

LEISURE | P2



UK police crackdown

British police say they had arrested almost 900 people at a demonstration the previous day



Expensive food delivery

Hike in platform fees by Zomato, Swiggy and magicpin is set to make ordering food costlier for millions of users

BUSINESS | P11



Sabalenka crowned

Aryna Sabalenka retains her US Open crown with a battling win over Amanda Anisimova in the US Open women's final

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 159 I www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

Planetarium wall caves in; vehicles damaged



The incident took place close to an 'Ama Bus' stop, where many passengers were waiting for their buses. Though no injuries were reported, the debris fell on at least four parked two-wheelers, leaving their owners frustrated. The vehicle owners also demanded compensation for

Eyewitnesses described a fusion as people rushed to move

fected individuals.

Local residents echoed the outrage, stressing that the decrepit infrastructure around such a high-traffic area poses a serious risk. Many urged the administration to take swift action to repair the wall and reinforce other weak structures around the planetarium.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



call it nation-building the day we get 400-plus seats!

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a batch and Joymalya Bagchi will consider the poll panel's note where it has submitted that 99.5% of the 7.24 crore electors in the draft roll had filed their eligibility documents in the exercise.

Japan PM steps down after poll drubbing

Tokyo: Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced Sunday that he will resign following growing calls from within his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in July's parliamentary election. Ishiba, who took office in October, said he was stepping down as Prime Minister and as the head of his conservative Liberal Democratic Party. Ishiba had resisted demands from opponents further to the right within his own party to resign.

in support of Palestine Action





SPORTS | P12

PAGE 12 | ₹5.00



Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Chaos and commotion gripped the Pathani Samanta Planetarium area near Acharya Vihar Square here Sunday when a portion of the boundary wall of the facility collapsed, damaging several vehicles, according to reports.

the damage.

sudden crash, followed by conaway from the area. "It could have been a tragedy," said a local, pointing to the heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the area.

Vehicle owners attributed the collapse to poor maintenance and alleged negligence by authorities. "This is not just about damage to the vehicles, it's a public safety issue. The authorities need to be held accountable," said one of the af-



SHORT **TAKES**

SC to hear petitions against SIR in Bihar

of petitions challenging the June 24 decision of the Election Commission to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar. A bench of Justices Surya Kant the response of political parties like RJD, AIMIM and other petitioners on

INTERNATIONAL | P10



CHAK DE MOMENT: India's captain Harmanpreet Singh lifts the trophy as he celebrates with teammates during the presentation ceremony after winning the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 final match against Korea at Rajgir in Bihar, Sunday

Total lunar eclipse



AGENCIES

Bengaluru/New Delhi, Sept 7: From Ladakh to Tamil Nadu skywatchers turned their gaze towards the moon Sunday night to witness a rare 'Blood Moon or the total lunar eclipse.

The Earth's shadow started covering the lunar disc at 9:57pm as the Moon played hide and seek in the cloudy skies with monsoon rains lashing parts of the country. Earth's shadow completely covered the Moon at 11:01 pm, turning it coppery red, putting up a rare display of 'Blood Moon'

"The Moon was fully eclipsed from 11:01pm to 12:23am for a duration of 82 minutes," Niruj Mohan Ramanujam, Head of Science, Communication, Public Outreach and Education Section, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, said. Sunday's eclipse was the longest total lunar eclipse visible from India since 2022 and the first since July 27, 2018 to be observed from all parts of the country.

11-year old raped, killed; body dumped in nullah

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bantala (Angul), Sept 7: In yet another incident of alleged rape and murder, the mutilated body of an 11-year-old girl studying in Class V was recovered from a nullah at Shyamsundarpur village in Angul dis trict Sunday, sparking protests and road blockade demanding justice for the victim's family.

The brother of the deceased girl alleged that his sister was murdered after being raped. The girl was seen playing outside but went missing around 3pm Saturday. After an extensive search, her family members lodged a missing complaint at Angul Sadar police station

around 10pm. However, her brother found the girl's body face-down in the creek with injury marks visible on her neck, hands, and ears. His brother alleged that his sister was raped and murdered, citing the cuts and marks on

her body. On being informed, Angul Sadar police and Bantala Fire Services department personnel



Irate villagers stage a road blockade on Angul-Bantala main road at Shabhalbhanga Sunday, demanding justice for the victim's family OP PHOTO

arrived at the scene and recovered the body. The incident sparked tension in the area while enraged villagers blocked the Angul-Bantala main road at Shabhalbhanga. They tried to prevent the police from taking possession of the body for postmortem, according to reports.

They demanded proper investigation into the incident through a scientific team and sniffer dogs. Angul Sadar IIC Mrunal Kal and Sub-Divisional Police Officer Ramakant Mahalik tried to placate the agitated villagers through discussions.

A scientific team and sniffer

dog squad from Angul reached the village and began a probe. Angul Superintendent of Police (SP) Rahul Jain also rushed to the spot and took stock of the

situation. The SP assured the villagers that he will personally oversee the investigation and promised to apprehend the culprits within a period of seven days. He also said he would ensure strict

CLASS IX GIRL RAPED

Phulbani: A Class IX girl was allegedly raped inside a car by a man in Kandhamal district, police said Sunday. According to police, the incident occurred Friday evening when the girl visited her elder sister's home and later went to Darıbadi market to witness Ganesl Puja immersion procession. While returning home, she accepted a lift from a man, who allegedly raped he inside the vehicle, an official said, citing the complaint filed at Daringbadi police station. Police have recorded the girl's statement and conducted her medical examination. The accused, a married man, is currently absconding, police added. Kandhamal SP Harisha BC said "The investigation is on. We will nab the

punishment to the culprits. The villagers lifted the road

blockade after five hours. Angul tehsildar Alok Kumar Dehuri provided ₹20,000 to the victim's family from the district Red Cross fund. Angul IIC Dhiresh Das and Bantala police station IIC Natabar Nanda assisted the police in the investigation and sent the body to the district headquarters hospital in Angul for postmortem.

Russia hits Ukraine govt building; 4 dead

Kyiv, Sept 7: Russia hit Ukraine's capital with drones and missiles Sunday in the largest aerial attack since the war began, killing four people across the country and damaging a key government building.

Russia attacked with 810 drones and decoys, Ukraine's air force said, adding it shot down 747 drones and four missiles.

Associated Press reporters saw a plume of smoke rising from the roof of Kyiv's government headquarters. It was not immediately clear if the smoke was the result of a direct hit or debris, which would mark an escalation in Russia's air campaign, which has so far spared government buildings in the

The building is the home of Ukraine's Cabinet and its ministers. Police blocked access to the building as fire trucks and

ambulances arrived. Yuriy Ihnat, an air force spokesperson, confirmed to The Associated Press that Sunday's attack was the largest Russian drone strike since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Russia also launched 13 missiles. Hits from nine missiles and 54 drones were recorded at 33 locations across Ukraine.

BIGGEST AIRSTRIKE

- Russia launches 810 drones and 13 missiles
- Ukrainian downs 751 drones and 4 missiles
- Those killed include a woman and her 3-monthold child

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that four people were killed and 44 wounded. He said he spoke on the phone with French Presi dent Emmanuel Macron about the attack. "Together with France, we are preparing new measures to strengthen our de fence," Zelenskyy said.

Marcon earlier Sunday accused Russia of "striking indiscriminately" and said Moscow "is locking itself ever deeper into the logic of war and terror.

Those killed were a mother and her 3-month-old child, whose bodies were dug out of the rubble, said Tymur Tkachenko, the head of Kviv's city administra tion. At least 10 locations in Kyiv were damaged, he added. Direct drone hits struck a nine-storey residential building in Kyiv's Sviatoshynskyi district and a four-storev residential building in Darnytskyi district.

Anuparna Roy scripts history at Venice Film Fest

The 82nd Venice Film Festival concluded Saturday, with Indian filmmaker Anuparna Roy scripting history by winning the Best Director award in the Orizzonti section for her debut feature – 'Songs of Forgotten Trees'. Roy became the first Indian director to receive this honour in the section, bringing international attention to Indian cinema

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Filmmaker Anuparna Roy, who made her debut with 'Songs of Forgotten Trees', bagged the Best Director award at the Venice

International Film Festival. Presented by filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, the film premiered in the festival's

prestigious Orizzonti Compe-

tition section, an internation-

al competition for films that

highlight new trends, with a focus on debut works, young talents, indie features, and lesser-known cinema, September 1.

Roy said the film is a tribute to all the women who are "silenced, overlooked, or underestimated" "This film is a tribute to ev-

ery woman who's ever been

silenced, overlooked, or un-

derestimated. May this win

inspire more voices, more sto-

ries, and more power for women in cinema and beyond," she said in a statement.

During her acceptance speech, the filmmaker spoke on the ongoing Israel and Palestine conflict. Supporting Palestine, Roy said it's "a responsibility to stand by Palestine".

"Every child deserves peace, freedom, liberation and Palestinians are no exception... it's a responsibility at the moment to stand by Palestine. I might upset my country but it doesn't matter to me anvmore," she said according to the entertainment news outlet

'Songs of Forgotten Trees' follows the story of Thooya, a migrant and aspiring actress, who survives the city by leveraging beauty and wit, occasionally trading intimacy for opportunity.

When she sublets her sugar daddy's upscale apartment to Swetha, a fellow migrant working a corporate job, the two women-seemingly from different worlds-begin to share more than just a space. Amid the relentless pulse of Mumbai.

they discover a silent empathy. 'But as personal histories, desires, and wounds resurface, their delicate connection is tested. What follows is not a rupture, but a strange and tender unfolding-of selfhood, of survival, of unexpected kinship," according to the official synopsis. The film stars Naaz Shaikh and Sumi Baghel.

