auto-rickshaw to the Angul District Headquarters Hospital for treatment. After consulting doctors, the family stopped at their relative's house in Turanga for lunch before heading back home. While returning to Karanda around 2:30 pm, their auto-rickshaw was struck head-on by a car coming from Narasinghpur. The impact was so severe that the car climbed onto the auto-rickshaw, pushing it into a roadside farmland.

Firefighters rescued five people trapped inside the mangled vehicle. However, Bansidhar, his wife, and Mantu had already succumbed.

ECI gears up for pan-India SIR

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: As the heat over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls gathers pace after the controversial drive conducted in poll-bound Bihar, the Election Commission of India (ECI) is considering conducting SIR across the country.

According to the sources, the ECI has called a meeting of all the state Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) in Delhi September 10 and will have a discussion at length on this matter.

The meeting will be attended by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, election commissioners and other senior poll body officials.

It is pertinent to note here that the SIR drive conducted in Bihar had become a political battle, with Opposition parties, including the RJD, the Congress, CPI, CPM, TMC, SP,



among others, criticising the poll panel for working against the mandate of the commission by deleting a large number of voters, mainly from the down-trodden spectrum.

Similarly, as polls are due next year in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, the poll panel, according to reports, is likely to conduct the SIR

in the whole country, which is likely to reignite a political battle between the ruling and the Opposition parties.

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin have expressed their opposition to the SIR drive, while BJP-ruled states have supported the poll panel.

It may be noted here that

CEC last month, in his maiden press conference, dismissed allegations of bias against the poll panel in the SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, stressing that "some are trying to fool the voters" by spreading confusion and questioning the credibility of both the poll body and the electorate.

Without naming any party, the CEC indirectly responded to the Opposition's claims that the ECI was colluding with the ruling BJP.

"When politics is being done by targeting the voters of India by keeping a gun on the shoulder of the Election Commission, today the Election Commission wants to make it clear that it fearlessly stands like a rock with all voters – poor, rich, elderly, women, youth, and of every religion – without any discrimination," Gyanesh Kumar had said at a press conference in Delhi.

‘Modi friend, but don’t like what he’s doing’

AGENCIES

Washington/New Delhi, Sept 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday 'deeply' appreciated US President Donald Trump's 'positive assessment' of the India-US partnership after the American leader hailed the 'special' relationship between the two nations -- remarks seen as an attempt to check the downturn in the ties.

The PM's comments on social media came hours after Trump said at a news conference in the White House that he will always be "friends with Modi" but added without elaborating that he didn't like what the Indian leader was doing at this "particular moment."

"Deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties," Modi said.



"India and the US have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership," he noted on X. Earlier, responding to a question on the possibility of the US resetting relations with India, Trump said both countries have a special relationship and there is "nothing to worry about."

"I will always be friends with Modi, he is a great prime minister, he's great. I'll always be friends but I just don't like what he's doing at this particular moment," he said.

First in 40 years: Japan’s prince comes of age

PRINCE HISAHITO COULD ALSO BE THE LAST IN WORLD’S OLDEST MONARCHY, THANKS TO MALE-ONLY SUCCESSION

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 6: Japan's Prince Hisahito is the first male royal to reach adulthood in 40 years. He could also be the last.

The elaborate palace rituals to formally recognise Hisahito as an adult Saturday are a reminder of the bleak outlook for the world's oldest monarchy. Much of this comes down to its male-only succession policy and dwindling numbers.

Hisahito is second in line to the Chrysanthemum Throne and is likely to become emperor one day. After him, however, there is nobody left, leaving the Imperial family with a dilemma over whether they should reverse a 19th century ruling that abolished female succession.

A freshman at Tsukuba University near Tokyo, Hisahito studies biology and enjoys playing badminton. He is especially devoted to dragonflies and has co-authored an academic paper

on a survey of the insects on the grounds of his Akasaka estate in Tokyo.

In his debut news conference in March, the prince said he hopes to focus his studies on dragonflies and other insects, including ways to protect bug populations in urban areas.

Hisahito was born September 6, 2006, and is the only son of Crown Prince Akishino, the heir to the throne, and his wife, Crown Princess Kiko. He has two older sisters, the popular Princess Kako and former Princess Mako, whose marriage to a nonroyal required her to abandon her royal status.

Hisahito's coming-of-age rituals fall a year after he turned 18, reaching legal adulthood, because he wanted to concentrate on college entrance exams.

Hisahito is the nephew of Emperor Naruhito, who has one child, a daughter, Princess Aiko. Hisahito's father, Akishi-



no, the Emperor's younger brother, was the last male to reach adulthood in the family, in 1985.

Hisahito is the youngest of the 16-member all-adult Imperial family.

He and his father are the only two male heirs who are younger than Naruhito. Prince Hitachi, former emperor Akihito's younger brother, is third in line to the throne but is already 89.

The shortage of male succes-

sors is a serious concern for the monarchy, which historians say has lasted for 1,500 years. The issue reflects Japan's rapidly aging and shrinking population.

Japan traditionally had male emperors, but female succession was permitted. There have been eight female emperors, including the most recent Gosakuramach, who ruled from 1762 to 1770. None of them, however, produced an heir during their reign.

Succession was legally limited to males by the prewar Constitution for the first time in 1889. The postwar 1947 Imperial House Law, which largely preserves conservative prewar family values, also only allows male succession.

But experts say the male-only succession system is structurally flawed and only worked previously thanks to the help of concubines, who, until about 100 years ago, produced imperial children.

Hugely popular Princess Aiko, the only daughter of Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, cannot be her father's successor, even though she is supported by much of the public as a future monarch.

To address succession concerns, the government compiled a proposal to allow a female emperor in 2005. But Hisahito's birth quickly changed the tide and nationalists turned against the proposal.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Right now you need to summon all your mental abilities as you will have to take quick, on-the-spot decisions. However, Ganesha cautions you to take proper advice as your decisions may have a long-term impact, more so if they involve monetary matters.

TAURUS
You have an easy carefree day ahead. There will be no woes or worries, says Ganesha. But to will be inclined to take up too many things at one time, more than you can handle. This may, in turn, get you stressed and uptight. You are advised to be practical and not to overdo things. If you do get into a fix, a moment's reflection will show you that you alone are to be blamed.

GEMINI
Emotions, not acidity, will be the cause of your uneasiness. Something important is going on in your life and you are nervous. It can be related to a matter concerning law, ethics, prejudice, education, or social customs. You are, however, likely to win admiration from all quarters for your fine taste in arts, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today, you will be at the centre of all your plans. Your responsibilities at home are likely to be unnecessary digressions for you, with your help-yourself-only attitude. However, you may feel that you are not getting enough returns of your hard work.

LEO
Love, respect and quality time together – this might just be the perfect recipe for a happy family life, says Ganesha. So on this day, make it a point to spend time with your loved ones, and show them just how much you care for them and what they mean to you. It may be a small gesture, but the returns you get in the evening will be priceless, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
A renewed zest for life will bring in a transformation in you. It is a good time to let people know how important and intelligent – yes, you can be both – are. Your eminence will be obvious as you show how things are meant to be done.

LIBRA
All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy! You don't want to be Jack, now, do you? It's high time you took a break from your busy work schedule. Go on a vacation to recharge your batteries. There are chances that evening could bring with it some hurtful remarks from loves ones. Don't be too sensitive to everything that's said, advises Ganesha.

SCORPIO
Two words will define your day – eloquence and elegance. Sweet talk and compliments may take you a long way, but do not become complacent and get carried away with your success. Sometimes, saying the right thing may be more beneficial than saying what the other person wants to hear. Communicate carefully, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Friendship with a few like-minded people is likely to develop today. You shall spend a large share of your time discussing issues like attitude, beliefs and values. Those with you will enjoy sharing their ideas and opinions, and casting them in a new mould.

CAPRICORN
The wait for some good news may have been too long, but it will surely find its way to you today, says Ganesha. Your focus will remain fixed on work, and you may feel like you are finally starting to like your job. This, in turn, will lead you to take some well-informed decisions about your future. And if the good news comes at the right time, you will probably be saved the effort of finding a new job.

AQUARIUS
Today is an important day in the larger scheme of things. You may finally decide to buy a home, change your job, or marry! Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards too. Reputation and rewards are all yours today. This acknowledgement helps you remain committed, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Your inherent talents, competitive colleagues and supportive superiors will spur you on to great heights at the workplace, beginning today. Make sure that you do not get carried away by little victories, says Ganesha. There is many a slip between the cup and the lip!



KEN FLORES' CAUSE OF DEATH REVEALED

A report from the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner has revealed American stand-up comedian Ken Flore's death was connected to his use of the drug, while a history of congestive heart failure was also named as 'another significant condition.' Flores died in January at the age of just 28.

ELIZABETH HURLEY DOESN'T GO TO GYM

British actress Elizabeth Hurley said that she hasn't 'set foot in a gym for decades'. "I haven't set foot in a gym for decades. But I rarely sit still. When I'm at home, I spend all day wrestling my garden into submission," Hurley told *Hello! Magazine*.



Rashmika on day's 'hardest' decisions

Mumba: Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who has been crowned as the National Crush by her fans, talked about her struggle with early morning flights, calling them the "worst" and saying that the dilemma of whether to sleep or stay awake leaves her feeling groggy either way.

Rashmika took to her Instagram Stories and shared a picture from the window of the airplane she was on at 3.50 AM. The actress did not reveal where she was travelling to or the purpose of her trip.

For the caption, the actress wrote: "Rashmika 350am flights are the Worst. It's neither morning nor night..."

"Should I sleep for 2 hours wake up and work (I'll feel super sick and groggy) or should I just stay up do some work and finish the full day (will still feel super groggy) and then sleep..These are the every day to day decisions I find the hardest to make.." Rashmika added.

On the work front, Rashmika will next be seen in *Thama*, where she will be sharing screen space with Ayushmann Khurrana for the first time. Set in a fictional world, the project also stars Paresh Rawal and Nawazuddin Siddiqui in key roles, along with others.

AGENCIES

Bhumi's rare feat

Mumbai: Bhumi Pednekar has become the first Indian actress to attend the prestigious Young Global Leaders (YGL) Summit 2025 in Geneva. Hosted by the World Economic Forum, the Summit is a gathering of influential young leaders across sectors who discuss pressing global challenges and collaborate to drive meaningful change. Bhumi's participation is being hailed as a landmark moment, not only for her but also for the Indian film industry's increasing global recognition.

Taking to social media, Bhumi shared joyous glimpses from the Summit, reflecting her excitement and commitment toward contributing to global discussions. Known for portraying strong, headstrong characters on screen, she has consistently used her work to shed light on issues like body positivity, female empowerment, and inclusivity. Her dedication storytelling has earned her respect on both national and international platforms.

At the YGL Summit, Bhumi joins a select group of visionaries focused on environmental sustainability. Leveraging her celebrity influence, she advocates for eco-friendly practices, renewable energy, and environmental conservation, earning the title of a true "Climate Warrior."

Bhumi's presence at the Young Global Leaders Summit 2025 not only highlights her role as a global influencer but also reinforces her position as a change-maker, bridging the worlds of cinema and social activism. Fans and followers now eagerly await her upcoming projects while celebrating her historic achievement on the international stage.

AGENCIES



Not feeling defeated by rejections: Masaba

Mumbai: Bollywood ace designer Masaba Gupta recently took to her social media account to express her feelings about facing rejections, forgetting pain "too fast" and how "trying hard" is the only solution to all problems.

Sharing it on her social media account, Masaba wrote, "I must also spend a minute to talk

about emotion; rejection. I have been rejected many times (most recently 3 times in the last 2 weeks) in my 16-year career."

She further added how grateful she is to remember the good times when she was accepted. "But I have the good fortune of remembering the moments I was ACCEPTED. And not feeling defeated by rejections (my mother says I forget pain too fast), I am an emotional entrepreneur and feel everything deeply. And while people have laughed at it, I have never seen 'feeling too much' as anything but a superpower. Our only job is to try. And try hard," she concluded.

The designer-turned-entrepreneur, who is the daughter of Bollywood veteran Neena Gupta, has

had a tough yet solid childhood.

For the uninitiated, Masaba Gupta is the daughter of Neena Gupta and West Indies cricket legend Vivian Richards. Neena Gupta and Vivian Richards never married each other, but Neena chose to raise Masaba all by herself as a single mother back in the '80s.

AGENCIES



31ST GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL- DAY II

Musical brilliance leaves audience in thrall



Bhubaneswar: The second evening of the five-day 31st Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2025, organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, enthralled music lovers here at Rabindra Mandap, Saturday with a spellbinding celebration of Hindustani and Carnatic traditions.

The evening began with the ceremonial lamp lighting by Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head Corporate Affairs, Paradeep Phosphate Limited; Swamy Satya Chaitanya, Director Operations, Sri Sri University; eminent singer Baboo Panigrahi; and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director of Srjan. Renowned Hindustani vocalist Kumar Mardur from Dharwad opened the programme with a soulful recital, presenting an

exquisite blend of the Kirana, Gwalior, and Jaipur gharanas. His repertoire, spanning Khayal, Thumri, Dadra, Bhajans, and Kanada Daas Sahitya, was rendered with remarkable technical finesse and emotional depth. He was accompanied by Amitava Sen on Tabla, Akash Biswal (Harmonium), and Pawankumar Chaubey (vocal support), whose synchrony elevated the

performance.

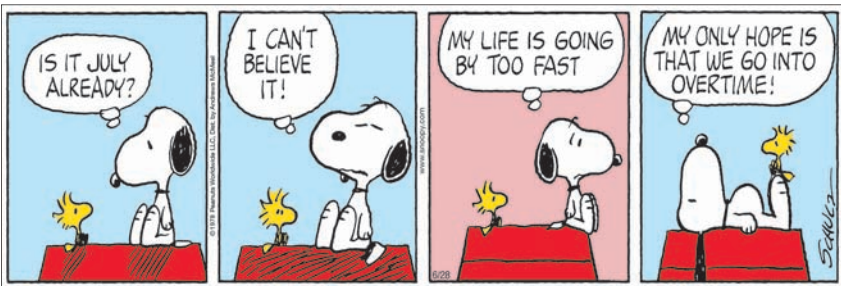
The evening further resonated with the celebrated Carnatic mandolin duo UP Raju and U Nagamani, who mesmerised the audience with their seamless dialogue of ragas and talas. Supported by K Sekar on Thavil and S Karthick (Ghatam), their performance showcased the harmonic beauty and rhythmic intricacies of Carnatic music.

The GKCM Award Festival, supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture, continues to bring together stalwarts of classical arts. **OrissaPOST** and **Dharitri** are the print media partners for the event.

PNN



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

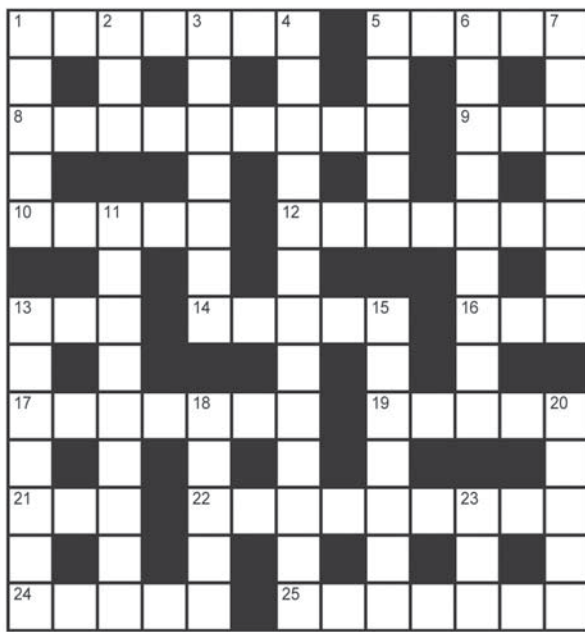


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- Like some clams
- Hard to pin down
- Ship features
- North Sea diver
- Ham's need
- Spar part
- Commuting option
- Critical
- Saturn's wife
- Insignificant

- Jet fighter button
- Ostrich relative
- Pirate
- Hex
- Isis, e.g.

Down

- Before man or nova
- Bobble
- Chinese game
- Dragging one's feet (5-8)
- Eyeshade
- Mexican dip
- Far-North denizens
- Poverty-stricken
- Mansion employees
- Green transparent gem
- Motivate
- Novices
- Member of the flock

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

T	E	S	T	T	U	B	E	O	P	A	H
O	T	O	R	S	R	E	A				
D	R	A	C	U	L	A		C	R	E	E
L	A	N	A	I							
E	S	H									
R	E	M	I	T	S			R	A	P	T
S	O					S	U				A
M	I	L	L	E	T			D	I	J	O
G	S	Y	A			I	U				S
A	S	T	I	R				P	O	T	S
W	E	A	L					O	G		I
K	I	N	G			W	E	I	R	D	E

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

CM: SAMBALPUR IS LAND OF BRAVERY

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday described Sambalpur as a land of bravery and declared that the state government will take all necessary steps to develop historical freedom struggle sites in the district.

Attending the state-level 'Nuakhai Bhetghat' in the district as the chief guest, Majhi said, "The event is not just a cultural gathering, but a celebration of our social unity, familial love, and prosperity."

Describing Sambalpur as a land of bravery,



Majhi said, "Our government will take all necessary measures to develop historical freedom struggle sites in the district."

He added that Sambalpur and every district in western Odisha carries a unique message of art and culture, and contributes to Odisha's identity.

Nuakhai is an agrarian festival, a celebration of farmers' hard work. The government is committed to multiplying the income of farmer families – not just doubling it, he said,

adding, "Our government is the people's government – your government. This is not just about paperwork or publicity."

Majhi also reiterated the government's decision to industrialise every district. He highlighted the importance of transportation for fast development and announced plans to develop an industrial corridor connecting Paradip, Choudwar, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Rourkela, linking eastern and western Odisha. This will ensure uninterrupted

Bell metal craft reflects our rich heritage: Singh Deo



Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, MGM Group CMD Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, **Dharitri & Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy and other dignitaries unveil 'Kansa: Forging Traditions, Shaping Futures' in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Bell metal craft reflects Odisha's rich heritage, said Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo during the unveiling of 'Kansa: Forging Traditions, Shaping Futures', a unique book by MGM Foundation and Bhubaneswar Experimental Art and De-

sign Studio (BEADS) that documents the state's bell metal craft heritage, here Saturday.

MGM Group CMD Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and other dignitaries attended the event.

Singh Deo said, "Odisha's bell metal craft reflects our rich heritage.

Through this book, MGM Group has made sincere efforts to save the dying art and its legacy for future generations."

Satpathy said, "This initiative may not bring much profit, but it carries immense cultural value. I urge people to extend at least moral support so that such efforts can flourish. These

rare art forms are fast disappearing, and it's our responsibility to safeguard them for future generations."

The comprehensive documentation in the form of a book chronicles the living traditions of 'Kansa' (bell metal) craft across 18 villages in Odisha. It also represents the intensive field research conducted by Odisha Craft Odyssey Fellowship Programme 2024-25.

The book, which documents the practices, techniques, and stories of bell metal artisans, aims at preserving a fading cultural tradition and drawing attention to the urgent need to protect bell metal craft, a dying art form.

As many as 31 master bell metal artisans were felicitated on the occasion.

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Political dialogue will solve Mahanadi dispute: Odisha AG

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Noting that the negotiation with Chhattisgarh to resolve the Mahanadi water dispute was on the right direction, Odisha's Advocate General (AG) Pitambar Acharya Saturday said political dialogue was more important than the prolonged legal battle.

Speaking to reporters, Acharya said that with the same party in power in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and the Centre, the negotiations were heading in a positive direction.

"History shows that none of the water disputes, be it over Cauvery or Krishna, has been resolved through legal means. It is more of a political matter, and there is a need for dialogue between the leadership of the two states. The Centre has also been taking an interest in resolving the matter through negotiation," he told reporters.



The matter has been pending before the tribunal for the last seven years, and there has been no progress towards resolving it, he said. "Only one witness has been examined while many others are yet to appear before the tribunal. If the tribunal continues for 10 more years, then also there will be no end to it," he said.

Acharya said the new government in the state has taken the initiative of negotiation, and it is moving in the right direction.

"The same party is ruling Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has already told the CMs of both states to resolve the matter through negotiation. Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil is also aware of the development," he said.

Acharya was speaking to reporters after appearing before the tribunal through video conference.

INTERNATIONAL MILLET DAY

Over 400 farmers, scientists to participate in celebrations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Over 400 farmers and renowned scientists are among those from across the country and abroad who will attend the symposium being held in Bhubaneswar November 10 and 11 to mark the International Millet Day celebrations, official sources said Saturday.

This was revealed during a high-level preparatory meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, held in the City to finalise the programme roadmap.

Every year, November 10 is observed as International Millet Day, and Odisha is the only state in

India that celebrates Millet Day officially.

This year, the celebrations will include a two-day international symposium on millets November 10 and 11, with the theme 'Women in Agro-Biodiversity and Heritage'.

As in previous years, the event will feature special sessions by eminent scientists and personalities, including Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation. Over 400 farmers, scientists from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, World Food Programme (WFP), ICAR and ICAR-CIWA and officers from the country and abroad will attend the symposium, officials said.



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GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) Milk

From 5%



Chena or Paneer (Pre-packaged & Labelled)

To Nil



Khakhra, Chapati or Roti

From 18%



Paratha, Parotta and other Indian Breads

To Nil



Chocolates, Ice Cream, Coffee, Tea

From 18%



Corn Flakes

To 5%



Pastry, Cakes & Biscuits

To 5%



Tableware and Kitchenware of Iron, Steel & Copper

From 12%



Sewing Machine & its parts



Bicycle (Unmotorised)



Hand Bags & Shopping Bags (of Cotton & Jute)



Feeding Bottles & its Nipples, Napkins for Babies and Clinical Diapers



Butter, Ghee, Dairy Spreads, Cheese



Nuts & Dried Fruits including Almonds, Pistachios, Ground Nuts, Cashew Nuts



Sugar Boiled Confectionery



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Road durability policy on cards

At a review meet, the Law Minister Harichandan took stock of road conditions in key cities ahead of the festive season

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Saturday announced that a dedicated policy on road maintenance and durability will soon be introduced, making agencies and departments accountable for damage caused by repeated utility works.

Chairing a review meeting at Nirman Soudha, the minister assessed the condition of roads in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bepampur, Rourkela, Sambalpur and other major towns ahead of the festive season.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Babu Singh, Naba Kishor Mallick and Souvic Biswal, along with BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Cuttack Mayor Subash Chandra Singh, BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana and other officials.



The Law Minister noted that while road damage during monsoon is common, it is the government's responsibility to ensure timely repairs to avoid public inconvenience. He directed engineers to make all major roads pothole-free by September 20 and begin full restoration of damaged stretches from October 2. Harichandan also urged newly-recruited engineers to apply their skills for durable and sustainable road construction.

The minister also directed engineers to conduct field inspections within two days and submit detailed reports on road conditions in their respective areas.

Works department Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh flagged concerns over

agencies like BMC, IDCO, OPTCL and WATCO digging up roads for pipelines, power lines and other utilities without proper coordination, causing premature damage.

He stressed the need for an integrated approach to fix accountability and ensure compensation.

Earlier, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) convened a preparatory meeting for the upcoming Durga Puja celebrations. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Commissioner Chanchal Rana, the Deputy Mayor, Corporators, standing committee chairpersons, and senior officials from various line departments attended to chalk out plans for the smooth conduct of the festivities.

Spl drive cancels 401 vehicle fitness certificates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The State Transport Authority (STA) has intensified its crack-down on road safety violations, cancelling as many as 401 vehicle fitness certificates during a three-day special enforcement drive against overloading and unfit vehicles.

The drive, conducted under the direction of Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, was supervised by Principal Secretary Usha Padhee and led by Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur.

Teams of Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) across the state carried out rigorous checks fo-



cusing on vehicle fitness and overloading.

According to official data, 2,532 challans were issued

during the drive, resulting in the collection of fines amounting to ₹56,37,632. A total of 275 vehicles were penalised for overloading, while 536 vehicles faced penalties for fitness-related violations.

For overloading cases, 14 vehicles from Cuttack, 25 from Sambalpur, 14 from Keonjhar and vehicles from other districts were penalised.

Similarly, 60 vehicles from Jagatsinghpur, 26 from Subarnapur, 17 from Keonjhar and many vehicles in several districts fitness were cancelled.

Major fine collections were reported from Angul ₹9.98 lakh, Chandikhole ₹3.79 lakh, Jharsuguda ₹3.23 lakh, Bolangir

₹5.13 lakh, Cuttack ₹2.51 lakh, Rourkela ₹2.03 lakh, and Barbil ARTO ₹ 4.34 lakh.

The Transport department said the action is part of its broader initiative to reduce road accidents by combining awareness campaigns with strict enforcement. Special drives are being conducted every week on different road safety themes.

Officials warned that enforcement will be made even more stringent in the coming days with strict action to be taken against violators as per the Motor Vehicles Act. The STA has urged all road users to strictly adhere to traffic rules for their own safety and that of others.

5.5L cusec flood water to flow into Mahanadi today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The state government has said around 5.5 lakh cusec of flood water is likely to flow into the Mahanadi river at Mundali near Cuttack Sunday, following heavy rainfall in the last few days.

The low-pressure induced torrential rainfall for four consecutive days in the upstream and downstream of the Mahanadi has swelled the water level, Engineer-in-Chief of the Water Resources department, Chandrasekhar Padhi, said.

“We expect that 5.5 lakh cusec flood water will flow into the river near Mundali Sunday



evening. Therefore, the department has intensified patrolling on river embankments of Mahanadi and its tributaries. The district collectors concerned have also been alerted,” he said.

Padhi said the flood water is expected to flow into the river without causing any damage to human habitation. He, however, said some low-lying areas may experience water-logging

Guv honours Champa Raspeda for NEET feat

Champa, from Amlibeda village in Malkangiri district, has become the first Didyai girl to crack NEET and secure an MBBS seat in a government medical college

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Saturday felicitated Champa Raspeda at Raj Bhavan, the first girl from the Didyai community—a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)—to qualify in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

Champa, a native of Amlibeda village in Malkangiri district, has made history by becoming the first Didyai girl to qualify for NEET and secure admission to an MBBS course in a government medical college.

She visited Raj Bhavan accompanied by her brother, official from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTR-TI), and her mentor, teacher Utkala Keshari Das, who guided her throughout her preparation. During the inter-



action, the Governor inquired about her journey, including the challenges she faced, her schooling, coaching support, and her determination to pursue a career in medicine. As a token of encouragement, the Governor presented her with a mobile phone and a laptop bag, extending his best wishes for her academic journey ahead.

Lauding her achievement, Kambhampati said Champa's success is a matter of immense pride not only for the Didyai community but for the entire state of Odisha.

He noted that her journey from a remote village to qualifying for NEET reflects extraordinary determination, perseverance, and a strong commitment

to education.

Her success, he added, will serve as a powerful inspiration for countless children from tribal and rural backgrounds, motivating them to overcome obstacles, pursue their aspirations, and aim high in life.

The Governor assured Champa of all possible support in her future academic pursuits and said her journey will continue to inspire students across Odisha, emphasising the transformative power of education as a tool for empowerment and social progress.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Governor, Roopa Roshan Sahu, along with other officials of Raj Bhavan was also present on the occasion.

World-class Science City in Capital soon: Min Patra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The state government has begun the process of setting up a world-class Science City in the Capital, Science and Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said Saturday.