Produced by Bibhanshu Rai. Romil Modi and Ranjan Singh. the cast also includes Bhushan

Shimpi, Ravi Maan, Pritam Pilania and Lovely Singh. It features cinematography by Debjit Samanta, editing by Ashish Patel and music by Nishant Ramteke The Venice International Film Festival concluded Sat-

Isure



JONATHAN BAILEY TO TAKE SABBATICAL FROM ACTING

Bridgerton star Jonathan Bailey says he is planning to take a break from his acting career and focus on his non-profit organisation, The Shameless Fund. The organisation works towards helping the LGBTQ+ community by partnering with major global brands.

OLIVIA WILDE FINDS LOVE AGAIN

Hollywood actress-director Olivia Wilde has found love. The actress-director is said to be dating Caspar Jopling. The 41-year-old star, whose last serious relationship was with Harry Styles, was spotted passionately kissing Ellie Goulding's ex-husband during a night out in London, reports Female First UK.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You may want to tap your feet to a beat only you can hear. Life for you today is sunny. You're able to take quick decisions, while other major ones may be kept on hold. Dance your way home, if that's what pleases you, says Ganesha.

The desire to rule your community, your neighbourhood is likely to get hold of you, today. Don't get carried away by the idea and go bossing around. No one is likely to appreciate your acting high and mighty. Be sure. You will be creating a lot of enemies. Ganesha urges you to reject such thoughts and wait for the evening.

You will be more busy with religious pursuits rather than work today. Religious rituals, charity, philanthropic work, service to the needy, these are some of the issues that will take up your time today. You will feel the need to go to a place of worship today and spend some time there to get mental peace and calm, says Ganesha.

CANCER

The day may not see you in best of the moods, yet you will manage to remain congenial, assures Ganesha. As a boss, you will be authoritative in your actions and that's not a bad thing at all. Although, on most occasions you are a lenient leader, today you will not spare the rod for those who cross lines. On the downside, throughout the day your peers may be suspicious of you

A good deed is never wasted.

Remember this as today, you shall find yourself in the incredible position of being of invaluable assistance to someone in need, says Ganesha. So lend out that helping hand and be assured that your generosity will not be forgotten. On a personal front, you may feel bothered by some minor problem in relationships, but do not fret too much.

VIRGO First make an assessment of your situation today, and only

then make your move, warns Ganesha. You may loosen your limbs in the afternoon, and relieve yourself of the ourden that has piled up on your work table. However, Ganesha advises you to act wisely and use your extensive experience when it comes to sealed bids and tenders.

Today, you seem to have the Midas touch, so every task you take in your hands is bound to be a success. You may also want to take time out to spend with your loved ones and

SCORPIO The scales await you as many

important decisions in life come calling for judgement today. Later in the day, sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards. In the workplace, reputation and rewards may come for previous efforts. You are likely to remain energetic, enthusiastic and capable all throughout the day.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees that today, you shall be more selfless and careful than ever. You might be slated to make some profit by involving yourself in shared actions. However, it comes naturally to you to mix business with pleasure, and you shall make the most of it.

CAPRICORN

You may have a good control over your temper, but Ganesha says you are very likely to lose it today, and most likely, at work. For this one day, think before you say anything and avoid getting into any sort of arguments or scuffle. Make sure you take measured steps, for it may not be a very good day, but you can do your bit to prevent it from getting worse.

AQUARIUS

That is only a reflection and not the moon in your soup bowl! Be reasonable in your expectations, advises Ganesha, and give happiness a chance. You may learn an important lesson from your beloved, while your associates will be friendly

PISCES

You will be at your wit's end today, grappling with financial issues. You will decide to multiply your savings and increase your income by whatever means possible. The good news being you will find it easy to implement your new plans and schemes. Your friends could have some vital insights to share with you about your finances, says Ganesha.

31ST GKCM AWARD FEST- DAY III

Bharatanatyam & Odissi leave audiences spellbound



BHUBANESWAR: The third evening of the 31st Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GK-CM) Award Festival 2025 mesmerised audiences at Rabindra Mandap Sunday with exceptional performances in Bharatanatyam and Odissi, beautifully blending tradition with creative innovation.

The evening began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by eminent Mardala player Dhaneswar Swain, renowned Odissi dancer and Secretary of Orissa Dance Academy Aruna Mohanty, Srjan Director Ratikant Mohapatra, and other dignitaries.

The programme opened with Dashamahavidya, a Bharatanatyam presentation by the Guru-Shishya duo Samrat Dutta and Santanu Roy from Kolkata. Conceptualised and choreographed by Dutta, the piece depicted the ten forms of Parashakti through Tantra, portraying the journey

MUMBAI: Kritika Kamra, who tran-

sitioned from television to films and

OTT platforms, recently spoke out

about the unequal treatment

of TV actors compared to

In a recent inter-

view, she highlighted

how the industry cat-

egorises actors based

on the medium they

work in, creating a

hierarchy of respect.

I did not believe

in this dis-

tinction of

small and

big screen

actors."

she

"For the longest time,

those in films.

Kritika calls for fairness

of human life toward spiritual fulfilment. Set to Dasa-Ragamalika and Talamalika, the performance explored the nine rasas, enhanced by a talented ensemble including KG Prasad (vocals), Mohana Iyer (nattuvangam), and Shankar Narayananswami (mridangam).

The second half featured a vibrant Odissi group presentation by Chinmayee Dwaraknath and artistes of the Temple of Fine Arts (TFA), Coimbatore. Starting with Vinayaka Smarane, an invocation to Lord Ganesha, the group progressed to Rama Bhaian. based on Tulsidas's devotional work and concluded with Mrutyunjaya, inspired by the vision of their founder, Swami Shantanand Saraswathi. Choreographed by Ratikant Mohapatra and Dwaraknath, the performance merged lyrical devotion with dramatic expression.

The festival will continue with the the-

shared. "I thought it was just a rough

sorting, but even respect is catego-

Kamra pointed out that acting in

gitimate, resulting in TV actors

being overlooked for national

awards. "Acting on TV is not

considered a craft," she re-

marked, echoing concerns

raised by other actors like

Rupali Ganguly. She also

criticised how TRPs influ-

ence storylines and argued

and script quality

tigious

that constant filming affects

character development

By not recognising

platforms,

TV actors at pres-

Kamra believes the

industry is indirectly

stating that television

professionals aren't

artists. "There's an

unsaid understand-

ing that it's a profitable job, but there

isn't art in that,'

she explained.

daily soaps is often seen as less le-

rised that way.

atre presentation Byaghra Rohan by Nalini Nihar Navak and Newquest Repertory. The festival has been curated, conceptualised, and designed by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, with flawless execution by Debiprasad Mishra and seamless proceedings conducted by Mrutyunjaya Rath.

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



MUMBAI: Sreeleela fondly recalls the special bond she shares with her grandparents, who remain her biggest source of love and strength.

"Ice cream trips with my grandfather and my grandmother's comforting meals are memories I've always cherished," she says. Growing

up, spending time with them was non-negotiablefrom celebrating Sankranti to summer holidays at their home in Ongole. "Even though I lived in Bengaluru, my most important shopping was always with my granddad in a small town," she smiles. Her granddad, Nageswara Rao, would turn sum-

Sreeleela's source

of love, strength

mer breaks into fun learning sessions by having her teach local kids under a tree. In contrast, her grandma, Chenchu Lakshmi, is full of warmth and mischief. "We are like Tom and Jerry," she laughs, adding that her grandma's cooking remains her

Sreeleela credits her grandfather for encouraging her film career. "Whenever I feel confused, he's the one I turn to for guidance," she shares. AGENCIES

ANANYA on body positivity

Ananya Panday, known for being open about mental health and self-love, recently shared her thoughts on body positivity during an appearance on the New York Institute of Fashion (NIF) Podcast. She candidly discussed her

struggles with body shaming and how she manages criticism with compassion. "I don't think I would say anything because if you respond, you're giving in to negativity. I believe in kindness, so I wouldn't want to be unkind in return. Working on and loving yourself is the best reply," she said. Ananya empha-

sised that body positivity isn't achieved overnight but is a continuous journey. "Even for me, it's a process. It's not like I've mastered self-love," she admitted. She also spoke about the challenges of being constantly judged as an "You're actor. almost naked in front of people; building confidence and being kind to yourself is crucial," she shared. The actress

further vealed how she often questions her body image, feeling sometimes too skinnv or not skinny

that self-acceptance is a journey. Her heartfelt reflections have resonated widely, with fans praising her honesty and encouraging message. Ananwords continue to inspire young audiences to embrace self-love and kindness.

enough, but reminds herself



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**

Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 7 Near the

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- 9 Weather forecast
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- 12 Go-between
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23 Means of

escape

24 Prestige

<u>Down</u>

- 1 Leans to one side
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- 5 Type of sprout 6 Extreme
- 14 Rock group follower 16 Faint (4,3)

8 Enchantress

(5,6)

13 Party items

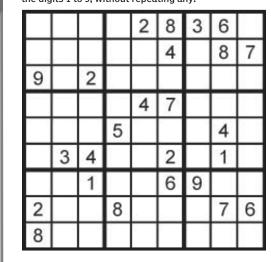
beginning (5,2)

- 18 Fab Four drummer
- 20 Chasm 22 Aardvark's morsel

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



owntown

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



STATE MOOTS DRAFT PARKING POLICY

Demand-based parking, public transport push



Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The state government's draft parking policy proposes demand-based charges and promotion of sustainable mobility options such as walking, cycling, and public transport. Issued Sunday, the draft also calls for structured regulation of parking in cities, efficient land use, adoption of smart technology, and alignment with environmental goals.

Unregulated parking has emerged as one of the most pressing concerns in the state's urban areas, and to ad-

dress this, the policy is being designed to regulate on-street and off-street parking through a structured system, said the statement issued by the Housing and Urban Development department.

Odisha Urban Academy, under the Housing and Urban Development department, organised a consultative workshop on the draft policy recently. The deliberations focused on

creating a comprehensive policy framework that will enable better management of parking, reduce congestion, and support safe and liveable cities.

Discussions were held on

strategies to regulate both onstreet and off-street parking, introduce demand-based pricing and promote sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling, and public transit.

The workshop highlighted the importance of collaborative governance and the need to incorporate modern mobility trends and private sector involvement in the policy's implementation. H&UD department special

secretary Rajesh Pravaakar Patil outlined the policy's objectives and its role in enhancing traffic management, improving safety, and creating more liveable urban environments. He emphasised the policy's alignment with the vision of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to develop inclusive, people-friendly, and sustainable urban spaces.

Once finalised, the policy will serve as a guiding document for all civic bodies in the state to implement efficient, transparent, and sustainable parking

Work with positive thoughts: Satpathy

Keonjhar, Sept 7: "For every negative comment you receive remember that there are a hundred positive ones in your favour. Always work with positive thoughts," said Tathagata Satpathy, Editor of **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** while inaugurating the maiden Odisha Climate Conclave 2025 at Fakirpur CT School campus in Keonjhar district Sunday.

The conclave brought together environmentalists, researchers, teachers, students, and intellectuals from across Odisha to de liberate on the escalating impact of climate change and explore sustainable solutions suited to the state's unique needs.

Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Advasha Satpathy also addressed the conclave, emphasising the urgency of environmental challenges and describing climate change as a natural disaster impacting modern society.

Assistant Professor at Anan dapur Anchalika Training College, Sabita Jena urged people to curb their material needs, while, Principal of the Elementary Teacher Education Institute, Fakirpur Kartikeshwar Roul highlighted the crucial role of youth in environmental protection.

Environmentalist Saroj Kumar Sahu underlined the deep trees and culture, while Bailochan Sutar noted that lifestyle changes are essential for protecting the environment.

ODISHA CLIMATE CONCLAVE

Organiser Trilochan Sahoo said that environmental protection is achievable if individuals-particularly the youthcommit to making practical changes in their daily lives.

More than 150 nature lov ers, students and scholars from various regions and districts of Odisha participated in the event.

Anil Kumar Sahoo deliv ered the vote of thanks, while organiser Sahoo expressed gratitude to all guests and participants for making the conclave a success

Contraband worth ₹1.42 crore seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Odisha Excise department carried out intensive enforcement drives across the state September 6, seizing illicit goods worth ₹1.42 crore. The raids resulted in 264 cases being registered and 183 arrests.

During the drive, enforce-

ment teams registered 17 NDPS cases and seized 251 kilograms of ganja, 317 grams of brown sugar and nine kilograms of bhang. Simultaneously, they seized and destroyed large volumes of illicit liquor and brewing material, including 9723 BL of ID liquor, 60630 BL of fermented wash.

The operations covered both rural and urban areas, targeting illegal manufacture and supply networks, with concealed stockpiles being dismantled on the spot. The Department reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining this momentum in the coming weeks to curb the menace of illicit liquor and narcotics and to safeguard

Cong slams BJP over SC/ST Atrocities Act

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sunday accused the BJP-led state government of attempting to dilute the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Act through unconstitutional amendments. The party demanded the withdrawal of provisions granting lower-rank officers the power to investigate SC/ST atrocity cases.

Senior Congress leaders including OPCC secretary Anima Minj, OPCC secretary Mohan Hembram, state SC department general secretary Srivatsa Mallick, and several other functionaries were present at the press meet at Congress Bhawan here.

Addressing a presser OP-CC SC department chairman Manas Mallick said that the Act framed by the then Congress government in 1995 to ensure justice for historically oppressed communities is a central law and only Parliament has the authority to amend or alter its provisions.

Mallick pointed out that un-



Act, investigation of cases must be carried out by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) or an officer of higher rank, who is expected to possess the experience and sensitivity required to complete investigations within 60 days and file a chargesheet. "However, August 30, the

state Home department issued a notification permitting inspectors and sub-inspectors at police stations to investigate such cases. This violates the intent of the Act and will deprive thousands of Dalit and Adivasi victims of iustice." Mallick alleged.

He warned that giving investigation powers to lower-rank officers would result in widespread denial of FIR registration, thereby emboldening per-

Inter-state cyber fraud racket busted; 5 nabbed

Bhubaneswar: Five persons, including two women, were arrested in Bhubaneswar Sunday as an inter-state cyber fraud racket was busted, police said. A fallout among the members of the gang over the share of crime proceeds led to a kidnapping, unravelling the entire case, they said. Those arrested were identified as Bhagban Sahu (21), Amitarani Rout (50), her son Chiranjiv and daughter Akankhya (both 21), and Samir Kumar Bhuvey (35), a native of Bihar's Nalanda. Bhuvey, the mastermind of the racket, operated three bank accounts of Amitarani for committing cyber fraud in various states. And in return, she was getting 1.4 per cent as commission DCP Jagmohan Meena said. They sealed this deal in a meeting in Prayagraj a few months back, he said, adding that since then, transactions of ₹9.5 crore have been done in the three accounts. "After some financial dispute arose among them, the four accused from Odisha invited Bhuvey to Bhubaneswar. He came here on September 5 and checked into a hotel in Chandaka. The four allegedly tried to abduct him last night from the hotel," Meena said "After receiving information from the hotel staff, police reached the spot and detained all five," he said

in Odisha amid habitat loss



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Human-elephant flict in Odisha is worsening, forcing villagers in forest fringe areas to spend nights on makeshift treetop platforms to evade rampaging herds. With elephant corridors shrinking under the impact of mining, industrialisation, infrastructure projects and other human activities, incursions into settlements have become a

daily occurrence. Of Odisha's 30 districts, 26 have elephant presence, with frequent depredation putting lives and property at risk in villages bordering elephant habitats. As dusk falls in these conflict zones, villagers retreat to temporary scaffold structures, climbing up ladders to spend the night in safety.

The elephant menace is growing more alarming by the day, making life in kutcha houses fraught with danger. Though such incidents may appear sporadic, they highlight the severity of depredation unleashed by marauding elephants, exposing the helplessness of humans against

the might of these animals. Odisha, home to 2,098 elephants, has struggled to preserve their natural habitats. The resulting loss of forest cover has driven the animals into villages, where they trample crops and attack humans almost at will.

With habitats shrinking, elephants wander into villages in search of food. Even protected parks and sanctuariesonce safe corridors for the animals—are under pressure from encroachment, as people settle, forage, and graze cattle in forest areas. "Such human interference is fueling frequent man-elephant confrontations," noted conservationist Biswajit Mohanty.

In 1979 there were 2044 elephants mostly confined to rich forested districts like Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Angul, Sundargarh and Cuttack.

Today after almost five decades, their number is stagnant though the elephants have scattered to 24 districts. The ele-

phants originally from neighbouring Jharkhand and West Bengal are also migrating to Odisha at periodic intervals compounding the man-elephant conflict.

"It has become a risky proposition to stay in the house after sunset. The rampaging elephants are entering villages and destroying dwelling units at will. So we are climbing atop the tall trees with our families. Wooden frames erected in tree branches have become nocturnal homes," said locals of Banshapala village under Bhuvan & Juanga Pirh (BJP) forest range in Ke-

onjhar district. With the forest department doing precious little to ensure their lives' safety, the locals have applied their rustic wisdom to save themselves from being gored to death by jumbos.

If forest officials are to be believed, elephants are attracted by mango trees, vegetable plants, and banana plantations to stray into the villages.

During day hours, the elephants' movement is confined within the forest while they stride their way into forest-side villages after sunset, said forest officials.

The skilled service group of elephant chasers and the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking teams are on the job to ensure the safety of life and property of villagers living along the forest-side areas, added forest officials.

Rising elephant-human conflict Naveen leaves for Delhi ahead of VP polls

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: A day after hearing the views of senior party leaders about BJD's possible stand in the vice-presidential elections September 9, party president and Leader of Opposition in Assembly Naveen Patnaik Sunday embarked on a four-day tour of New Delhi.

Patnaik may undergo health check-up in the national capital, party sources said, adding that the BJD supremo may meet party MPs before the vice-president election. Patnaik met senior BJD leaders

and members of the political affairs committee (PAC) Saturday evening. In a post on X, Patnaik Sunday stated, "The Biju Janata Dal has always been at the forefront in protecting the interests of the people of Odisha." He also said that the PAC meeting focused on intensifying outreach to every household to highlight the state

government's "incompetence".

In the PAC meeting, the BJD president also heard the views of senior leaders on what stand the BJD should take in the vice-president election under the changed

circumstances when the party is in opposition in Odisha.

The BJD has seven Rajya Sabha MPs. In the vice president election. the BJD has three options - abstain from polls, support NDA candidate CP Radhakrishnan, or support IN-DIA bloc's B Sudershan Reddy.

A senior party leader said, "Though the BJD is maintaining equal distance from both NDA and INDIA bloc, party president Naveen Patnaik may make a surprise announcement of the party's stand in the vice president elections during his Delhi visit."

Patnaik's visit to the national capital also follows a recent phone call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had inquired about his health and invited him to Delhi.

While wishing him a speedy recovery, Modi had suggested that Patnaik visit Delhi after being discharged from hospital.

The BJD abstained from the 2012 vice presidential polls, in which Hamid Ansari won. It backed non-NDA candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi in the 2017 polls, in which Venkaiah Naidu was elected. In 2022, it supported NDA candidate Jagdeep Dhankar.