He further said that preparatory measures are underway, with emphasis on creating a hub for scientific research, innovation and experiential learning. As part of the groundwork, Minister Patra, accompanied by senior officials, recently visited Patna to study the design and functioning of the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Science City. During the visit, he also held discussions with Bihar's Deputy Chief Ministers Vijay Kumar Sinha and Samrat Choudhary on the subject.

The proposed Science City in Bhubaneswar will be developed over 100 acres of land. It will feature modern exhibition halls, immersive learning spaces, research facilities, and interactive platforms aimed at promoting scientific study and innovation. The project is expected to serve as a major centre for scientific education, innovation, and public engagement.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 6: Stewart School in Cuttack marked a historic occasion Friday with the inauguration of the Netaji Museum, honouring alumnus Subhas Chandra Bose, one of India's most prominent freedom fighters.

The ceremony opened with a hymn, followed by an invocation led by Rtn Rev SK Nanda Dr RR Senapati, secretary of Stewart School, welcomed the gathering, while Principal D Martina introduced the guests. Dignitaries were felicitated before the chief guest, Dr Kethosher Kevichusa, director of BMS World Mission, delivered the keynote. He praised Bose's courage, leadership and the



lasting relevance of his ideals.

The event was attended by BMS trustee Tejedor Tiensoh, Alliance Defending Freedom director Melamshwa, and several educationists and community leaders.

A cultural programme followed, featuring an English skit, “Netaji – Our Hero,” an Odissi dance, sand art, group dances by nursery and kindergarten students, and patriotic songs. The ceremony concluded with a prayer by Rev FC North, CEO of the Diocesan Board of Education, and a vote of thanks by coordinator Reshma Pradhan.

School leaders said the museum stands as a testament to Stewart School's historic link with Bose and will inspire students with his values of courage, sacrifice and service.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Semiliguda, vide No.-217, dated 30.05.2025, I, Sri Kaliprasanna Sahoo, S/o- Late Bhikari Sahoo, resident of Qtr: No.- B/396, Sector-II, NALCO Township, P.O./P.S.- Damanjodi, Dist.- Koraput do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my widowed sister's name was changed from Sukumari Sahoo to Sukumari Behera after her marriage. However, both names refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, she shall be known as Sukumari Behera for all purpose.

You are probably doing small talk wrong

There's a moment in human connection that defies easy explanation — that sudden, electric feeling when you meet someone and feel your minds merge. It happened to the two of us when we met at a psychology symposium: Our small talk during a break quickly gave way to playful theories about coffee drinkers versus tea drinkers. We went to find seats together, unaware that this conversation was the start of a decade-long collaboration and friendship.

Where does that spark come from, exactly? What makes someone feel like a lifelong friend after just a couple of minutes? People tend to assume its similarity: that they are especially likely to hit it off with someone who shares their background or personality traits.

But in our research, we've found that many of the strongest bonds come less from pre-existing similarity and more from riffing playfully.



In these moments, people create a little world that belongs just to them, a process we call “building a shared reality.” Collaborative riffs are surprisingly central to our mental well-being: They're the glue that binds us together, adds colour to our lives and gives us a sense of purpose.

And yet, our culture's conversational rituals revolve not around playful co-creation, but around exchanging formalities. Consider the small talk classic: “How was your weekend?” Convention dictates you keep your answer brief and toss

the question back. “Good, just bingeed some Netflix. You?” The conversation proceeds predictably. “Took my dog to the park since it was so nice.” “Oh, I have a dog, too. What kind is yours?” “A lab mix. He's 3. ...” Both parties walk away with information, but still worlds apart. They may think they're playing it safe, but that safety traps them in disconnection.

Instead, if these two people strayed from the script and riffed off each other, they might begin to feel that electric buzz of being in sync. It's like being a kid again: Children skip the boring “getting to know you” phase and jump straight into pretend play — transforming into dragon-slaying knights or shipwrecked sailors.

“How was your weekend?” “Good, but I spent way too much time watching people make tiny food on TikTok.” “Whoa, like ... dollhouse-size?” “Yes! If you want to learn to make a lasagna in a bottle cap,

let me know.” “That's hilarious! We could organise a tiny food potluck — and fit the entire spread on this coaster!” “Ha! And we'd need tiny furniture, too. Should we ask that guy over there wearing Carhartt to build it?”

Our research shows that this sort of riffing pays off. Riffing doesn't require being naturally funny or witty, just being attentive and embracing spontaneity. Riffing isn't just for new acquaintances. Over time, it creates a feeling of having merged minds and inhabiting a private universe.

Our aim in conversation, then, shouldn't be to mine for surface-level commonalities or go on a charm offensive. Instead, we should ask ourselves, “What could we create together in this moment?”

The authors, Maya Rossignac-Milon and Erica Boothby, are behavioural scientists. NYT

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.5°	33.2°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	25.5°	24.4°	
Humidity	94%	95%	
Rainfall	32.6mm	49.2mm	

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BeMC to sterilise dogs, penalise cattle owners


POST NEWS NETWORK

Prasad Mohapatra, corporators T Kishore Kumar Patra and Sanjit Panigrahi, executive engineer Sushanta Dunggudurga, junior engineers Srutika Patra and Sabitri Padhi, assistant clerk Sanjukta Jena, Berhampur livestock officer Dr Satya Narayan Kar, additional district veterinary officer Dr Biswajit Rout, sub-divisional livestock officer Dr Arabind Behera, SPCA and BeMC ABC committee member Lalatendu Choudhury, Srikrishna Goshala secretary Sushanta Behera, animal care worker Siluprabha Rath and social worker Anil Kumar Choudhury.

“

Let nothing short of perfection be your ideal in work and you are sure to become a true instrument of the Divine.

THE MOTHER



Pied-Piper Politics

As someone who prefers India as a pluralist and secular society, I have my problems with this government as many editions of this column will have shown over the years. This is based on a difference rooted in ideology and principles. I think, like many others, that Hindutva is problematic and an unnatural imposition on this country. Of its achievements, the list of things to dislike and disagree with is long.

If asked to pick out at least a couple of things that I ‘like’ about what this dispensation has done, I would say that this prime minister is full-throated in his assault on minorities unlike his BJP predecessor. And the second thing is that because of this he has produced a devoted following, that is satisfied with his actions.

This might seem like a petty concession and that something else ought to be pointed out, but it is not easy. When one is assessing a saga that is currently in its 12th year, the impact of the entirety of it is hard to escape. When one finds a movie unwatchable, there is no point in then saying, well it was unwatchable but the hero’s costume changes were good. It gets only a star and a half from this reviewer, and that too with reluctance. But clearly there is another side to this, of those people who think that the movie is terrific and this column is about them.

No matter what else he does, so long as the focus on minorities remains, through laws of discrimination, policies of exclusion and rhetoric of loathing, this following is not discontent. What I wanted to do today was to try and write about this phenomenon, which I believe to be real as the evidence shows all around us. It is not an insignificant part of the population and for this reason interesting to look at.

Events just of these past few weeks provide us with material to examine. Take the Goods and Services Tax. When it was passed almost a decade ago, we were told it was a next generation reform that would turbocharge India’s economy. The government’s experts lined up on television saying, without explaining how, that it would add 2% to GDP. This turned out to not be the case.

The Opposition complained that it was too complicated for businesses, too onerous a burden on the poor because its indirect taxes hit them disproportionately, and too unfair for states because they no longer controlled revenue. All of these complaints were valid because they were true.

This week, by tweaking the rates, once again we are being told that this is a next generation reform because the original was flawed. Why this took the better part of a decade to realise this is a question one will ask only if one is not from the cohort of devoted supporters. For them that 2017 GST was great and this 2025 one is also terrific.

The morning’s newspaper carries the headline: ‘Trump makes U-turn on India, calls PM Modi ‘a great friend’ a day after ‘lost to darkest China’ swipe’. Has he undone his 50% tariffs? No. Has his administration changed its policy or even its language on punishing India for buying Russian oil? No. Trump’s commerce secretary on the same day offered public comments resulting in this headline in the same newspaper: ‘India will say sorry and make a deal in two months: Lutnick’.

Where is Trump’s u-turn? It is in the minds of the believers. A third headline from today: ‘Amid US-India tariff row, PM Modi not to address UNGA in New York later this month’. The problem continues, but if we have convinced ourselves that we have triumphed then why should the facts matter?

For five years, since the opening months of 2020, this nation has been told to view China as the enemy. The devotees were told to delete Chinese apps and to throw away their televisions. They were fed theories of how we would partner with America to fix China. Geo-strategic-wallahs in think tanks aligned with the government wrote tracts in praise of this seismic shift, bringing us in alignment with the west.

A few day ago, this sentiment has not only stopped it seems to have been reversed. Now China is our ally and with it by our side we will erase US dominance. Do the Chinese see us differently now than in 2020 or before? Of course not. They do not change how they think with such suppleness as this government can get its backers to do. It is we who are realigning our mind to adjust to circumstances. It’s our ‘Look East Look West Look East etc’ policy. It makes perfect sense.

As I said, there are not many things to be liked about what has been done over the last dozen years. The damage is real and it will remain with us for decades. But it is difficult not to appreciate the skill and magnetism of the pied-piper leading his followers to future glory, ignoring the debris of the present all around them.

WISDOM CORNER

“The man of wisdom is never of two minds; the man of benevolence never worries; the man of courage is never afraid.”
CONFUCIUS

“No one saves us but ourselves. None one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path.”
LORD BUDDHA

“Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction.”
PONTIFEX MAXIMUS

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1812:** Napoleon's French forces narrowly defeated the Russians under Mikhail Kutuzov at the Battle of Borodino.
- **1860:** Giuseppe Garibaldi entered Naples, Italy, and proclaimed himself “Dictator of the Two Sicilies.”
- **1939:** Stanislav Petrov, an officer in the Soviet air force who saved the world from nuclear annihilation in 1983, was born near Vladivostok, Russia.
- **1996:** American rapper and actor Tupac Shakur, one of the leading names in 1990s gangsta rap, was shot in Las Vegas. He died six days later.

INDIA: TRANSATLANTIC PIVOT

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

The global order is undergoing its deepest transformation since the end of the Cold War. The unipolar moment of the early 2000s, when US primacy seemed uncontested, has given way to a volatile multipolarity involving Washington, Beijing, Moscow, and several rising regional powers. For India, an emerging global actor balancing regional caution with international ambition, understanding the trajectory of US–EU relations is essential. Transatlantic ties shape Washington’s strategic bandwidth, Europe’s global role, and the balance of attention between the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific.

For decades NATO anchored the US–European partnership, underpinned by Washington’s security guarantee. Today, the picture is more complex. The United States remains indispensable, but its commitments are stretched across Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and global counterterrorism. This overstretch has revived Europe’s debate on strategic autonomy. France champions an independent defence posture, Germany dramatically increases defence spending while remaining within a US-led framework, and Italy prioritizes flexibility. Poland and the Baltic states insist American guarantees are irreplaceable, fearing Europe alone cannot deter Russia. The war in Ukraine highlights these vulnerabilities, showing Europe’s dependence on US intelligence, logistics, and advanced weaponry. For India, the stakes are clear: if Washington is tied down in Europe, its ability to counter China in Asia could weaken.

Russia’s invasion remains the immediate transatlantic priority. The US provides critical weapons, while the EU mobilizes large-scale financial aid. Defence budgets across Europe are climbing, with Germany discarding decades of pacifism and the Baltic states spending above NATO benchmarks. Yet Washington insists Europe cannot confine itself to its eastern flank. Increasingly,



In a world of accelerating change, foresight will be India’s most valuable strategic asset. Reading transatlantic dynamics early – and acting pragmatically – will determine how effectively India shapes the multipolar order now taking form

the Indo-Pacific is framed as a shared concern. France, with territories in the Indian Ocean, has expanded naval cooperation with India. Germany has dispatched frigates to Asian waters, signalling willingness to contribute to maritime security beyond Europe. The EU’s 2021 Indo-Pacific strategy explicitly names India as a key partner, recognizing that Asia’s security architecture is essential for Europe’s own resilience. For New Delhi, the challenge is to ensure this engagement becomes substantive, involving technology transfers, resilient supply chains, maritime partnerships, and green energy projects.

Analyses of Europe often focus on Paris, Berlin, and Rome. Yet since 2022, Poland has emerged as a pivotal security and economic actor. Its defence spending now exceeds four per cent of GDP, the highest share in NATO. Warsaw carries out one of Europe’s most ambitious modernization programs, acquiring advanced US and South Korean systems, while its territory functions as NATO’s logistical lifeline to Ukraine. Politically, Poland positions itself as Washington’s bridge into continental Europe, advocating robust deterrence while resisting overreliance on

Berlin or Paris. Beyond security, Poland is critical for trade, technology, and energy corridors. For India, this creates opportunities: joint ventures in defence production, cooperation on LNG, nuclear power, renewables, and participation in digital infrastructure projects. Poland’s assertive diplomacy and transatlantic orientation make it a credible partner for Indian policymakers and businesses seeking deeper access to Europe.

For India, what matters are outcomes: a Europe that develops genuine capabilities could become a stronger partner in Asia, while one that entrenches dependency will leave Indo-Pacific security largely in American hands.

Despite post-2022 solidarity, friction persists. Trade disputes over subsidies, digital taxes, and industrial policy regularly flare up. Approaches to China diverge: the US increasingly defines Beijing through hard containment, while Europe labels China a “systemic rival” but maintains deep economic ties. For India, which balances cooperation and competition with China, these differences are significant. A divided West complicates coalition-building in Asia but gives New

Delhi room to manoeuvre. By engaging individual European states with distinct approaches, India can turn divergence within the West into strategic opportunity.

Linking strategic dialogues with concrete economic projects allows India to transform rhetorical commitments into durable partnerships.