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Scrutinise unauthorised state HQ visit by officers



ACENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Showing a strong displeasure over the growing number of unauthorised visits by field officials to the government offices in the Capital, the state government has directed all District Collectors to issue warnings to Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) and Odisha Revenue Service (ORS) officers, instructing them to refrain from visiting Lok Seva Bhawan, Secretariat, and department headquarters without prior

In a strongly-worded letter addressed to the Collectors of

all the districts, the state Revenue and Disaster Management department has expressed strong displeasure over unauthorised visits of OAS and ORS Officers to the Lok Seva Bhawan and other offices at the state headquarters.

The department further noted with concern that a number of officers are remaining absent from their headquarters without authorisation and are frequently found in the corridors of Lok Seva Bhawan and other state offices, without prior approval from the competent authority.

"This is a matter of serious concern as such officers remain absent from their respective headquarters/stations without authorisation and headquarters leaving permission from the competent authority and are found dealing with personal matters during official working hours, as a result of which the general public is being deprived of getting timely disposal of revenue-related services," noted the revenue department.

Collectors have been directed by the revenue department to caution the erring officers, instructing them to refrain from such practices. The department also warned of taking stringent disciplinary action against officers found indulging in such practices in future.

"Therefore, you are request-

ed to issue warning to such officers and refrain them from such practices. In case any such instance is noticed in future, the Government will take it very seriously and necessary disciplinary action, as deemed proper, shall be initiated against such officers. This should be treated as extremely important and intimated to all your subordinate officers under your control," warned the department.



CHSE 43RD FOUNDATION DAY

Education key to prosperous India: Gond

POST NEWS NETWOR

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Nityananda Gond emphasised the critical role of education in building a prosperous and developed India and said, "Education is the benchmark of a Samruddh Bharat," during the 43rd Foundation Day celebration of the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) at the coun-

cil headquarters here Sunday.
Gracing the occasion as chief
guest, the minister commended
over four decades of the council's contribution in shaping
the future of higher secondary

education in the state.

Speaking at the ceremony,
Gond highlighted that over
2,000 colleges across Odisha
are currently affiliated with
the council, offering courses
in arts, commerce, science,
and vocational streams. He

acknowledged the efficient management of examinations and timely publication of results by the council, which has "strengthened public trust in the institution."

On this occasion, a souvenir titled 'Pragyan' and the NSS annual report book were released by Gond and other dignitaries, outstanding sportspersons who had excelled in the SGFI National Sports Competition were felicitated and a theat-

rical performance of the play 'Gurudakshina' was presented by the council staff.

The event was attended by S&ME department additional secretary Subhashree Nanda, and from Board of Secondary Education Srikant Tarai, who served as guests of honour. CHSE chairman Mrunal Kanti Das delivered the welcome address, while secretary Subhrabala Behera conducted the programme.

'Odisha losing industrial projects to other states'

AGENCIES

approval.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has accused the state government of failing to retain major industries in Odisha, alleging that several companies which had shown interest during the BJD regime are now shifting their projects to other states.

Citing examples of the UKbased semiconductor group SRAM and MRAM, which had signed an MoU with the BJD government in March 2023, proposing an investment of ₹30,000 crore. Around 700 acres of land in Chhatrapur, Ganjam had been identified for the project. However, the company has now signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government. BJD leaders claimed, refuting the BJP government's claims that reputed industries are eager to invest in Odisha.

BJD general secretary and MLA Tusharkanti Behera said the development exposes the hollowness of the BJP government's tall claims. "Earlier too, companies like JSW EV and ArcelorMittal, which had signed agreements with the BJD government, shifted their projects to Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh," he claimed.

Behera alleged that the BJP government's promise of making Odisha an industrially prosperous state has turned out to be "mere rhetoric".

Senior BJD leader and former minister Ashok Chandra Panda also accused the BJP of appropriating projects conceptualised under the BJD regime.

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LOST

MEGA BICYCLE RALLY CALLS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), in collaboration with Centre for Environment Studies under Forest, Environment and Climate Change (FE&CC) department organised a mega 5-km-long bi-cycle rally here Sunday to commemorate the 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies' in an attempt to spread the message of clean environment and sustainable living.

This year's theme, 'Racing for Air' highlighted the urgent need for collective action against air pollution and promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

FE&CC department additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahu flagged off the event in presence of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Prem Kumar Jha, SPCB member secretary Uma Nanduri, chief environmental engineer Nihar Ranjan Sahu and senior environmental engineer Dillip Kumar Dash.

"This global day reminds us of the urgent need to protect the very air we breathe and to ensure that future generations inherit a cleaner, healthier, and



sustainable environment. Clean air is our fundamental right and collective responsibility," Sahu said. "Today's rally is not just a symbolic event, but a strong message that every individual, every community, and every institution has a role to play in keeping our skies blue and our air pure" Sahu added.

He urged citizens to adopt riding bicycles, use public transport, and renewable energy sources to combat the rising threat of air pollution and climate change.

The rally will not only create public awareness but also showcase the importance of cycling as a sustainable and healthy alternative to motorised vehicles, promotion of greener lifestyles and will inspire others to contribute to the mission of ensuring blue skies for a healthier

tomorrow. It will successfully spread the message that simple actions such as cycling, using public transport, turning off engines at traffic lights and railway crossings, and avoiding open burning can significantly improve air quality and ensure a healthier future.

The event attracted enthusiastic participation of students, youth volunteers, and members from eco-clubs, environmental activists, and local citizens who carried placards with messages promoting clean air, clean mobility and reduced emissions. E-rickshaws announced awareness messages across the City.

It is pertinent to note here that the United Nations declared September 7 to raise worldwide awareness on air pollution and its impact on human health, ecosystems, and the climate.

BMC provides one-stop loan aid to 45 families

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 07: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has extended helping hand to the citizens who have received homes under 'Affordable Housing Scheme' but were unable to pay their share of the cost. BMC facilitated the loan process for 45 families who have received homes in the Buddha Vihar Housing Project.

As per the direction of BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana, beneficiaries who are eligible for availing homes but are currently unable to pay their share of the cost were helped to secure financial support through loans. BMC's additional commissioner Ajay Kumar Mohanty organised a meeting with HDFC Bank and Swatantra Finance — two financial institutions — to make necessary arrangements for approving the loan

During the process, the BMC team provided complete documentation for all 45 families. Officials from the Bhubaneswar Additional Tehsildar office, HDFC Bank and Swatan-

tra Finance were present.

HDFC Bank approved loans to 35 eligible beneficiaries, while Swatantra Finance supported 10 beneficiaries.

Dy CM lays Nimapara-Balanga road devpt foundation stone



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nimapara, Sept 7: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Sunday, laid the foundation stone for the development of the Nimapara-Balanga main road at Block Chowk. The 14km long stretch will be upgraded at an estimated cost of ₹36 crore, significantly improving connectivity for local residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Parida emphasised that the project will ease transportation and boost economic activities in the region.

As part of her visit, the Deputy CM also held a review meeting of 65 government high schools and two Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas under the Nimapara constituency at the block conference hall focused on developing the infrastructure of schools, improving teaching standards and co-curricular activities The session was attended by school principals along with the district education officer, community development officer, tehsildar, and additional education officer.

Plantation drive by Wild Orissa

Bhubaneswar: Wild Orissa, an NGO dedicated to conservation of wildlife and nature, in association with Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Smile (RCBS), organised a tree plantation drive at Laxmisagar Government High School premises here recently. On the occasion, school headmistress Santa Pati, Wild Orissa secretary Shibaji Charan Nayak, joint secretary Sudhanawa Das, outfit member Sulabh Sethy, RCBS charter president Suvakanta Padhy, secretary Silima Nanda, Abhinash Mahaptra, and other members of the club were present. Wild Orissa member and Rotary Club member Suchitra Sahoo co-ordinated the programme. Participants planted around 100 saplings, provided by the state forest department and Bhubaneswar divisional forest office.

Moribund state of Kantilo's metalwork tradition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khandapada, Sept 7: Once known for its intricate craftsmanship and cultural significance, the traditional brass and bronze utensil-making industry at Kantilo in Nayagarh district is now on the verge of collapse. Artisans put the blame on

government administration for continuous neglect, lack of availability of raw materials, and falling market demand for pushing the centuries-old craft into crisis. Rise of stainless steel and aluminium utensils, and insufficient access to modern techniques, has further added more instability.

Nestled along the river banks of the Mahanadi, and surrounded by lush green forest, a sacred site of Jagannath culture and ancient Nilamadhava Temple, Kantilo is known as a centre of traditional metal craft.

Many artisans, unable to make a living out of the craft, are abandoning their tools. The lack of market demand has



made their work economically unviable, forcing migration to other regions for alternative employment.

Artisans from Kantilo and neighbouring areas, including Sharanakula, Khalisahi, Itamati, Sunakhala; from Balakati in Khuda, Bhattimunda in Cuttack, Bhuban, Indupur, Oukhama and Bindhania in Dhenkanal district are now displaced. Uncertainty looms over

their younger generation as the state government has failed to initiate any substantial efforts for their welfare or upliftment.

Despite lofty announcements, neither the district administration nor the state government has taken meaningful steps to revive the cultural heritage. Though the state's handicrafts department claims to be working on preservation, insiders suggest the efforts lack sincerity and execution.

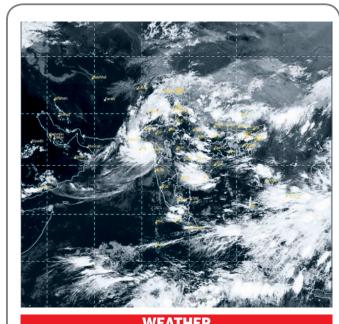
Government-funded training schemes and modernisation programmes have yielded very little result. Crores of rupees have been sanctioned for training under various initiatives. Most have failed to translate into sustainable livelihoods. Youths receive stipends during the training period, but due to lack of post-training employment support, the schemes often end on paper.

A production and training centre for brass, bronze and woodcraft was established in Kantilo, at a cost of ₹5 crore

in public-private partnership mode, supported by the central government's Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Though the construction and infrastructure was completed nearly four years ago, the unit remains non-functional due to the lack of a qualified master craftsman.

of a qualined master crattsman. Nikhil Utkal Kansari Samaj president Akhil Kumar Moharana, cluster president Dandapani Sahu, and Odisha Vikash Parishad (handicrafts) general councilor Pabitra Kumar Moharana from Nayagarh, expressed frustration over the situation, calling for transparency and accountability in the disbursement of government funds meant for artisan welfare.

Unless immediate action is taken to ensure that allocated funds reach the intended beneficiaries, government schemes will remain ineffective and Odisha's ancient craft tradition may disappear entirely, they warned.



WEATHER						
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST			
Max Temp	32.8°	32.2°	Light to			
Min Temp	24.5°	23.4°	moderate rain or Thundershower			
Humidity	82%	88%				
Rainfall	3.4mm	Nil				

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Farmers take to streets over fertilizer shortage

Deogarh/Malkangiri/Chhatrapur, Sept 7: Protests erupted across several districts in Odisha Sunday as frustrated farmers took to the streets, blocked roads and highways, and accused dealers and officials of failing to ensure an adequate and timely supply of urea fertilizer during the peak agricultural season.

In Deogarh district, hundreds of farmers staged a road blockade near Jhadeswar Temple Square on the Deogarh-Riamal main road. The protest, which lasted for nearly 30 minutes, was triggered by an acute shortage of urea and allegations of black marketing by private dealers. Farmers claimed that while godowns remained closed during the day, dealers sold urea at inflated prices late at night.

The government-fixed price for urea is ₹267 per bag, but private dealers were allegedly selling it for over ₹350. "We urgently need urea for paddy transplantation and weeding. If we can't get it now, our crops will fail," said one protesting farmer.

Following the protest, the godown was opened around 10:30am, but farmers had to wait for hours in the scorching sun to purchase fertilizer.

District Farmers' Association president Bijay Kumar Pradhan said repeated fertilizer shortages were severely impacting cultivation, "If the administration curbs black marketing and ensures timely supply, farmers will be relieved," he said.

Woman sarpanch dies of snake bite

RAYAGADA: A woman sarpanch died late Saturday night after being bitten by a venomous snake in Rayagada district. The deceased was identified as Manga Kadraka, sarpanch of Kuli panchayat under Rayagada block. Ac cording to reports, Manga was asleep her on the right leg. She informed her to the Rayagada district headquarters hospital in an ambulance. Despite treat ment, she succumbed late in the night. Kuli panchayat as well as in parts of Rayagada and Kolnara blocks Former Rajya Sabha member N Bhaskar Rao, former minister Lalbihari Himirika, former Zilla Parishad chairperson Gangadhar Pualla, and block vice chairman Haraprasad Hepruka were among those

Youth killed in wild boar attack

who expressed condolences.

CHHATRAPUR: A 26-year-old youth identified as Nilamadhah Pradhan was killed by a wild boar Saturday night in Badamadhapur near Chhatrapur. residence in the dark when a wild boar him. Sighting a heavily injured Nilama-dhab, local villagers took him to nearby Munsinentha community health centre and later shifted him to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. His condition worsened further and he was taken to a hospital in Bhubaneswar in an ambulance. However, as his condition critically deteriorated en route, he was taken to Khallikote Government Hospital instead, where doctors declared him dead. His body was handed over to his family after post-mortem examination.



Sem Hembram, president of Zilla Sangharsh Sangh, squarely blamed the Agriculture department and district officials for poor management. "Recently, farmers had to shut down the agriculture office over shortages of DAP and Gromor fertilizers. Now, the same is happening with urea. If the situation doesn't improve, we will gherao the Agriculture department and the Collector's office," he warned.

Attempts to reach District Agriculture Officer-In-Charge Manoj Marandi for comment were unsuccessful.

In Malkangiri district, farmers blocked National Highway 326 near Maharajpalli panchayat in Kalimela block, placing logs and burning tyres to halt traffic along the busy Vijayawada-Ranchi corridor. The protest began at 7am and caused major traffic snarls for several hours.

Farmers said repeated visits to PACS (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Soci-

GODOWNS, SHOPS RAIDED

CHHATRAPUR: Amid growing complaints of fertilizer shortage and black marketing, an enforcement team raided multiple godowns and retail outlets in Chhatrapur Saturday. The team, led by Additional Tehsildar Manoj Kumar Pradhan, Agriculture Officer Sanmarg Kar, and Fertilizer Inspector Nihar Ranjan Dash, found irregularities, including overpricing, during inspections. Dealers were warned that any further violations could lead to licence cancellation. Farmers in Ganiam district had earlier raised concerns over fertilizer scarcity and inflated prices, claiming they were being forced to buy urea and other inputs above the government-fixed rates. Officials have since assured that adequate stocks are available and urged farmers to purchase fertilizers only at authorised prices. According to government sources, MARKFED has allocated 14,166 metric tonnes (MT) of fertilizers to PACS across the district. In the first phase, 1,800 MT are being distributed through 126 PACS in all 22 blocks under Chhatrapur sub-division. Seven PACS in Chhatrapur block received 100 MT Saturday. Authorities said the supply will continue in phases until the demand is fully met and the situation normalises.

eties) and LAMPS (Large Area Multi-Purpose Societies) outlets had yielded nothing. "It is the peak time for fertilizer application in our paddy fields, vet we have no stock. a protesting farmer said.

Guruchand Mandal, LAMPS branch manager at Maharajpalli, arrived at the site around

11am and assured farmers that 600 to 650 bags of urea would arrive by Tuesday. The blockade was lifted following his assurance. Earlier, similar protests over black marketing were reported in Pusuguda panchayat.

In Ganjam district, farmers braved heavy rain to stand in long queues outside PACS

At the Landa Baunsh PACS, farmers said they had been waiting since 5am, only to receive a single bag of fertilizer, despite needing at least seven bags each. Officials said only 225 bags were available, while over 1,000 were required in the area.

Although Agriculture department officials denied any scarcity, farmers accused them of ignoring ground realities. 'They just come, take photos during raids, and post them online. Farmers are our food providers, but no one seems to care," said Simanchal Nahak, secretary of the Rushikulya Rayat Mahasabha.

Nahak and other farmer leaders questioned why the government was relying on private traders instead of strengthening the cooperative supply chain.

Neelakantha Dash, district joint secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI), warned of statewide protests if the government fails to respond swiftly. Farmer leader Mathura Charan Subudhi demanded the immediate release and distribution of fertilizers through official channels and strict action against black marketing.

"The government calls itself a people's government. Are farmers not its people?" asked Subudhi. As the Kharif season progresses, mounting anger and supply disruptions threaten to derail Odisha's paddy cultivation, underscoring the urgent need for systemic reform in fertilizer distribution

Explosives godown sealed in Kesinga amid security lapses



Kesinga, Sept 7: Authorities in Kalahandi district sealed an explosives warehouse in Surujor forest under Sirol panchayat in Kesinga block in Kalahandi district Saturday.

The godown, run by Bhawani Enterprises, was set up in 2019 on about 4 acre land. For the past six years, it has been storing gelatine sticks and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) under a licence obtained from the Central government. With a storage capacity of 20,000 kg, the warehouse currently holds a large

quantity of explosives. Bhawani Enterprises has reportedly been supplying explosives from this site to Kesinga, Bhawanipatna, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Rayagada, Jeypore that although the law requires armed security guards at such facilities, none were deployed at the warehouse.

Residents expressed concern that if an explosion were to occur, nearby villages including Podakhamba, Bahadur Pita, Saurapadar, Parlasinga and Sirole could suffer extensive damage to houses, farmland and roads, apart from endan gering the residents' lives.

Following instructions from the Kalahandi Superintendent of Police, a team led by Kesinga SDPO Sandeep Majhi and IIC Jitendra Biswal inspected the site Saturday. In the pres ence of magistrate Prashanti Pradhan, the Kesinga tehsildar, the warehouse was sealed until further orders.

When contacted, IIC Biswal confirmed the action was taken as per the SP's directive.

Labourer dies in blast at black stone quarry



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Sept 7: A worker was killed in an explosion at a black granite quarry near Kashipur Lahada village under Gondia block and Nihalprasad police limits in Dhenkanal district Sunday.

The victim was identified as Jitu Tiria, 24, a tribal resident of Balikiari village. He died instantly when a sudden explosion shattered a drill bit that pierced his chest. Police recovered the body and sent it to the district headquarters hospital here for post-mortem. This has raised renewed concerns over unsafe mining practices in the region.

Tiria's wife, Jamuna, lodged a complaint at Nihalprasad police station. Police registered a case (250/25) under Section 105(3) of the BNS against quarry operators Ananta Navak

and Bablu Nayak over the complaint. Police said an investigation is underway. The incident has stirred pub-

lic anger with locals questioning whether the quarry was operating legally. Authorities have not vet clarified its status. The blast has also led to growing resentment against

the Mining department, local administration and police, who are accused of ignoring safety norm violations and shielding quarry owners despite repeated accidents.

Just a few days back, a labourer was killed at a stone quarry at Gundurapashi near Indipur village under Sadar police limits. The incident had sparked protests and a road blockade, underscoring the mounting risks faced by labourers in Dhenkanal's unsafe mines.

Woman killed as tusker attacks auto-rickshaw **ELDERLY TRAMPLED TO DEATH**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Morada, Sept 7: Human-elephant conflict has reached alarming levels in Morada block of Mayurbhanj district with increasing loss of life and property reported daily.