Implications for India are far-reaching. New Delhi should diversify its European engagement beyond France, Germany, and Italy, recognizing the rising influence of Central and Eastern Europe. It should use Europe’s Indo-Pacific awakening to expand maritime cooperation, build resilient logistics networks, and deepen technological exchanges. At the same time, India must monitor Europe’s approach to burden-sharing, as it will determine Washington’s ability to remain fully committed in Asia.

The US–EU relationship is in flux. Security remains anchored in American primacy, but debates on autonomy, burden-sharing, and global reach are reshaping transatlantic ties. For India, these shifts directly influence the availability of US resources in Asia, Europe’s credibility as a global actor, and opportunities with emerging players like Poland. India should anticipate developments, positioning itself as a partner of choice in defence, energy, and technology. By embedding economic cooperation within security dialogues and diversifying engagement across Europe, New Delhi can expand influence in both transatlantic and Indo-Pacific arenas.

In a world of accelerating change, foresight will be India’s most valuable strategic asset. Reading transatlantic dynamics early – and acting pragmatically – will determine how effectively India shapes the multipolar order now taking form.

The writer is expert, Centre for Intl Relations, Poland
INFIA

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Century bonds could transform development finance



Hannah Wanjie Ryder

IF GOVERNMENTS CAN LEND FOR CENTURIES TO OVERCOME HISTORIC INJUSTICES, SURELY THEY CAN DO THE SAME TO FINANCE AFRICA’S FUTURE

In recent years, the world’s poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries have made one thing clear: the current system for financing development in low- and middle-income economies is not working. At annual climate conferences and through landmark reform efforts like the Bridgetown Initiative, these governments have been demanding that richer countries do more and do it better.

But there is a problem. While financing needs have only grown, so has the political resistance to “aid.” In donor countries, fiscal pressure, higher interest rates, and rising nationalism have put development budgets on the chopping block. In this climate, traditional donor grants have become politically toxic or financially burdensome.

But if these factors are so constraining, why don’t rich countries lend to Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), rather than donating the money? Or more to the point: Why aren’t

rich countries issuing 100-year, ultra-low-interest bonds to MDBs and allowing those institutions to repay them slowly, just as they do for their regular bondholders?

If governments can lend for centuries to overcome historic injustices, surely they can do the same to finance Africa’s future. As a financial matter, the idea should be obvious. After all, the money would be paid back. MDBs like the World Bank or the African Development Bank (AfDB) have strong balance sheets, triple-A credit ratings, and steady cash flows from their loan portfolios. They already borrow on global capital markets, so why can’t they also borrow directly – at concessional rates – from the very countries that are constantly pressing them to do more?

Donor bonds would support development in ways that are simply implausible under the prevailing system. The AfDB’s capital and funding base currently limit the length of loans it can safely offer. Owing to funding

constraints and risk-management protocols, loans to middle-income countries tend to have shorter maturities (10-25 years), and higher interest rates (at least 4%).

Differences in access to low-cost finance also create constraints for cross-border projects that involve a low-income country and a middle-income one. All too often, blended finance in these cases ends up being more expensive for the low-income country than a similarly sized domestic project would have been.

As for low-income countries, they would benefit from a more robust and responsive MDB system – one with greater financial capacity and less dependence on unpredictable capital replenishments – and the ability to borrow together with neighboring middle-income countries.

With this proposal in mind, my colleagues and I at Development Reimagined modeled a scenario in which each G20 member state contributed a \$5 billion 100-year donor bond to the AfDB. Totaling around \$90

billion, this would represent one of the largest capital injections in the bank’s history, increasing its paid-in capital by roughly 4.5-6 times, and nearly doubling its lending capacity.

By making this proposal a central part of the G20’s agenda, South Africa could use its presidency of the group to send a powerful message. It would not only demonstrate the global leadership that climate and development finance so urgently need; it would also help shift the narrative from aid dependence to sustainable investment.

At a time of declining ODA (which does remain important), we have a chance to move from an unpredictable grantmaking model to a revolving, repayable, low-cost capital system that benefits donors, MDBs, and recipient countries alike. The stakes have never been higher. South Africa should seize the moment.

The writer is a former diplomat
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Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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Trump’s delusion

Sir, Apologies, ‘We’ve lost India to China: Trump,’ **Orissa POST**, September 6. US President Donald Trump’s recent outburst that the United States has ‘lost India to China’ is a shallow and self-serving distortion of reality. India is not some bargaining chip in Washington’s power games; it is a sovereign power that has historically refused to be tethered to any camp. Trump, obsessed with transactional deals and grandstanding, reduces complex geopolitics to a crude scoreboard of winners and losers. His remark insults India’s fiercely guarded strategic autonomy and exposes his lack of understanding of South Asian realities. Far from leaning toward Beijing, India has confronted Chinese aggression head-on—from the Galwan Valley clash to hardening its Indo-Pacific posture alongside the US and allies. If anything, Trump’s presidency made India wary of Washington’s reliability, given his unpredictability and disdain for long-term strategy. Indo-US ties today remain strong, but they thrive on bipartisan consensus and shared democratic values, not on the bluster of one man. By declaring India ‘lost,’ Trump reveals more about his own insecurity and America’s inward-looking politics than about New Delhi’s global choices..
N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Literacy is oxygen

Sir, Literacy is inextricably intertwined with the psyche of the common man. Literate society, where the youths are not only skilfully trained to earn a living but are also taught innovation and thinking, is today’s need. It can act as a bridge between misery and hope and also alleviate people’s sufferings because it is a ladder out of poverty. Statistics have shown an unambiguous link between illiterate countries and poverty. Now, literacy is no longer a luxury. Governments and other stakeholders have to gear-up to tackle illiteracy. Only when countries sit up and bolster literacy rates can there be peace and prosperity in the world sans hatred and misgivings. Over 770 million global adults cannot read or write, and this number has to change. There is no substitute to ‘Promoting literacy in the digital era,’ the theme of International literacy day on September 8.
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



Rain alert in parts of Rajasthan

Heavy rainfall is very likely over parts of Udaipur and Jodhpur divisions September 6-7. However other parts like Ajmer, Bikaner, Kota, Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions may also see moderate to heavy showers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 6: Heavy rains lashed several parts of Rajasthan Saturday, inundating low-lying areas, disrupting traffic, and damaging property, as the meteorological department issued a red alert for four districts, officials said.

A man and his daughter were killed and five people were injured when a portion of a dilapidated house collapsed in Jaipur. Heavy showers pounded Udaipur, too, that caused a boundary wall of a school to collapse. A 40-year-old farmer was killed after being struck by lightning in Kaliakhedi village in Kota's Ramganjmandi area, police said.

In Bhilwara, continuous rainfall since early morning left colonies and houses submerged under two to three feet of water, while underpasses and low-lying areas were flooded.

Schools remained closed on Saturday in Ajmer, Udaipur, Rajsamand, Bhilwara and Salumber in view of the



weather conditions.

Meanwhile, inflow into Bisalpur dam in Tonk district prompted authorities to open two additional gates on Saturday morning, taking the total to eight.

In Rajsamand's Kumbhalgarh sub-division, heavy rainfall since Friday night has washed away part of National

Highway-162, forcing traffic to be diverted.

According to the Met centre, a well-marked low-pressure system lies over southeast Rajasthan and is likely to intensify into a depression within 24 hours.

"Under its influence, extremely heavy rainfall is very likely over parts of Udaipur and

Jodhpur divisions September 6-7. Ajmer, Bikaner, Kota, Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions may also see moderate to heavy showers," a Met official said.

The weather office has also issued a red alert for Udaipur, Dongarapur, Banswara and Pratapgarh districts in the southern region of the state.

It added that heavy to very heavy rainfall activity may continue over Jodhpur division and adjoining districts till September 9, while intensity is expected to reduce in most other parts of the state after September 8. Meanwhile, inflow into the Bisalpur dam in Tonk district prompted authorities to open two additional gates Saturday morning, taking the total to eight gates.

In Rajsamand's Kumbhalgarh sub-division, heavy rainfall since Friday night washed away part of National Highway-162, forcing traffic to be diverted. In the past 24 hours, very heavy rainfall was recorded in Bhilwara and Ajmer districts, heavy rainfall in Banswara, Pratapgarh, Jhalawar, Rajsamand, Dungarpur, Alwar, Pali and Chittorgarh districts, and light to moderate showers at many other places.

Banera in Bhilwara reported the highest rainfall at 156 mm.

Gigantic Khairatabad Ganesha idol immersion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 6: The immersion of Lord Ganesh idols, marking the conclusion of the 11-day-long Vinayaka Chaviti festivities, was underway in the city and across the state Saturday.

The 69-ft tall Ganesh idol of the famous pandal at Khairatabad here was immersed in Hussain Sagar lake in the afternoon.

The 'laddu' at the famous pandal at Balapur here was auctioned for ₹35 lakh. Last year it fetched ₹30.01 lakh.

As per media reports, the 'laddu prasadam' at a Ganesh

pandal in a residential community at Bandlaguda fetched a whopping ₹2.32 crore, which was obtained collectively by all residents.

Ganesh idols were being immersed in Hussain Sagar and at other waterbodies and authorities made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of processions on the final day of immersion.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in and around Hyderabad with multiple departments coordinating to manage the immersion, officials added.

Nearly 50,000 idols are expected to be immersed in the

Hussain Sagar lake alone, and the process is expected to continue for about 40 hours.

Already, the immersion process is going on across the state for the past few days.

Strong security measures have been put in place to prevent any untoward incidents. A total of 29,000 police personnel will be on duty in shifts, police said.

Nearly 15,000 sanitation workers would work in three shifts (24x7) in Hyderabad to maintain cleanliness during the event, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) said.

Rachakonda Police here earlier said that about 20,000 idols are expected to be immersed in various lakes and tanks across the area on Saturday. Around 12,000 police will be deployed to manage the immersion, they said. The idol immersion would take place at 20 major lakes along with 72 specially created artificial ponds to ease traffic and reduce pressure on natural water bodies, the GHMC said.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations began with devotional fervour and gaiety across Telangana August 27.

EXTRA MILE EFFORTS

Students hire helicopter to reach exam centre



AGENCIES

Pithoragarh, Sept 6: Four B.Ed students from Rajasthan hired a helicopter to reach their exam centre in Munsiyari here as landslides caused by heavy rain have left many roads blocked in Uttarakhand.

Residents of Rajasthan's Bilotra town, these students of Uttarakhand Open University had to reach R S Tolia PG College in Munsiyari to take the exam.

One of these students, Omaram Jat, said, "When we reached Haldwani August 31, we came to know that all the roads leading to Munsiyari were closed due to landslides. We thought we would not be able to take our exam."

He said then they came to know about a company which provides helicopter service between Haldwani and Munsiyari. However, they found that the service was temporarily unavailable due to bad weather.

"Then we spoke to the CEO of Heritage Aviation and requested him to take us from Haldwani to Munsiyari. We told him that we would lose a year if we do not reach the examination centre. After this, he dispatched two pilots and a helicopter that safely took us to Munsiyari and brought us back to Haldwani," Omaram said.

The one-way fare for the helicopter ride was ₹5,200, he said.

Besides Omaram, the other three students are Mangaram Jat, Prakash Godara Jat and Narpat Kumar.

Somesh Kumar, in-charge of B.Ed examination of Uttarakhand Open University, said the examination centre was selected by the candidates themselves.

Rajasthan allocates land to drive clean energy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: In a bid to promote clean energy production, the Government of Rajasthan led by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has approved the allocation of land to state enterprise Rajasthan Vidut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (RVUNL) for the establishment of large-scale renewable energy-based production parks in Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts.

Under this landmark initiative, land allocation has been approved in Jaisalmer for various solar parks with a combined capacity of 26,400 megawatts (MW), a statement said Saturday. Similarly, the construction of solar parks with a combined 5,200 MW capacity has been approved in Bikaner, it said.

In line with the state's goals of sustainable development and energy security, these approvals represent a major step towards enhancing Rajasthan's leadership in the renewable energy sector, it said.

Commenting on this, the Chief Minister said this initiative will not only position Rajasthan as a front-runner in clean energy production

In line with the state's goals of sustainable development and energy security, these approvals represent a major step towards enhancing Rajasthan's leadership in the renewable energy sector

but also generate substantial employment opportunities for local youth and contribute to India's commitment towards green energy transition.

The development of these solar parks is expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs in Jaisalmer and Bikaner, it said, adding that this will also enhance clean power generation capacity, supporting India's renewable energy targets.

This will also boost regional economic growth by promoting infrastructure development and green industry investments, it added.

Telangana introduces 'Bhu Bharati' portal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 6: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has said that his government has launched the 'Bhu Bharati' portal for land administration to address the problems allegedly created by the 'Dharani' land records management system introduced during the previous BRS regime.

Speaking at an event where he handed over appointment letters to the newly-recruited 'Grama Palana Officers' (GPOs) (village administration officers) Friday, he said people of the state wanted "liberation" from 'Dharani'.

"After the formation of Telangana, the then rulers created a 'bhoot' (evil spirit) called 'Dharani' to grab lands with a thirst for money and lands," he said. Without naming the BRS government, he alleged that the former regime

portrayed Village Revenue Officers (VRO) and Village Revenue Assistants (VRA) as "black sheep" to prevent them from exposing "loot" of lands. The BRS regime transferred the VROs and VRAs to other departments to get rid of them, he alleged.

During his 'padayatra' before the assembly elections in 2023, Reddy said people urged him to provide relief from 'Dharani', which caused many difficulties in land records management and administration.

Before the assembly polls, Congress had promised to replace 'Dharani', he said. The Congress government tried to address the problems caused by 'Dharani' by replacing it with the 'Bhu Bharati' portal.

He urged the GPOs to adopt a pro-people approach to restore trust and correct the negative perception.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are pleased to announce that "Koustuv Institute of Professional Studies" (KIPS) will be changing its name to "College of Engineering Bhubaneswar (COEB)", effective from the session 2025-26.