According to sources, a woman was killed in an attack by a tusker near the Astia rubber plantation under Rasgobindpur range. The deceased was identified as Rina Naik, 45, of Poda-Astia village in Baripada sub-division. Rina was returnKEONJHAR: An elderly man was trampled to death by an elephant in Champua

of Keonjhar district, a forest officer said Sunday. The incident occurred Saturday night when a herd of tuskers entered the Barahaposi village under Champua forest range and one of the animals attacked the man, he said. The deceased was identified as Anadi Mahanta, said Dhamdhere Dhanraj Hanumant, DFO, Keonjhar. Anadi, who was in his 70s, was taken to the Keonjhar hospital, where the doctor declared him dead, the forest officer said, adding ₹10 lakh compensation will be provided to the family of the deceased and ₹1 lakh will be provided immediately

ing home along with four others in an e-rickshaw Saturday night after visiting relatives at Amarda. At around 10:45pm, when their vehicle reached near an electric pole close to the Astia rubber plantation on

the Baripada-Chitrada-Amarda state highway, a herd of seven elephants was crossing the road. Seeing the vehicle, a tusker charged at it.

While others fled the auto-rickshaw in panic, Rina remained inside. In an attempt to turn the vehicle, the driver lost control and the auto overturned. The tusker then attacked Rina, leaving her criti cally injured.

She was rushed to Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital in Baripada, where she died around midnight, rang er Ghanashyam Singh said Singh added that the victim's family has been provided an interim compensation of ₹1 lakh, with a total ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh to be released in due course.

Man beats mother to death



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Sept 7: A 60-yearold woman died Sunday morning after being punched by her son during a quarrel at Bandhapali village near Duduka under Hemgiri police limits in Sundargarh district, Sunday.

The victim was identified as

Shaila Dhurua in the village. Police arrested her son, 42-year-old Balindra Dhurua, and registered a murder case (416/25) at Hemgiri police station.

Police said that an argument broke out between Shaila and her son over a domestic matter. In a fit of rage, Balindra allegedly struck her, causing her to collapse and sustain a severe head injury. Balindra immediately took her to the Hemgiri community health centre, where doctors declared her dead during treatment. Police handed over the body to the family members after conducting a post-mortem.

NOTICE BY JD CONSTRUCTIONS

It is for information to all concerned that the Partnership Firm M/s JD CONSTRUCTIONS bearing Regd. No.-1820202200202 / 2022 having its principal place of business at -Office No-104, 1st Floor, Aribant Plaza, Plot No-B-15, PO/PS:- Saheed Nagar, Dist:- Khordha, City: Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751007 has been reconstituted with effect from 14/08/2025 vide econstitution deed dated 14/08/2025 as follows:

1. Before Reconstitution. Partners were:

2) SWAYAM PRAKASH JENA (PAN: AJIPJ6037H)

1) TWO7 ADDRESS MAKERS PRIVATE LIMITED

(Represent by it's Director, SWAYAM PRAKASH JENA) (CIN: U41000OD2024PTC047197, PAN: AALCT3640B)

Outgoing Partner:

I) SWAYAM PRAKASH JENA (PAN: AJIPJ6037H)

. After Reconstitution, Partners are:

1) RONAK DUGAR (PAN: ANLPD9105H) 2) TWO7 ADDRESS MAKERS PRIVATE LIMITED

(Represent by it's Director, SWAYAM PRAKASH JENA) (CIN: U41000OD2024PTC047197, PAN: AALCT3640B

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **BOLANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BOLANGIR** Mail ID: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph.No.- 06652-232374

BID IDENTIFICATION No.: BGR R&B / 15/ 2025-26 No.B-491 No.5724/ Dtd.26.08.2025

The Superintending Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single

cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of building work and road work detailed in the table below from eligible contractors

Building work and road work No. of tender 2 Nos. Building work and 6 Nos. Road work Rs.600/-, Rs.4000/- and Rs.6000/-

Tender cost (Tender paper cost)
'D', 'C' and 'B' class contractor Class of contractor (Registered in CDMS) rom Dt.09.09.2025, Date & time of sale & receipt

Dt.15.09.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. Dt.16.09.2025 at 11.30 A.M. Date of opening bid The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: http://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RWS & S DIVISION, BARGARH** Email: eerwss_bgh@nic.in, Ph.(O): 06646 233220, FAX: 06646 234626

No.4017/Dt.02.09.2025 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No.02 Dt.02.09.2025 of 2025-26 No.O-724:- The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites tenders from the valid licenced holder contractors of class 'C' or 'B' registered with any department of State Government or equivalent

class of Central Govt. etc. to be eventually drawn up in P1 Contract Form for the pelow work as per terms and condition noted below. Construction of Government Quarter for Assistar Name of work Engineer, RWS&S Section, Ambabhona, Barpa and Gaisilet under RWS&S Division Bargarh. Rs.25.27 lakh, 24.98 lakh and 27.87 lakh respect Dt.09.09.2025 to Dt.23.09.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. Approx. Estimated cost Date and time of availability of document in the portal Last date / time for receipt Dt.23.09.2025 upto 5.00 P.M of bids in the portal Dt.24.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Divisio

Name and address of the officer inviting bid Bargarh, District: Bargarh urther details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersorissa.gov ". The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assign OIPR-25018/11/0002/2526 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargari

Five large ponds built by Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati lose glory



POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Sept 7: Once lifelines for farmers, fishermen and residents of Paralakhemundi, the five historic large ponds built during the reign of Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati have fallen into neglect.

The large ponds – Ram Sagar, Sita Sagar, Laxman Sagar, Krushna Sagar and Gajapati Sagar - were originally developed as part of a water management plan by the late ruler, who is remembered for his pro-people initiatives. Each of these ponds, which are almost the size of a lake. was linked to the Mahendratanaya river through a canal system that regulated irrigation on the farmlands downstream.

Excess water would flow into the river. These ponds, which had become the lifeline of farmers and fishermen, were also used as drinking water sources by

Now, due to poor upkeep by the Irrigation department and the state government, the ponds have been filled with silt, overgrown with weeds and left largely unusable. Farmers and fishermen say their livelihoods have been severely hit as the water sources that once sustained them are nearly gone. The former state government had

sanctioned funds for restoration of these ponds. Ram Sagar was allotted ₹3.21 crore, Krushna Sagar received ₹2.54 crore, and Gajapati Sagar was allocated ₹1.19 crore for the purpose. Some works were done for renovation of Ram Sagar but were abandoned midway.

Similarly, residents have alleged that the renovation work of Krushna Sagar is sub-standard while partial repair work was taken up for Gajapati Sagar. Officials said the projects were left incomplete.

In recent years, some people have been using these ponds as dumping pits, tossing waste into the water bodies. On the city outskirts, trash and debris are being thrown into Ram Sagar and Sita Sagar. When asked about the issue, Ashish

Mallik, assistant executive engineer of the Minor Irrigation department, said funds had been sanctioned under the state government's Triple R scheme for the renovation of Ram Sagar, Krushna Sagar and Gajapati Sagar, While work on Krushna Sagar has been completed, work on the other two ponds stopped midway after the contractor abandoned the projects.

Mallik said that a detailed project report (DPR) for the restoration of Sita Sagar has already been submitted. Renovation of other ponds and canals will follow in phases, he added.

SUNDARAM HOME

Regd Office: No. 21, Pattulos Road, Chennai - 600 002. Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014. Ph: 044-2851 5267 Branch: C/O Sundaram Finance Limited Plot No.A/167, Metropolis, First Floor, Saheed Nagar,

Bhubaneshwar-751007, Odhisha. SALE NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Sundaram Home Finance Limited, funder the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Section

13(2), issued a demand notice dated 01-10-2019 calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice The Borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount within the statutory period, the Authorised Officer in exercise of the

powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act in accordance with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had taken the actual possession of the property described herein below. Public are hereby informed that the property more fully described in the table hereunder will be sold under Rule 8 & 9 of The Security

Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" CONDITION, without any recourse Basis by inviting sealed Bids from the public up to 16.00 hrs on 23.10.2025. Those who want to participate in the auction sale can forward their bids only by RPAD in sealed covers to the undersigned on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 23.10.2025. Bids received after 16.00 Hrs. on 23.10.2025 and thereafter will be rejected. The sealed Bids received by RPAD up to 16.00 Hrs. on 23.10.2025 will be opened on 23.10.2025 at 16.30 hrs., at the place mentioned hereunder. The successful bidder has to pay the balance amount within 15 days from the date of receipt of such intimation. The sale shall be completed only on deposit of the Balance amount as stated above.

Name and Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Secured Debt (Rs.)	Reserve Price fixed for the Property	Place for Title Verification	
Prashant Kumar Guru (Borrower), At-Arudya Market, PC Sarkar Lane, Near-Tarini Verity Store, Madhupatana, Cuttack - 753012. Also at: Maa Sea Fish Trading & Suppliers, Rani Mahal, LIC Colony, Po-Arunodaya Market,	Rs. 27,52,406/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Four	Rs. 67,07,000/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs and Seven	Sundaram Home Finance Limited, Plot No.A/167, Metropolis, First Floor, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneshwar-751007	
Badambadi, Cuttack - 753012. Also at: Plot No-399/1113,	Hundred and Six Only) as on 08.09.2025 + Further Interest	Thousand Only)	Place for Opening of Bids	
Mouza Cuttack Sahar, Unit -38, PS - Madhupatna,			Sundaram Home Finance	
Madhupatna, Cuttack, 753012. Susama Rani Guru (Co-Borrower), At- Arudya Market, Pc		Earnest Money Deposit	Limited, No. 23, Cathedral Garden Road, 2nd Floor, Nungambakkam,	
Sarkar Lane, Near- Tarini Verity Store, Madhupatana,		25% of the	Chennai – 600034.	
Cuttack,753012. Also at: Plot No-399/1113, Mouza		Bid Amount	Date of opening the Bids	
Cuttack Sahar, Unit -38, PS - Madhupatna, Cuttack - 753012.	payment.	, anount	23.10.2025 @ 16.30 Hrs	

Description Of Property: All that piece and parcel of the property admeasuring Ac.0.046 dec. Kissam: Gharabari-2 (Homestead) Comprised in Khata No.67 and Plot No.399/11134. Situated at Unit No.38, Mouza: Arundaya, Tahasil: Cuttack Sadar, District: Cuttak State of Odisha. Bounded by: North: Property of Ashok Sahoo, South: Road, East: Bira Guru & Bhagi Gurus' Property, West: Property of Naravana Guru.

Note: The intending purchasers are requested to verify the documents, inspect the property and participate in the auction after satisfying about the title, nature and condition to property. Refund will not be given after sale confirmation in case if there arises any dispute regarding the title or nature of the property.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale of Property of Mr. Prashant Kumar Guru, Loan Account No. 66200073, please refer to www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/files/sale_notice/66200073.pdf

Contact Number: Mr. Gurdeep Singh (+91 8585005499) for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,



power post





Not only a truer knowledge, but a greater power comes to one in the quietude and silence of a mind that, instead of bubbling on the surface, can go to its own depths and listen.



SRI AUROBINDO

Leadership Crisis

apan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on 7 September announced his resignation, a move that could usher in a period of political uncertainty and policy paralysis in the world's fourth-largest economy. Ishiba, the country's third prime minister in five years, has directed the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to hold an emergency leadership election and confirmed at a press conference that he would remain in office until a successor is chosen.

Ishiba, who became the leader of the LDP in September last year, said that he was stepping down to prevent deeper divisions within the party. Shortly after assuming power, the LDP, the party which has dominated Japanese politics for most of the post-war era, and its coalition partner Komeito lost their majority in a Lower House election. Following his drubbing, the ruling coalition also failed to secure a majority in the Upper House election held in July this year. The back-to-back electoral loses were attributed to a growing frustration among voters over a host of issues, the primary being rising living costs. Ishiba's tenure was marked by persistent inflation, which has remained above two per cent for three years, a political finance scandal, and a government-induced rice shortage. These challenges, coupled with the rise of right-wing populism at home and growing unpredictability from Japan's key ally, the United States, defined his short and turbulent leadership.

Until Sunday's announcement, Ishiba had resisted pressure to step down following July's Upper House defeat, focusing instead on securing a trade deal with the US. That agreement, finalised last week, commits Japan to \$550 billion in investments in America in exchange for reduced US tariffs, cutting automotive duties from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. However, political uncertainty surrounding Ishiba's leadership has already rattled Japanese financial markets, with the yen and government bonds selling off.

Finding Ishiba's replacement appears to be a complicated exercise. In Japan, the leader of the ruling party automatically becomes the prime minister. However, with both the LDP and its coalition partner now lacking majorities in the parliament, there is no guarantee that the next LDP leader will by default become the prime minister. Analysts are of the view that the new leader may need to call a snap election to secure legitimacy.

A new leadership contest could further strain an economy already affected by US tariffs. However, markets are more concerned about the possibility of Ishiba being succeeded by a proponent of liberal fiscal and monetary policies, like LDP veteran Sanae Takaichi, who has openly criticized the Bank of Japan's interest rate hikes. Ishiba narrowly won against Takaichi in last year's LDP leadership runoff. Another potential successor is Shinjiro Koizumi, the charismatic political heir who has gained attention as Ishiba's agriculture minister, working to address rising prices. Meanwhile, the Far-Right Sanseito party has gained momentum, moving once-fringe, anti-immigration views into the mainstream of Japanese politics.

Ishiba is the third Japanese leader to resign since Shinzo Abe, the country's longest-serving prime minister, in 2020. Abe's assassination in 2022 left behind a political void that the ruling party has struggled to fully address to this date. Given the current geopolitical environment, the sooner Japan resolves the leadership crisis the better.

WISDOM CORNER

Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness.

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your ı shall see that in truth you are weeping fo that which has been your delight.

We are like ignorant shepherds living on a site where great civilizations once flourished. The shepherds play with the fragments that pop up to the surface, having no notion of the beautiful structures of which they were once a part.

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

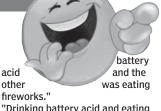
- **1429:** Joan of Arc attacks Paris. On this day in 1429, Joan of Arc, a French farmer's daughter who believed she was acting under divine guidance. attempted to oust the duke of Burgundy and take Paris for newly crowned King Charles VII.
- **1504:** Michelangelo's David was unveiled in the Piazza della Signoria in Florence; considered a masterpiece, the sculpture is one of the defining works of the Renaissance.
- **1930:** The American company 3M began marketing a transparent adhesive tape under the trademarked name Scotch tape.
- **1941:** German and Finnish armies began a siege of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia, that lasted for 872 days.
- **1945:** At the end of World War II, the first U.S. troops entered the Korean peninsula south of the 38th parallel to receive the Japanese surrender; north of the parallel, Japanese troops surrendered to Soviet forces.
- **1960:** The psychological thriller Psycho, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and based on real-life serial killer Ed Gein, was released in American theatres; it became a classic, especially known for the scene in which Janet Leigh's character is murdered in the shower.
- **1986:** Oprah Winfrey Show airs for the first time. The widely popular daytime talk show hosted and produced by Oprah Winfrey ran for 25 years and won over 45 Daytime Emmy Awards. The topic for the first episode of the show was titled "How to Marry the Man or Woman of Your Choice".



DEALING WITH CRIMINALS

local policeman had just finished Ahis shift one cold November evening and was at home with his wife. "You just won't believe what happened this evening, in all my vears on the force I've never seen anything like it."

"Oh ves dear, what happened?" "I came across two guys down by the canal, one of them was drinking



"Drinking battery acid and eating fireworks!! What did you do with

"Oh that was easy, I charged one and let the other off."

FOCUS CULTURE

A TRIBUTE TO BHUPEN DA

oday, 8th September, is a very special day for all those who are passionate about Indian culture and music. It is particularly more special for my sisters and brothers of Assam. After all, it is the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, one of the most extraordinary voices India has ever known. As you are all aware, this year marks the beginning of his birth centenary celebrations. It is an occasion to revisit his monumental contributions to Indian artistic expression and public consciousness

What Bhupen Da gave us extends far beyond music. His works embodied emotions that transcended melody. More than just a voice, he was the heartbeat of the people. Generations have grown up listening to his songs, each word resonating with themes of kindness, social justice, unity and deep-rooted belonging.

From Assam emerged a voice that flowed like a timeless river, crossing borders and cultures, carrying with it the spirit of humanity. Bhupen Da travelled the globe, rubbed shoulders with the who's who across all spectrums of society, but he remained deeply connected to his roots in Assam. The rich oral traditions, folk melodies and community storytelling practices of Assam deeply shaped his early childhood. These experiences formed the bedrock of his artistic vocabulary. He always carried the spirit of Assam's indigenous identity and the ethos of its people.

Brilliance came to Bhupen Da at a very young age. At the age of just five, he sang at a public event and quickly caught the attention of none other than Lakshminath Bezbaruah, the pioneering figure of Assamese literature. By the time he was a teenager, he had recorded his first song. But music was only one part of his personality. Bhupen Da was as much an intellectual at heart...curious, articulate and driven by an insatiable desire



What Bhupen Da gave us extends far beyond music. His works embodied emotions that transcended melody. More than just a voice, he was the heartbeat of the people

to understand the world. Cultural legends like Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha left a deep impression on his mind and also deepened his spirit of enquiry. It was also this desire to learn that made him excel at Cotton College, Banaras Hindu Universitv and took him to the United States, where he interacted with leading academics, thinkers and musicians of those times. He met Paul Robeson. the legendary artist and civil rights leader. Robeson's song "Ol' Man River" became the inspiration for Bhupen Da's iconic composition 'Bistirno Parore.' The much-admired former American First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, awarded him a Gold Medal for his performances of Indian folk music.

Bhupen Da had the option of remaining in the US, but he returned to India and immersed himself in music. From radio to theatre, films to educational documentaries, he was wellversed in each of these media. Wherever he went, he emphasised supporting young talent. His works combined lyrical flair and also gave social messages, touching upon justice for the poor, rural development, strength of common citizens, to name a few. Through his music, he gave voice to the aspirations of boatmen, tea garden workers, women, farmers, etc. In addition to being nostalgic, Bhupen Da's

works also became a powerful lens to view modernity. A lot of people, especially from the socially backward classes like him, derived strength and hope from his music.

The spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' found powerful expression in Bhupen Hazarika's life journey. His works transcended linguistic and regional boundaries to unite people across the country. He composed for films in Assamese, Bengali and Hindi. He made Assam visible and audible to the rest of India. It is no exaggeration to say that he helped shape the cultural identity of modern Assam, both for those within the state and for the Assamese diaspora across the globe.

Bhupen Da, although not really a political person, did remain connected to the world of public service as well. In 1967, he was elected as an independent MLA from Nauboicha constituency in Assam, demonstrating how deeply his public persona was rooted in the people's trust. Though he never became a career politician, his passion for serving others was highly impactful.

The people and Government of India have recognised his enormous contributions over the years. He was conferred with several awards, including the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award and more

In 2019, it was an honour for me personally and for the NDA government that the Bharat Ratna was conferred upon him during our tenure. People from across the world, especially those from Assam and the Northeast, expressed joy that this honour was conferred upon him. This honour celebrated the principles that Bhupen Da held dear to his heart-that music, when grounded in truth, can transcend all barriers. That a song can carry the weight of a people's dreams and move hearts across the world.