If anyone have any questions or objections, please do not hesitate to reach out to us within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice through E-Mail. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

Contact Information: Koustuv Institute of Professional Studies (KIPS) Mail ID - kips@koustuvgroup.ac.in Regional Director of Education (RDE), Govt. of Odisha, E-mail: rdebbbs@rediffmail.com

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, M.I. DIVISION, ANANDAPUR

At/P.O.: Salapada, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN Code - 758020
E-mail ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in, eemidanandapur@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 08/MIDA/2025-26
e-mail ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in

No. A-579: The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Anandapur on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

Name of the Work	Construction of New Check Dam under Ghatagaon Block under MATY Scheme
No. of works	02 (Two) Nos. only
Estimated Cost	Varies from 40.87 lakhs to 45.40 lakh (Approximately)
Cost of Tender Paper	6000/- (Non-refundable)
Period of Completion	06 (Six) Calendar Months
Availability of bid documents for sale and receipt through Online	From Dt.09.09.2025, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.18.09.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	18.09.2025 (5.00 P.M.)
Date of Technical bid opening through online	On Dt.19.09.2025 at 10.00 A.M. in the Office of the S.E., M.I. Division, Anandapur
Mode of payment of Bid Cost	Online
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder	The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website:	http://dowr.orissa.gov.in

Name & Address of the OIT: Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Anandapur, At/P.O.: District: Keonjhar
Email ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place: http://tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I. Division, Anandapur
OIPR-32108/11/0034/2526

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR

email : se_nerwkrj@rediffmail.com
eProcurement Notice for Road Works under PM-JANMAN Batch-I
Identification No. NCB-16 / RWCKJR / 2025-26
No. 3417 / Date : 01.09.2025

1. Name of the work : Construction of road works under PM-JANMAN Batch-I in the District of Keonjhar. 2. No. of work : 02 (Two) Nos. 3. Estimated cost : As per Annexure in NIT. 4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT. 5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT. 6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-16 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	01.08.09.25 at 11.00 A.M.	01.08.09.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	01.08.09.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	01.08.09.25 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website : www.pmgstenders.gov.in
Sd./- Chief Construction Engineer R.W. Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR-25177/11/0092/2526

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. : Online - 07- OF 2025-26
E-Mail ID : rwd.padampur@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No. - 9437255440

1. Name of the work	: Building works (As per Annexure-'A')
2. Amount put to Bid Excluding GST	: As per Annexure - 'A'
3. Class of contractor	: "D" "C" & "B" Class
4. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From Dt.08.09.2025 at 10.00 A.M.
5. Last date of Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Dt.17.09.2025 up to 05:00 P.M.
6. Last date if seeking clarification	: Dt.16.09.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
7. Date & Time of technical bid opening	: Dt.18.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
8. Date & Time of technical bid opening for Double Cover bids	: To be intimated later on
9. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Padampur, At/Po - Padampur, Dist. - Bargarh, Pin - 768036

(1) Other details can be seen from www.tendersodisha.gov.in
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Padampur
OIPR-25069/11/0034/2526

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. PWKD - 13/2025-26
No. G2/7989 Dt. 30.08.2025
e-mail : eepw@keonjhar@yahoo.com

1 No. of the work	: 1 No. of Road Work.
2 Estimated cost	: Rs. 68.35 Lakh
3 Period of completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar Months
4 Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 Hr 08.09.2025 to 17.00 Hr of 23.09.2025
5 Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 17.00 Hr of 23.09.2025
6 Date of opening of Bid from Portal	: 10.30 Hr of 24.09.2025
7 Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>".
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division
OIPR-34004/11/0036/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BOUDH (R&B) DIVISION, BOUDH

E-mail: seboudhrb@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) "e" Procurement Notice
Letter No. 4224 Dtd. 04.09.2025
Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) - BDH 11/2025-26

1) Number of the Work	: 01 (One) No. of Civil Work (Double Cover)
2) Estimated Cost	: 97.80 lakhs
3) Period of Completion	: 01 (One) Month
4) Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	: From 08.09.2025, 10.00 A.M. to 18.09.2025, 5.00 P.M.
5) Last date/time for seeking of Tender Clarification	: 18.09.2025 upto 1.00 P.M.
6) Last date/time for receipt of bids in the Portal	: Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 18.09.2025
7) Date & time of opening of Tender/Bid	: 19.09.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
8) Name and address of the O.I.T.	: Superintending Engineer, Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh

Further details corrigendum(s) if any issued can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer Boudh (R&B) Division, Boudh
OIPR-34134/11/0025/2526

of the day

note

This reform has brought a big relief to the lives of 140 crore people of the country. Before 2014 (during Congress rule), there was a huge burden on common people due to the web of different types of taxes imposed on every item

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

Very happy, let him (Simha) go (to court), it will be decided in the court. Why had no one gone to court when (poet) Nissar Ahmed inaugurated Dasara? He (Simha) was an MP then

SIDDARAMAIAH | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

The Marwaris uplifted the society at places where they settled. In 1911, there were 11,000 Marwaris living in Kolkata and they have rendered social work through setting up schools, colleges, hospitals and with other welfare activities besides their financial achievements

VIJENDER GUPTA | DELHI ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

SHORT TAKES

Abu Dhabi-bound IndiGo flight suffers tech snag

Kochi: An Abu Dhabi-bound IndiGo flight returned to Kochi early Saturday due to a technical snag after being airborne for over two hours, according to sources. There were more than 180 passengers and six crew members onboard the aircraft, they said. There was no immediate comment from IndiGo. The flight 6E-1403 (COK-AUH) departed from Kochi at 11.10 pm Friday and returned to the city at around 1.44 am Saturday due to a technical snag, the sources told PTI. They also said that the passengers were flown to Abu Dhabi in another aircraft which took off at around 3.30 am and a new set of crew operated the flight as the earlier crew had to be replaced due to flight duty time restrictions.

Rahul's citizenship probe: ED summons BJP worker

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned a Karnataka BJP worker who had petitioned the Allahabad High Court claiming that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a British citizen, official sources said Saturday. The man, identified as S Vignesh Shishir, has been asked to depose before the federal probe agency September 9. He has been directed to appear with all the evidence and documents he has on the case as per the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), Enforcement Directorate (ED) sources said. A probe into these allegations is underway, they said.

Bengal: Mob attack leaves couple dead

Kolkata: The body of a child was found in Nischintapur area in West Bengal's Nadia district Saturday morning, following which a mob allegedly lynched a couple, suspecting their involvement in the minor's death, police said. The mob also vandalised the property of the couple, accused of killing the Class-3 student -- Swarnabha Mondal -- a senior police officer said. The boy, who had been missing since Friday afternoon, was found in a pond in the locality this morning, he said. "The body of the boy was wrapped in tarpaulin. The family members of the minor accused the couple of killing the child.

In Gujarat, persons who have more than two children are disqualified from contesting elections to local bodies (panchayats, municipalities and municipal corporations). Will 'Hum Do Hamare Do' apply only to the Modi government?

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

HAZRATBAL ROW

Omar questions use of nat'l emblem on plaque

The plaque was placed inside the Hazratbal shrine, which holds a relic of Prophet Muhammad, Friday, sparking outrage among devotees who argued that placing any figure or symbol inside a mosque is against the Islamic principle of monotheism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 6: A massive controversy is raging in Jammu and Kashmir after a plaque with the Ashoka emblem was vandalised in the Hazratbal shrine as parties Saturday accused Waqf Board chief Darakshan Andrabi of hurting religious sentiments by using the national emblem in the mosque and demanded registration of a criminal case and her immediate removal. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while on a tour of flood-affected areas, said the Waqf Board should apologise for the "mistake," asserting that the national emblem is meant for government functions, not religious institutions. While parties like the NC, PDP and the CPI(M) said the use of Ashoka emblem in the mosque was "provocative" and "blasphemous", the BJP slammed the de-facement of the plaque, claiming the incident was an attempt to revive "terrorism and separatism" in the Valley. The plaque was placed inside the Hazratbal shrine, which holds a relic of Prophet Muhammad, Friday, sparking outrage among devotees who argued that placing any figure or symbol inside a mosque is against the Islamic principle of monotheism. The plaque was subsequently vandalised and removed by unidentified individuals after Friday prayers, prompting police to register a case against unknown people. "I have never seen an emblem being used in this way in any religious place," Abdullah told reporters. "Mosques, shrines, temples and gurdwaras are not government institutions. These are religious institutions and government emblems are not used in religious institutions." Abdullaah also questioned the need for the plaque itself, noting that the shrine's founder, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, had completed his work without seeking personal credit. He said the Waqf Board should have apologised for the incident instead of resorting to threats. "What was the need for this plaque? Was the work done not enough? Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah gave shape to this shrine... Even today, people remember his work, even though he did not use a stone in his name. There was no need to use a stone," the chief minister said. The controversy escalated when Andrabi, a BJP appointee, called for legal action, including booking the "hooligans" under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), for vandalising the emblem.



The controversy escalated when Andrabi, a BJP appointee, called for legal action, including booking the "hooligans" under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), for vandalising the emblem.

Karnataka gets 450 additional med seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 6: Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil Saturday said that the state has been granted 450 additional medical seats by the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the academic year 2025-26. This decision addresses a long-standing demand for more seats. Besides this, the state has decided to introduce, for the first time, a 15 per cent NRI quota in government medical colleges in the state. Addressing a press conference here, the minister said in the newly sanctioned seats, 15 per cent have been earmarked for NRI with a fixed fee of Rs 25 lakh per seat. "This will help government medical colleges become financially more self-reliant rather than depending heavily on state grants," he said. According to Patil, the additional seats have been allotted equally among medical colleges in Bangalore, Mysuru, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Chikaballapura, Hassan, Raichur and Vijayanagara, each receiving 50 seats. The medical college run by Mooru Savita mutt in Hubballi has also been granted 50 extra seats. "This is truly a welcome development," he said. After the NEET results, the first round of seat allotment had offered 9,263 seats. With the newly sanctioned seats, Karnataka now has 9,663 medical seats in total, he informed.

RAIN DAMAGE

Landslide strikes Himachal's Sirmaur



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: A landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur Saturday morning shaved off a 200-metre swath from a hill, a house collapse likely triggered by rain killed a man and his five-year-old daughter in Jai-pur, while in Uttarakhand, students hired a helicopter to reach their exam centre in the landslide-hit Munsiyari. In Delhi, more than 70 families displaced by the Yamuna floods were forced to live in damp, mosquito-infested camps set up along the Delhi-Meerut Expressway near Akshardham. Efforts to restore the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway were scuppered by early morning rain. The key road remained closed for the fifth consecutive day. The landslide in Himachal's Noradhar's Chokker village endangered five houses. Their inhabitants, however, were rescued in time, officials said. Locals said the landslide could likely have been caused by the bursting of an underground water source. Videos of a gush of water carrying heaps of debris and locals crying in panic, asking people to stay away, went viral on the internet. In Delhi, sitting outside a tarpaulin tent, Ganga Devi wondered where the poor should go. "It is either demolition, or rain, and now the flood. We hardly earn Rs 300 to 400 a day by cleaning Delhi's garbage. Someone is a ragpicker, some clean drains, some sell flowers, where will we go now?" she asked. In Jammu and Kashmir, NHAI Project Manager, Ramban sector, Shubam said efforts were on to clear the 250-metre stretch of the highway in Thard in Udhampur district, which was buried under a hill.

COURT CORNER

Dharmasthala case: Court sends Chinnaiah to 14-day judicial custody

Mangaluru (Karnataka): A court here Saturday remanded complainant CN Chinnaiah, who alleged multiple murders, rapes, and burials in Dharmasthala over the past two decades, to 14 days' judicial custody following the conclusion of his custodial interrogation. He was produced before the Belthangady magistrate, who sent him to judicial custody. He is likely to be taken to Shivamogga for further inquiry, the SIT sources said. Chinnaiah was arrested August 23 by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the charges in connection with the Dharmasthala case. His arrest and interrogation had drawn widespread interest, as his claims formed the basis of the ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in Dharmasthala.

Court allows jailed MP engineer Rashid to vote in VP election Sep 9

New Delhi: A court here Saturday allowed Lok Sabha MP from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, Engineer Rashid, to vote in the September 9 election for the Vice President. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit allowed Rashid's plea seeking permission to vote. Rashid was earlier granted custody parole by the court between July 24 and August 4 to attend the monsoon session of Parliament. The jailed MP's counsel, Vikhyat Oberoi, said that Rashid has to furnish an undertaking that he will make payment of the travel costs, subject to the outcome of his appeal which is reserved for orders by the Delhi High Court. The appeal is against an order by authorities asking him to pay several lakhs of rupees as travel expenses for attending Parliament on a custody parole.

Elgar Parishad case: SC to hear bail plea of activist Jyoti Jagtap Sept 8

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is slated to hear Monday the bail plea of activist Jyoti Jagtap who was arrested in 2020 in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma is also likely to hear a petition filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) challenging the bail granted to activist Mahesh Raut. He was given bail by the Bombay High Court but the order was stayed after the NIA sought stay on the verdict to challenge it before the apex court. The high court had said Jagtap was an active member of the Kabir Kala Manch (KKM) group, which during its stage play at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017 gave not only aggressive, but highly provocative slogans.

GST overhaul a people's reform, touches every family: Sitharaman

Finance Minister said she will personally monitor passing on of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in the form of price reduction but hastened to add that industry has shown positivity towards such cuts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Calling the landmark GST overhaul a 'people's reform', Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday said that rationalisation of rates for a wide swath of products will benefit every family, boost consumption, and bolster the economy. In an interview to PTI, the Finance Minister said she will personally monitor passing on of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in the form of price reduction but hastened to add

that industry has shown positivity towards such cuts. Within days of the decision, from car makers to public sector insurance companies and shoe and apparel brands have already announced significant price cuts and the rest are likely to follow suit by the time new GST rates are implemented, she said. Nearly 400 products - from soaps to cars, shampoos to tractors and air conditioners - will cost less when the rejig of the GST is effective from the first day of Navaratri September 22.



Premium paid on individual health and life insurance will be tax-free. A third rate of 40 per cent has been earmarked for a small list of sin goods and ultra-luxury items.



People take part in 'visarjan', immersion, of idols of Lord Ganesha during the 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival, at Girgaon Chowpatty, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Saturday

PM MODI'S LIKELY VISIT TO MANIPUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal/Churachandpur, Sept 6: A grand stage is being erected at Kangla Fort in Manipur's Imphal, while cleaning and painting activities are underway in the area in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to the state next week, officials said Saturday. They remained tight-lipped

Beautification works underway in Imphal

over the objective of the construction and cleaning works at the fort, but said that instructions had been given to complete these tasks at the earliest. The prime minister is likely to visit Manipur September 13, which will be his first tour to the state since ethnic violence broke out between Meiteis and Kukis. "A grand stage is under construction at Kangla Fort in

Imphal. Arrangements are being made to accommodate more than 15,000 people in front of the stage. Cleaning and painting activities inside the fort are also going on," an official said. Kangla Fort serves as the traditional seat of power of the former Manipuri rulers. Congress MLA Thokchom Lokeshwar Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must

meet all the legislators of the state and ensure a solution to the ethnic strife. He also said the government must ensure that no one is harmed if Meitei people pass through the Kangpokpi section of the National Highway 2. The Khundrakpam constituency legislator said Kuki-Zo people should also be allowed to access to the portion of the national highway, where Meiteis have a majority.

Starting September 22, the GST slab structure will change - 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else

"This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST," she said. Starting September 22, the GST slab structure will change - 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else. The existing slab of

12 and 28 per cent rates have been done away with. In the revamped GST structure, most daily food and grocery items will fall under the 5 per cent GST slab with bread, milk and paneer attracting no tax at all. Sitharaman said the reform - the single biggest since the 2017 rollout of the one-nation, one tax regime - has been carried out with a focus on the common man. Every tax on daily use items has gone through a rigorous review and in most cases the rates have come down drastically. While the significant relief in income tax that she gave in her Budget in February this year left more money in the hands of common people, the GST rejig will allow for greater spending, making things more affordable.

"People do understand for example, Rs 100 with which they go to the shop to buy a thing. Today, the same Rs 100 they can buy one and a half of the commodity. Earlier, they bought one," she said. So this rate reduction is going to bring down monthly household ration and medical bills, as well as help aspirational buying like upgrading from car, replacing white goods like refrigerator or washing machine. "There is not going to be one family which is going to be without this positive impact of the GST touching them... 140 crore people are going to benefit from this in one way or the other. So this will boost consumption, and as a result, I think the virtuous cycle will start," she said.

of the day


quote

Our country is in a very bad place. We are the last chance the country has got to get this country back on track




NIGEL FARAGE | POLITICIAN, BRITAIN

We have an auto sector that because of the massive change in US trade policy is under exteme pressure. We recognise that



MARK CARNEY | PM, CANADA

Everyday New Yorkers are not giving up, are not surrendering, so their mayor is not going to do that



ERIC ADAMS | MAYOR, NEW YORK CITY

SHORT TAKES

Floods kill 50, impact 4mn in Pak's Punjab

Lahore: Floods in Pakistan's Punjab province have killed 50 people and impacted around four million others since August 23, officials said Saturday. The province with a population of 130 million people has been witnessing torrential rainfall since mid-August, resulting in almost all rivers and tributaries flowing over danger levels. "Around four million people in Punjab have been affected/displaced by the floods so far. Around 1.84 million people trapped in floodwaters have been relocated to safety, while 1.34 million animals have been relocated," Punjab's Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Irfan Ali Kathia told a press conference here.

US unemployment rate near 4-yr high

Washington: US job growth weakened sharply in August and the unemployment rate increased to nearly a four-year high of 4.3%, confirming that labor market conditions were softening and sealing the case for a Federal Reserve interest rate cut later this month. The Labor Department's closely watched employment report Friday also showed the economy lost jobs in June for the first time in four and a half years, fanning fears of economic stagnation. Job growth has slowed since April, with economists blaming President Donald Trump's policies, mainly tariffs on imports, an immigration crackdown and mass firings of public workers. "The economy is skating as close to the edge of recession as you can get," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS. "Companies are clearly hunkering down and refusing to hire and the blame can be traced back to Washington's economic agenda. The only medicine to help is a rate cut from the Fed."

Egg thrown at Khan's sister outside jail

Lahore: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's sister was hit with an egg in Punjab province Friday, police said. The incident took place when Aleema Khan was talking to reporters outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, where her brother is incarcerated. Social media footage showed Aleema being hit with an egg. Soon after, supporters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party overpowered two women accused of throwing eggs at her and handed them over to the police. A statement issued by Ralwalpindi police said that the two arrested women are PTI supporters who had "travelled to Rawalpindi with other members of the All-Government's Employees Grand Alliance to protest for their unmet demands".

Canadian cash behind Khalistani terror

The report titled '2025 Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks in Canada' has identified the Khalistani extremist groups receiving financial support originating from Canada as Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ottawa, Sept 6: At least two Khalistani extremist groups have received financial support originating from Canada, according to a new Canadian government report on terror financing. The report titled '2025 Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks in Canada' has identified the Khalistani extremist groups receiving financial support originating from Canada as Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation. The development comes two months after a report by Ottawa's intelligence agency said a politically motivated violent extremism threat in Canada since



the mid-1980s has manifested through Khalistani extremists seeking to use violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan within India's Punjab. The latest report said the 'Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE)' encourages "the use of violence to establish new political systems, or new structures and norms within existing systems." "While PMVE may include religious elements, actors are more focused on political self-determination or representation, rather than racial or ethnic supremacy," it said. Several terrorist entities listed under the Criminal Code in Canada that fall under the PMVE category, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Khalistani violent extremist groups Babbar Khalsa International and the International

Sikh Youth Federation, have been observed by law enforcement and intelligence agencies to receive financial support originating from Canada, the report pointed out. In 2022, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada's (FINTRAC) Operational Alert on Terrorist Activity Financing had identified Hezbollah as the second most frequently identified international terrorist entity to receive outgoing Canadian funds. The 2025 Assessment report detailed the PMVE financing methods too and said Hamas and Hezbollah are established and well-resourced groups that fall under the PMVE category. "These groups use diverse funding methods to sustain their operations, including the abuse of the money services businesses (MSB) and banking

- Illegal drug trafficking remains the highest money laundering threat in Canada, followed by fraud, commercial trade fraud and trade-based money laundering, and tax crimes

■ The report appeared to have vindicated New Delhi's consistent position that pro-Khalistani elements in Canada have been carrying out anti-India activities with impunity

sectors; use of cryptocurrencies; state financing; abuse of the charitable and non-profit organisations (NPO) sector; and criminal activity. "Khalistani extremist groups supporting violent means to establish an independent state within Punjab, India, are suspected of raising funds in a number of countries, including Canada. These groups previously had an extensive fundraising network in Canada but now appear to consist of smaller pockets of individuals with allegiance to the cause but seemingly no particular affiliation to a specific group," the report revealed. Abuse of non-profit and charitable activities was a common concern for the organisations mentioned. "The misuse of the charitable and NPO sectors has been observed as a prominent financing method used by Hamas and Hezbollah. Khalistani violent

extremist groups have also been known to use networks to solicit donations from diaspora communities to raise and move funds, including through NPOs," it pointed out. Despite these observations, it is estimated that revenue generation through NPO abuse represents a relatively small percentage of operational budgets of terrorist groups overall, it clarified. Illegal drug trafficking remains the highest money laundering threat in Canada, followed by fraud, commercial trade fraud and trade-based money laundering, and tax crimes, the report said. "These threats are each estimated to involve billions of dollars in illicit proceeds annually in Canada," it added. The latest report comes two months after the Canadian Security Intelligence Service's report for 2024, released June 18, said ongoing involvement in violent activities by Canada-based Khalistani extremists continues to pose a national security threat to Canada and Canadian interests. "Since the mid-1980s, the PMVE threat in Canada has manifested primarily through Canada-based Khalistani extremists seeking to use and support violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan, largely within Punjab, India," it had said.

Israel tells starving Gazans to evacuate

More than 64,000 Palestinians have since been killed in Gaza, with much of the enclave reduced to ruins and its residents facing a humanitarian crisis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Sept 6: Israel's army called Saturday on Palestinians in Gaza City to move to a humanitarian area it designated in the south as it expanded its operations in preparation for seizing the famine-stricken city, including targeting high-rise buildings. Parts of the city, home to nearly 1 million people, are already considered "red zones," where evacuation orders have



been issued ahead of the expected offensive. Aid groups have repeatedly warned that a large-scale evacuation of Gaza City would exacerbate the dire humanitarian situation, after the world's leading authority on food crises declared the city to be gripped by famine, Palestinians have been uprooted and displaced multiple times during the nearly two-year-long war, with many being too weak to move and having nowhere to go. Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee wrote in X that the army declared Muwasi — a makeshift tent camp in southern Gaza Strip — a humanitarian area and urged everyone in the city, which it called a Hamas stronghold and specified as a combat zone, to leave. The army said they could travel in cars down a designated road without being searched. The military, in a statement, provided a map showing the area in Khan Younis that the humanitarian area encompasses, which includes the block where Nasser Hospital is located. The area around the hospital has been considered a red zone, though not the medical facility itself.

Iran paves over 1979 mass grave, builds parking lot

The cemetery has long been a resting place for some of the most famous Iranians since 1979 — and a point where history turned for the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 6: A desert-like patch of sand and scrawny trees in the largest cemetery in Iran's capital has been the final resting place for decades for some of the thousands killed in the mass executions that followed Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Now, Lot 41 at the sprawling Behesht-e Zahra cemetery in Tehran is becoming a parking lot, with their remains likely buried beneath asphalt. Images from Planet Labs PBC show the parking lot being laid over the site, where opponents of Iran's nascent theocracy and others were rapidly buried following their executions at gunpoint or by hanging. The site, long monitored by surveillance cameras searching for any sign of dissent or

remembrance at what officials have referred to as the "scorched section," has seen state-sponsored demolition in the past, with grave markers vandalised and overturned. Iranian officials have acknowledged the recent decision to build the parking, without going into detail about those buried there. "Most of the graves and gravestones of dissidents were desecrated, and the trees in the section were deliberately dried out," said Shahin Nasiri, a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam who has researched Lot 41. "The decision to convert this section into a parking lot fits into this broader pattern and represents the final phase of the destruction process." Last week, both a Tehran deputy mayor and the cemetery's manager acknowledged the plans to create a parking lot on the site. The satellite photos show the work began in earnest at the start of August. An August 18 image shows about half of Lot 41 freshly paved over, with construction material still on site. Trucks and piles of asphalt can

REUTERS

Seoul, Sept 6: South Korean President Lee Jae Myung ordered all-out efforts Saturday to swiftly respond to the arrests of hundreds of the nation's citizens in a US immigration raid on a Hyundai Motor car battery factory. Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said the government has set up a team to respond to Thursday's

arrest of over 300 Koreans at the facility in the southern state of Georgia and that he may go to Washington to meet with officials if needed. "I am deeply concerned. I feel heavy responsibility for the arrests of our citizens," Cho told an emergency government meeting. The incident could exacerbate tensions between the Trump ad-

ISLAMIC REVOLUTION



UN special rapporteur in 2024 described Iran's destruction of graveyards as an effort to "conceal or erase data that could serve as potential evidence to avoid legal accountability" over its actions

be seen at the site, suggesting work continued. The reformist newspaper Shargh quoted Mohammad Ja-

vad Tajik, who oversees the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, as saying the parking lot would help people visit a neighbouring lot,

TRUMP ANNOUNCES G20 SUMMIT AT HIS GOLF CLUB

United States President Donald Trump Friday confirmed the Group of 20 (G20) world leaders will come together for the 2026 summit at his Doral golf club near Miami in southern Florida, nearly five years after fury emerged over his plan to host it in 2020



Modi to skip General Debate at UN session in US amid tensions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly later this month, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued here. The 80th session of the UN General Assembly will open September 9. The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US. US President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House. According to a revised provisional list of speakers for the high-level General Debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly released Friday, India will be represented by a 'minister'. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the session September 27. According to a previous provisional list of speakers issued in July, Modi was scheduled to address the General Debate September 26. The heads of government of Israel, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh are scheduled to address the UNGA General Debate September 26. Modi had travelled to the US in February this year for a bilateral meeting with Trump at the White House in Washington. Trump has imposed tariffs totalling 50 per cent on India, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil. The UNGA list of speakers for the General Debate is provisional and there is always possibility of changes in schedules and speakers ahead of the commencement of the high-level week. The list will continue to be updated accordingly. The session this year comes amid the continued Israel-Hamas war as well as the Ukraine conflict. The theme for the 80th session is 'Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights'. The session will open with a meeting to 'Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations' September 22.

WORKERS SHACKLED

A video released by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement showed Asian workers shackled at the wrists, waist,

In this place, hypocrites of the early days of the revolution were buried and it has remained without change for years

DAVOOD GOUDARZI | DEPUTY MAYOR, TEHRAN

where authorities plan to bury those killed in the Iran-Israel war in June. A major airstrike campaign by Israel killed prominent military generals and others, with government officials putting the death toll at more than 1,060 people killed, with an activist group putting it at over 1,190. The decision to re-purpose the graveyard appears to clash with Iran's own regulations, which allow for a cemetery to re-purpose land where internments took place after more than 30 years — as long as families of the dead agree with the decision. An outspoken lawyer in Iran, Mohsen Borhani, publicly criticised the decision to pave over the graveyard as neither moral nor legal in an interview with Shargh. "The piece was not only for executed and political people. Ordinary people were

buried there, too," he reportedly said. It remains unclear whether human remains sit beneath the layer of asphalt or if Iranian authorities moved the bones of the dead there. However, Iran has destroyed other graveyards in recent years for those killed in its 1988 mass execution that saw thousands put to death, leaving their bones there. Authorities have also vandalised cemeteries for the Baha'i, a religious minority in the country long targeted, and those home to protesters who have died in recent nationwide protests against Iran's theocracy from the 2009 Green Movement to the 2022 Mahsa Amini demonstrations. "Impunity for atrocities and crimes against humanity has been building for decades in the Islamic Republic," said Hadi Gaemi, the executive director of the New York-based Centre for Human Rights in Iran. "There is a direct line between the massacres of the 1980s, the gunning down of demonstrators in 2009, and the mass killings of protesters in 2019 and 2022."

of the day

quote

VinFast, Saturday for-ayed into the passenger vehicle sector with the introduction of two electric models. Our chairman wants to bring the whole ecosystem of Vingroup into India




PHAM SANH CHAU | CEO, VINFAST ASIA

This new investment reflects our ongoing mission to improve patient lives by embed-ding cutting-edge technologies into every aspect of our work



SIVA PADMANABHAN | MD, ASTRAZENECA INDIA PVT LTD

The Wangch-hu hydroelec-tric project will critically meet Bhutan's peak winter demand, when hydro power generation is low. During the summer months, it would export power to India



SB KHYALIA | CEO, ADANI POWER

SHORT TAKES

Auto price cut

New Delhi: Post GST cuts, many auto companies have decided to reduce the prices. Earlier Tata had declared a price cut and now Renault India Saturday said it will reduce prices of its vehicles by up to ₹96,395 to pass on full benefit of the recent GST rate cut to buyers. The GST Council, earlier this week, approved limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent, effective from September 22. Similarly, Mahindra & Mahindra on Saturday said it has reduced prices of its passenger vehicle range by up to ₹1.56 lakh with immediate effect in order to pass on GST rate cut benefit to customers. The price cut follows the announcement of revamped GST at the 56th GST Council meeting held on September 3, 2025, the Mumbai-based auto major said in a statement. The revised prices for all applicable ICE portfolios are effective from September 6, 2025, and will be transparently updated across dealerships and digital platforms, it added. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Saturday said it is reducing prices of its vehicles by up to ₹3.49 lakh to pass on the benefits of GST rate cut to customers. The revised prices will come into effect from September 22, 2025. Price of Glanza hatchback is expected to come down by up to ₹85,300, Taisor by ₹1.11 lakh, Rumion by ₹48,700, Hryyder by ₹65,400, Crysta by ₹1.8 lakh, Hycross by ₹1.15 lakh and Fortuner by ₹3.49 lakh. Similarly, Legendre price is expected to reduce by ₹3.34 lakh, Hilux by ₹2.52 lakh, Camry by ₹1.01 lakh and Vellfire by ₹2.78 lakh, TKM said.

Simple process for low claims

New Delhi: The IEPFA has received a set of recommendations from a high-level committee to simplify documentation requirements for low-value claims cases, an official statement said Saturday. The committee comprised representatives from the MCA, the IEPFA, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. Industry associations such as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry, and the Registrar Association of India were also part of the committee. The panel has already submitted its report to the IEPFA, the release said.



“The strong momentum in retail leasing and supply during H1 reflects the sector's resilience and evolving consumer demand. With rising footfalls, robust spending patterns, and a preference for experience-led destinations, retailers are actively expanding their presence across prime and emerging markets

GAURAV BANSAL | AVP AND HEAD LEASING, TREHAN IRIS

LENOVO EXPANDS ITS PORTFOLIO

Lenovo showcased a comprehensive range of new business workstations, gaming devices, tablets, and professional displays at its Innovation World 2025 event in Berlin, emphasizing its design prowess and artificial intelligence integration across its product lineup. The business portfolio now includes new ThinkPad P-series mobile workstations featuring Intel's latest Core Ultra processors with integrated neural processing units (NPUs) for AI acceleration



First telecom system with India made chips gets TEC certification

The milestone indicates progress in reducing reliance on imported semiconductors, a vulnerability highlighted by recent global shortages



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 6: Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that a telecom system using only domestically-produced chips has received certification from the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC).

The minister praised the development on X (social media platform), describing it as a “big leap” for the country's semiconductor industry. The minister wrote on X, "Big leap for India's semiconductor story! In a first, a telecom system running on 'made in India' chips has cleared the standards & quality tests (TEC certification)."

TEC certification is the Department of Telecommunications' quality benchmark; ensuring telecom equipment meets strict performance and safety standards. Along with the nod for domestic rollout, the approval has positioned India's local chips alongside global counterparts, opening export opportunities.

The milestone indicates progress in reducing reliance on imported semiconductors, a vulnerability highlighted by recent global shortages. Analysts say India's strategy of enhancing capacity in design, assembly, testing, and integration allows it to address supply

chain gaps.

As Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, China, and the US dominate chip production, their concentration creates supply chain risks, which India seeks to mitigate.

Semiconductor equipment manufacturer ASML Holding NV, a global leader in semiconductor lithography, has recently announced its intention to strengthen its partnership with Indian businesses in the upcoming year.

The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched in 2021 with a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme worth ₹76,000 crore to boost domestic manufacturing and design in the semiconductor sector.

Approved projects under this scheme total 1.60 lakh crore, including 'Tata Electronics' ₹1,000 crore fab in Dholera, Micron's 22,516 crore packaging facility in Sanand, and CG Power's new OSAT pilot line that started operations in August.

India is focusing on mature nodes in the 28nm–65nm range, essential for telecom, automotive, and industrial applications. India's semiconductor market stood at \$38 billion in 2023 and is expected to hit \$45 to \$50 billion in 2024–25 and \$100 to \$110 billion by 2030. Globally, the semiconductor market is projected to grow to \$1 trillion by the same year.

CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION

Boost to recycling capacity

It is not merely a mining programme, but a strategic blueprint to secure energy security, drive industrial growth, and cement technological independence



New Delhi, Sept 6: The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to boost India's recycling capacity for critical minerals from secondary sources such as e-waste, lithium-ion battery scrap, and end-of-life vehicle parts.

By fostering both new and existing recyclers, the initiative aims to build 270 kilo tonnes annual recycling capacity, produce 40 kilo tonnes of critical minerals, attract around ₹8,000 crore in investments, and generate nearly 70,000 jobs — a strategic step to strengthen supply chain resilience and reduce import dependency, according

to the government.

Critical minerals are fast becoming the oil of the 21st century, scarce, strategic, and fiercely contested. They are the building blocks of a modern economy.

India has set major climate milestones like cutting the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030 (from 2005 levels), sourcing half of its power capacity from non-fossil fuels by the same year, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Central to meeting these targets is the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), launched for a period of seven years from 2024-25 to 2030-31,

lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earths. Beyond ensuring clean energy and electric mobility, the mission is designed to attract investments, foster innovation, and place India at the centre of global supply chains for the industries of tomorrow, according to the government.

As the world pivots to clean energy and advanced technologies, control over critical minerals has become the new frontier of geopolitics.

In January 2025, India responded with the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), launched for a period of seven years from 2024-25 to 2030-31,

Market gains in volatile week amid GST reforms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 6: The Indian equities ended marginally higher this week as initial optimism around Goods and Service Tax (GST) rationalisation trickled down and global trade tensions resurfaced.

Benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex ended the week with a gain of around 0.85 per cent with the focus shifting to mid- and small-cap stocks.

The Nifty IT slipped over 2.5 per cent this week amid concerns of reduced discretionary spending, driven by economic uncertainty, elevated rates, and geopolitical risks. Sector-wise, Nifty Metal and Auto indices gained around 1 per cent each, while Realty and FMCG slipped up to 1.5 per cent on profit booking.

"In contrast to the IT sector, consumer-focused sectors such as auto and FMCG advanced,

supported by expectations that GST cuts will boost domestic consumption and aid demand recovery," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

The upbeat macroeconomic data, hopes of a US Fed rate cut, and positive global cues lend some support to domestic equities. Global bond markets, however, added to the cautionary mood, with German and French 30-year yields hitting decade highs on rising debt and fiscal imbalances in the Eurozone.

Auto majors such as Eicher Motors and M&M rallied 2 per cent each to record highs after GST on vehicles was reduced from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. Among metal sector-related stocks, GMDC jumped 11 per cent to ₹509, while National Aluminium and NMDC gained up to 2 per cent.

Apple's India sales hit record

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 6: US tech giant Apple's annual sales in India touched a record of nearly \$9 billion in FY 2024-25, a report has said.

Apple's devices in the country saw a 13 per cent increase in sales, up from around \$8 billion recorded in the previous year, highlighting rising consumer demand.

The company's flagship devices, iPhones, dominated the sales in India for FY25, with significant growth in demand for MacBook computers as well. The performance provides an advantage to the US-based company as its global mobile device sales have plateaued.

Apple has opened two new stores in Bengaluru and Pune as part of its retail expansion in India this week, anticipating it to be the next key market. Apple is responding to volatile demand and increasing competition in China, its largest overseas market, where sales grew by only 4.4 per cent in the June quarter following two years of declines. In 2024, India ranked as Apple's fourth-largest market worldwide, following the US, China, and Japan.

India is also a key player in Apple's manufacturing strategy. One in five iPhones is now manufactured in India, with Apple expanding production across five factories, including two recently opened plants. The initiative aims to decrease dependence on China



for manufacturing.

India is also becoming central to Apple's manufacturing plans, with one in every five iPhones now being produced in the country.

India has surpassed China to emerge as the leading supplier of smartphones to the United States, driven by Apple's relocation of its operations to India. Apple has scaled up its production capacity in India over the last several years and has dedicated most of its export capacity in the country to supply the US market so far in 2025.

Earlier this week, the company's CEO Tim Cook officially announced the opening of two more official retail outlets in Bengaluru's Hebbal and Pune's Koregaon Park and said the US tech giant was "thrilled" to continue to bring the best of its technology to customers across India at these two new outlets.

Taking to X Thursday, the Apple CEO wrote: "Say hello to Apple Hebbal in Bengaluru and Apple Koregaon Park in Pune! We are thrilled to continue to bring the best of Apple to customers across India at these two new stores."

BoB organises fin mega camp

Bolangir: Bank of Baroda (BoB), one of India's leading public sector banks, organised Mega Camps in Patnagarh and Madhiapali Gram Panchayats (GP) in Bolangir district, Odisha under the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The campaign, running from July 1 to September 30, aims to ensure full coverage of financial inclusion and social security schemes at the GPs and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) level across the country. The programme was graced by the esteemed presence of Debadatta Chand, MD & CEO, BoB; Sarada Prasan Mohanty, Regional Director, RBI, Kavitanjali Sahoo, Sarpanch, Batharla Gram Panchayat (Patnagarh), Shukuru Mahananda, Sarpanch, Madhiapali Gram Panchayat, Swapna Bandopadhyaya, General Manager & Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar, and Debi Prasad Mohanty, Regional Manager, Sambalpur Region, along with senior officials. Sarada Prasan Mohanty emphasised the importance of financial inclusion and ensuring accessible banking services to every citizen, and said, "Awareness of schemes, timely enrollment, and vigilance against digital fraud are as vital as opening accounts. These initiatives can transform rural households into financially secure families." He personally interacted with the participants at both the camps.



Renault unveils New Kiger

Bhubaneswar: Renault India, a subsidiary of the French carmaker Renault Group, has launched the New Kiger, its upgraded compact SUV at Renault Bhubaneswar, Nayapalli here Saturday featuring more than 30 plus enhancements in design, technology, safety, and comfort. New Kiger introduces a bold exterior with redesigned grille, bumpers, LED lighting, and 16-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels, along with a premium dual-tone interior, ventilated seats, and improved noise insulation. Powered by a 100 PS turbocharged engine with best-in-segment torque-to-weight ratio, the SUV also offers naturally aspirated options. Transmission choices include a 5-speed manual, Easy-R AMT, and advanced X-Tronic CVT with D-Step technology. The Turbo variants—Techno and Emotion—are priced between ₹9.99 lakh and ₹11.29 lakh, while naturally aspirated trims range from ₹6.29 lakh to ₹9.14 lakh (ex-showroom). Satish Garg MD Gargson group , Bikash Sarkar GM TPCODL, Niranjana Barik, Regional Head, Union Bank of India, Amulya Ratna Das GM sales Renault Bhubaneswar were there at the ceremony.



Honda launches CB125 Hornet, Shine 100 DX

Bhubaneswar: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) launched two new models—the CB125 Hornet and Shine 100 DX—in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, along with grand customer deliveries. The CB125 Hornet is priced at ₹1,12,000 (introductory, ex-showroom Bhubaneswar) while the Shine 100 DX comes at ₹76,809. Sachin Pawar, Regional Manager, Honda; Rajesh Choudhry, Zonal Manager, Sales; Pratap Singh, Zonal Manager, Service; Rajan Gugnani, Owner of Gugnani Honda and Bubu Samantaray, Owner of Shivam Honda were present at the occasion Aimed at next-generation riders, the CB125 Hornet carries the brand message “Ride Your Rizz,” with a sporty street-style design, aggressive stance, and premium features. Available in four colour options, it is equipped with first-in-segment golden USD front forks, an all-LED lighting system, and a 4.2-inch TFT display with road Sync connectivity for navigation, calls, and SMS alerts. Other highlights include a universal Type-C charger, single-channel ABS with 240mm petal disc, and a 123.94cc OBD2B-compliant engine delivering 8.2 kW power and 11.2 Nm torque, paired with a 5-speed gearbox. The company claims 0–60 km/h in 5.4 seconds, making it the fastest in its class. Carrying forward the legacy of the Shine, the Shine 100 DX is positioned as a reliable commuter motorcycle with the tagline “Solid Hai.” It comes with a refreshed premium look featuring a chrome-garnished headlamp, sculpted fuel tank, stylish body graphics, and chrome muffler cover. Offered in four colours, the model introduces a digital LCD cluster showing real-time mileage, distance-to-empty, and service reminders. Powered by a 98.98cc OBD2B engine with Honda's technology, it produces 5.43 kW power and 8.04 Nm torque, paired with a 4-speed gearbox.



India storm into final

Ruthless India thrash China 7-0 to reach Asia Cup hockey final, to face Korea in summit clash



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), Sept 6: A ruthless India thrashed China 7-0 in their final Super 4s match to storm into the final of the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament here Saturday.

The Indians controlled the game from start to finish and scored through Shilanand Lakra (4th minute), Dilpreet Singh (7th), Mandeep Singh (18th), Raj Kumar Pal (37th), Sukhjeet Singh (39th) and Abhishek (46th, 50th).

India, thus, topped the Super 4s standings with seven points ahead of defending champions Korea, who were second with four points.

India will play five-time champions Korea in Sunday's final for a place in next year's World Cup to be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands.

China and Malaysia will lock horns in the third-fourth place match, also Sunday.

Korea had earlier produced a spirited performance to register a come-from-behind 4-3 win over Malaysia in a must-

win Super 4 match. Against China Saturday, it was complete domination from the Indians throughout the match as the play was mostly inside the Chinese half.

The Indian defence was hard-ly tested in the match as China found it difficult to penetrate the hosts circle. India did not concede a single penalty corner in the match.

The Indians didn't waste to assert their supremacy in the match as they pressed hard from the word go. Their efforts paid dividends in the fourth minute when Shilanand broke the deadlock.

It was skipper Harmanpreet Singh's inch-perfect aerial ball from half line that found Jar-manpreet Singh on the right flank, whose pass was neatly stopped and pushed in by Shilanand.

It was relentless from the Indians as, after scoring, Shilanand earned a penalty corner for his side minutes later.

Harmanpreet's initial flick was saved by Chinese goalkeeper Weihao Wang, but Dilpreet stationed himself at the right

place to find the net from the rebound and double India's lead.

In the 13th minute, Sanjay came tantalizingly close to adding another but his slap shot from the left corner went just wide.

India secured their second penalty corner in the 18th minute and Mandeep made the scoreline 3-0 by scoring from a rebound after Vivek Sagar Prasad's shot was saved by the Chinese custodian.

The Indian attackers were all over the Chinese circle, and in

the 23rd minute, Hardik Singh's fierce shot was kept at bay by an alert Wang.

India continued in the same vein after the change of ends and came close to scoring but Dilpreet's powerful high shot was acrobatically saved by the Chinese goalkeeper's extended hands.

But it didn't take long for India to find the net again with assist from Dilpreet. The goal was set up by Vivek Sagar Prasad, who found Shilanand on the left. Shilanand passed it on to Dilpreet, whose high ball from the left was neatly tapped in by Raj Kumar in the 37th minute. Minutes later, India earned a penalty corner but wasted the chance.

But in the 39th minute, India made it 5-0 through Sukhjeet, who scored with a diving slap shot after being set up Sumit and Dilpreet.

It was raining goals from India as Abhishek registered his name in the scoresheet just after the start of the final quarter after being set up by a fine one-to-one play from Dilpreet and Sukhjeet.

Abhishek scored his second of the day with a fierce reverse hit four minutes later after receiving a fine deflection from Shilanand. Earlier, the defeat against Korea threw Malaysia out of the final race.

EVES BATTLE DEFENDING CHAMPS JAPAN TO DRAW

HANGZHOU: Navneet Kaur struck from a penalty corner seconds before the final hooter as India came from behind twice to hold defending champions Japan to a 2-2 draw in their second pool match of the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here Saturday. In a pulsating pool B match, Hiroka Murayama gave Japan the lead in the 10th minute before India's Rutaja Dadaso Pisal equalised in the 30th minute. Chiko Fujibayashi again put Japan ahead in the 58th minute only to see Navneet restore the parity in the 60th minute. India, who had thrashed Thailand 11-0 in their opening match, play against Singapore in their final pool B match September 8. India are currently ranked 10th in the world while Japan are placed at 12th.



FIDE Grand Swiss: Vaishali in sole lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Sept 6: Defending champion and Grandmaster R Vaishali jumped into sole lead in the women's section as she notched her third straight victory with a win against Olga Bedelka of Austria in the third round of the FIDE Grand Swiss here Saturday.

On a day when Vantika Agrawal found the going tough and went down to Yuxin Song of China, D Harika was held to a draw by Guo Qi of China. Both Vantika and Harika are on 1.5 points apiece while Vaishali enjoys a half point lead over her nearest rivals.

In the open section, world champion D Gukesh punished some audacious play by Spaniard Daniil Yuffa and moved to 2.5 points out of a possible three.

Playing black, Gukesh opted for the Ragozin defense and was pleasantly surprised in the middle game as Yuffa went berserk with his attack.

Winning a piece, Gukesh had to find some defensive moves but white did not have any serious compensation anyway. The Indian ace won an easy game in the end.

It also turned out to be a day when the perseverance of R Pragganandhaa and Arjun Erigaissi paid dividends.

World Championships

Nikhat shines, Lovlina loses on international comeback



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Liverpool, Sept 6: Star Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain endured contrasting outings on their international return, as the two-time champion advanced while the Tokyo Olympics medallist made an early exit from the World Boxing Championships here Saturday.

Nikhat's win was the only silver lining for India on the third day of competition as three others -- Lovlina (75kg), Hitesh Gulia (70kg) and Sanju Khattru (60kg) -- suffered contrasting losses.

Unseeded Nikhat, who had been sidelined by injury since her second-round exit in Paris last August, looked sharp in her comeback fight in the women's 51kg division. She eased past USA's Jennifer Lozano with a commanding 5-0 unanimous decision win in the round of 32.

Showcasing her trademark tactical discipline, 29-year-old Nikhat started cautiously, struggling to connect in the opening exchanges.

But a crisp combination mid-way through the first round settled her nerves. From there, she grew in confidence, using her movement to control distance

and picking her punches with precision to leave little doubt on the judges' scorecards.

She will take on Japanese boxer Yuna Nishinaka in the pre-quarterfinals.

In stark contrast, Lovlina, seeded No.1 in the women's 75kg category, fell flat in her opening contest, losing 0-5 against Turkey's Busra Isildar in the round of 16.

Lovlina's bout descended into a messy affair dominated by clinches, with neither boxer able to establish rhythm. While the Turkish southpaw managed to land occasional scoring blows, Lovlina struggled to find accuracy and was defeated 0-5.

SPIRITED GULIA GOES DOWN

There was disappointment on the men's side as well as debutant Gulia, a two-time World Cup medallist, crashed out in his 70kg category opener.

Seeded third, Gulia suffered a narrow 1-4 defeat after a late lapse proved costly against Netherlands' Finn Robert Bos.

Gulia, who received a first-round bye, entered the contest with growing credentials, having already won gold and silver medals at World Cup events in Brazil and Kazakhstan.

SUPERSTARS OF THE MODERN ERA

SINCARAZ DÉJÀ VU



REUTERS

New York, Sept 6: Carlos Alcaraz took down 24-times major winner Novak Djokovic 6-4 7-6(4) 6-2 with clinical precision Friday to reach the US Open final, prevailing in a blockbuster showdown that packed the house at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Similar crowds can be expected at Flushing Meadows Sunday after the top-ranked Jannik Sinner ensured a scintillating title clash between the young torchbearers of men's tennis by seeing off Canadian 25th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-1 3-6 6-3 6-4.

It will be the pair's third Grand Slam final meeting of the year, after Spaniard Alcaraz saved three matchpoints to keep his French Open title in June, before surrendering his Wimbledon crown to the Italian the following month.

Friday's first semi-final was billed as the hottest ticket in New York and it lived up to the hype, with a scoreline that belied its intensity, as the 2022 champion Alcaraz soaked in deafening cheers on match point.

Djokovic won their two most recent meetings, including in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open earlier this year, but the 38-year-old showed wear and tear against Alcaraz, 16 years his junior.

"It's something that I'm working on, just the consistency on the matches, on the tournaments, on the year in general," stated Alcaraz, who already has

Alcaraz beats Djokovic at the US Open and now meets Sinner for the 3rd Grand Slam final in a row

The duo have split the past eight major trophies and taken 10 of the past 13. Their career totals: Alcaraz owns five Slam titles, Sinner four

five major titles in his career as compared to Sinner's four.

SENSATIONAL SINNER Reigning champion Jannik Sinner expects another "special" occasion when he plays Carlos Alcaraz for the men's US Open title after the Italian

Dabrowski, Routliffe win women's doubles title

Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe won the US Open women's doubles title for the second time in three years, ending Taylor Townsend's whirlwind stint in Flushing Meadows one victory short of what would have been the American's third Grand Slam championship with Katerina Siniakova. Seeded third, Dabrowski and Routliffe beat the top-ranked pair of Townsend and Siniakova 6-4, 6-4 in an entertaining final Friday at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Dabrowski and Routliffe embraced afterward, celebrating Dabrowski's first major triumph since undergoing treatment for breast cancer. She delayed part of that treatment so she could compete at Wimbledon last year, where she and Routliffe reached the final, where they lost to Townsend and Siniakova. "Wild ride: Cancer, broken ribs for both of us," Dabrowski said. "It was crazy, honestly. I'm really proud of us. It was not easy." Townsend became one of the faces of the tournament, thanks to a post-match altercation early in singles play that she wishes never happened.



T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket C'ship from Sept 11-14



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 6: Odisha is gearing up to host the national-level T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship in Puri at the Shri Jagannath Stadium from September 11 to 14.

The tournament is being organized by Sri Jagannath Darshan Charitable Trust in collaboration with T-10 Tennis Ball Cricket Association of India.

In a press conference held Saturday it was informed that the event has received approximately 750 player applications from across Odisha for trials. Cricketers from all over the state who participated in the trials will witness the selection of the top 40 players for Team Odisha and Team Odisha Host.

The teams will arrive in Puri September 10, with the formal opening scheduled for September 11 at 7 am, followed by the first league match at 7:30 am.

The official opening ceremony will commence from 4 to 8 pm September 11, featuring the chief guests and distinguished attendees.

All league matches will take place, with several guests present for the felicitation ceremony September 12 and 13 while all semi-final and final matches will be held, concluding with the closing ceremony starting at 5 PM September 14.

The prestigious event will witness the presence of ministers and eminent personalities who have consented to grace the occasion.

Shreyas to captain strong India A side for multi-day games against Australia A

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 6: Right-handed batter Shreyas Iyer will lead a strong India A squad in the upcoming multi-day games against Australia A. The series kick off from September 16 at the BRSAVB Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, while the second multi-day game will commence September 23.

Iyer is currently playing for West Zone in the Duleep Trophy semi-final match against Central Zone, after having missed out on selection for the Men's T20 Asia Cup, starting in the UAE on September 9.

Apart from Iyer, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Abhimanyu Easwaran, N Jagadeesan, Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel, Prasiddh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed and Devdutt Padikkal are the other prominent players in the squad.



Reddy had been recuperating in the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru after a left knee ligament injury while doing his gym training ahead of the fourth Test against England at Manchester.

BCCI also said senior opener KL Rahul and fast bowler Mohammed Siraj will be added to the squad for the second multi-day match and will replace two players in the squad after the first multi-day game.

Other players in the squad include Harsh Dubey, Ayush Badoni, Tanush Kotian, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar, and Yash Thakur. While Dubey, Kotia and Suthar have been in the India A set-up in the past, it's the first time Badoni, Brar and Thakur are called up to the squad.

The multi-day matches will be followed by three one-day games, scheduled to take place September 30, October 3 and October 5 respectively at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur.

India's dominating display at World Wushu Championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: India produced a strong show at the 17th World Wushu Championship in Brazil with three women entering the finals and two men advancing to the knockout stages.

In the women's category, Aparna showcased brilliant skills, defeating Tharisa Dea Florentina from Indonesia in 52 kg category to secure her place in the final, according to a release shared by Wushu Association of India.

Aparna will next face Ngo Thi Bhuong Nga from Vietnam



Three women enter finals while two men advance to the knockout stages

in the gold medal bout on Sunday.

In 60kg category, Kareena Kaushik displayed exceptional strength and strategy to overcome Nathalia Briqueles Silva from Brazil in her semifinal clash. She will battle against China's Xiaowei Wu for the title.

Alex breaks lap record to clinch pole

REUTERS

Barcelona, Sept 6: Gresini Racing's Alex Marquez claimed his first pole position in nearly 900 days when he stormed to a lap record in qualifying on home turf at the Catalan Grand Prix Saturday.

Alex had last taken pole at the Argentine Grand Prix in April 2023 and he will be joined on the front row by Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo and Ducati's Marc Marquez, who leads younger brother Alex by 175 points in the championship.

"That was really special and really important to be in the front row today, especially because we had a really good

CATALAN GRAND PRIX



pace during the weekend," said a beaming Alex, who has not had a podium finish in the last three rounds.

"Happy we put everything together but now comes the

That was really special and really important to be in the front row today, especially because we had a really good pace during the weekend

ALEX MARQUEZ

important moment -- the sprint race and the long race where the points are there on the table. So we need to be really concentrated."

Quartararo had set the lap record in Q1 to advance to Q2 along with VR46 Racing's Fabio Di Giannantonio, setting the benchmark in the shootout for pole position in the final qualifying session.

The record was first broken by KTM's Pedro Acosta -- in a lap that was later cancelled as the Spaniard had exceeded track limits. In the shimmering late-summer heat, Alex then went even faster with a time of one minute 37.536 seconds as the Gresini garage erupted.

Marc attempted one last qualifying lap to try to snatch pole from his brother but he nearly lost control before producing an incredible save to stay upright, deciding to abandon his attempt. "That front row was the main target. I already understood yesterday and this morning that Alex had a bit more than us, especially in turn four," Marc said.