I remember the time Bhupen Da passed away in 2011. I had seen on television how lakhs of people attended his funeral. Every eye was moist that time. Even in death, like in his illustrious life, he brought people together. It was thus fitting that he was cremated at the Jalukbari hillock overlooking the Brahmaputra, the very river that had been the lifeline of his music, metaphors and memories. It is gladdening that the Assam Government has supported the work of the Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust, which is working to popularise his life journey among youngsters.

Bhupen Hazarika's life teaches us the power of empathy, of listening to people and of staying rooted. His songs continue to be sung by young and old alike. His music teaches us to be compassionate and courageous. It asks us to remember our rivers, our labourers, our tea workers, our Nari Shakti and our Yuva Shakti. It encourages us to believe in unity in diversity.

Bharat is blessed to have Bhupen Hazarika. As we celebrate the beginning of his centenary year, let us reiterate our commitment to spreading his message far and wide. May it also inspire us to keep working to support music, art and culture, to encourage voung talent and make India a nurturing ground for creativity and artistic excellence.

> The writer is the Prime Minister of India.

SPECTRUM

Narendra Modi

THE SPIRIT OF

'EK BHARAT,

SHRESHTHA

POWERFUL

IN BHUPEN

HAZARIKA'S

LIFE JOURNEY

EXPRESSION

BHARAT' FOUND

PRESS FREEDOM

Telling truth shouldn't be criminalised



Delphine Halgand-Mishra & Frederik Obermaier

ARTICLE 47 IS A CASE STUDY IN HOW LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES CAN SUBVERT THEMSELVES. **SWITZERLAND MUST REMOVE** THE THREAT

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

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(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

for its federalist structure, political stability, and commitment to the rule of law, has undercut one of the most fundamental principles of a liberal democracy: a free press. Behind its polished image as a bastion of neutrality. the country is using its banking-secrecy laws not to protect privacy, but to shield misconduct, muzzle journalists, and deter potential whistleblowers.

At the center of this legal controversy is Article 47 of the Swiss Banking Act, which criminalises the disclosure of bank clients' data - regardless of motive or public interest. Even when the leaked information reveals corruption, human-rights abuses, or illicit finance, journalists and media outlets that publish such information could face up to five years in prison and a fine. Whistleblowers themselves also risk prison sentences

This is not an abstract issue. In 2022, the "Suisse Secrets" investigation - led by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and the German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung -reported on leaked records of more

belonging to foreign customers. Instead of investigating the dozens of clients identified as being involved in corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking, and torture, Swiss authorities opened a criminal inquiry into possible breaches of banking secrecy. Charges brought under the

law do not bode well for efforts to enhance transparency and accountability. In April, Geneva-based Bank Reyl filed a criminal complaint after Le Monde. OCCRP, Irpi Media, and Paper Trail Media approached it for comment on a story. The investigation, which was based on leaked communications, found that Bank Revl was facing scrutiny from the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority for its handling of accounts linked to autocratic regimes and politically exposed persons.

More worryingly, in June, the Zurich public prosecutor's office raided the home and office of Lukas Hässig, the founder and editor of the financial blog Inside Paradeplatz, seizing laptops, phones, and notes. His alleged crime was using leaked bank data in his 2016 reporting on Pierin

Bank who was later convicted of fraud. The message to journalists is clear: those who speak out about financial misconduct at Swiss banks will be punished.

The law's effects border on the absurd. Neil Barofsky, a former US prosecutor hired by Credit Suisse to investigate the bank's previously undisclosed ties to Nazis and Nazi collaborators, will probably not be able to share his findings - not even with the US Senate - because doing so could breach Swiss law. This is not protecting privacy; it is enshrining secrecy at the expense of truth, accountability, and justice.

The global financial system is opaquer than ever, while rising geopolitical risks threaten its stability. In such an environment, investigative journalists and whistleblowers play an essential role. To expose and penalise sanctions evasion, the concealment of oligarch wealth, cross-border corruption, and organised crime, democratic societies depend on insiders being able to speak out - and on the press being able to report freely. But that is not the case in Switzerland. Swiss media organisations increasingly

in cross-border investigations for fear of legal retaliation. The Swiss newspaper Tages-Anzeiger had to decline an invitation to work on "Suisse Secrets," and instead published a scathing political cartoon: Helvetia, the personified symbol of Switzerland, stands behind a gagged and bound journalist as cheering autocrats watch from the wings.

The choice facing Switzerland is clear. It can cling to an outdated model of secrecy that represses press freedom, or it can align its laws with democratic standards and ensure that public-interest journalism is protected, not prosecuted. No democracy should criminalise telling the truth, and no journalist should face iail for exposing crime. Article 47 is a case study in how liberal democracies can subvert themselves. Switzerland must remove the threat.

Delphine Halgand-Mishra is a former US Director of Reporters Without Borders. Frederik Obermaier is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist.

Literacy in digital era

Sir, International Literacy Day, observed on 8 September, highlights literacy as a fundamental human right and the foundation for knowledge, freedom, and opportunity. The theme for 2025, "Promoting literacy in the digital era," emphasizes the evolving role of literacy in our interconnected world. While digital tools offer new opportunities for learning, work, and communication, they also pose challenges Inclusive digital literacy empowers individuals, bridges social inequalities, fosters critical thinking, ensures safe and responsible use of digital content, and supports lifelong learning, with special attention to marginalized groups, women, and children. As the world learns from recent challenges, International Literacy Day 2025 emphasizes the need to improve teaching and learning. Educators play a key role in creating inclusive literacy programmes that prepare learners for the future. Many people still cannot read or access education, showing that global action is urgent. ILD 2025 is a time to reflect, share successful methods, and speed up efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims for inclusive, fair, and quality education for everyone throughout life.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

The Tiruppur story

Sir, Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur, known as India's knitwear capital and a global hub for garment manufacturing and exporting, is the most affected town by the US tariffs. Tiruppur alone recorded textile exports worth ₹40.000 crore in the last financial year, with nearly 40 to 45 per cent headed to the US. The bustling town has a reputation for high-quality knitwear and has established relationships with global brands. The sudden hike in tariffs has raised alarm among exporters, who fear losing their largest customer base. The new US tariff policy has cast uncertainty over the livelihoods of thousands of workers and manufacturers in Tiruppur. The Tiruppur story reflects the wider fragility of India's export ecosystem. Unless the Central government responds with urgent relief measures and strategic trade policy, the country could not only face a huge dip in garments' exports, but also a severe employment and social crisis in one of its most labour-intensive industries.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





North Kashmir's 4,056 unmarked graves



OVER 90% BELONG TO FOREIGN. LOCAL TERRORISTS

accounts.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 7: A new field study has challenged the long-standing "mass grave" narrative in north Kashmir. concluding that more than 90 per cent of the 4.056 unmarked graves investigated belong to foreign and local terrorists.

The report, titled 'Unravelling the Truth: A Critical Study of Unmarked and Unidentified Graves in Kashmir Valley', is based on the study conducted by the Kashmir-based NGO Save Youth Save Future Foundation (SYSFF)

Researchers led by Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Zahid Sultan, Irshad Ahmed Bhat, Anika Nazir, Muddasir Ahmed Dar and Shabir Ahmed physically inspected and documented 373 gravevards across the border districts of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora in north Kashmir and Ganderbal in central Kashmir.

"The organisation, which is funded by people, started this project in 2018 and completed the groundwork in 2024. After that, we were preparing the report for submitting to various government offices. The report can stand testimony to counter any narrative that is being dictated from across the border to spread panic in the Kashmir valley," Wajahat Farooq Bhat said.

Using a rigorous methodology that included GPS tagging, photographic documentation,

oral testimonies and an analysis of official records, the study aimed to provide evidence rather than relying on unverified

The research team documented a total of 4,056 graves, with the data revealing a reality that differs significantly from previous claims made by groups having vested interests, according to the researchers. As many as 2,493 graves (approximately 61.5 per cent) were identified as belonging to foreign terrorists who were killed in counter-insurgency operations, the report It noted that these individu-

als often lacked identification to conceal their networks and maintain Pakistan's plausible deniability. Around 1,208 graves (approximately 29.8 per cent) belonged to local militants from Kashmir who were killed in encounters with security forces. Many of these graves were identified through community testimonies and family acknowledgements. The researchers found only nine confirmed civilian graves, a mere 0.2 per cent of the total. This finding, according to the SYSFF, directly contradicts the claims of civilian mass graves and suggests that allegations of systematic extrajudicial killings have been "significantly overstated".

The study also identified 70 graves of tribal invaders who died during the 1947 Kashmir

scheme announced in January

this year for regional level facil-

ities catering to a population of

through a government letter is-

sued September 5, which asked

the Transport Department to

move ahead with detailed pro-

posals and make land available

Officials said IDTRs would be

large-scale, fully equipped hubs

spread across 10-15 acres, offer-

ing modern infrastructure such

as automated driving test tracks.

simulators for light and heavy

motor vehicles, classrooms,

workshops, hostels and medical testing facilities. They will also

function as training-of-trainers

academies, conduct road safety

research and set benchmarks for

RDTCs, in contrast, will be

smaller facilities spread over

around 3 acres, located closer

to citizens to cater to regional demand. They will offer induc-

tion training for new drivers,

refresher courses for in-ser-

vice drivers including bus,

freight and school transport

operators. hazardous goods

handling modules, and auto-

The approval was conveved

25 lakh, an official said.

for the projects.

other centres.

mated testing.

war, highlighting the historical depth of conflict-related burials in the region. Bhat emphasised the need for a comprehensive forensic investigation of the 276 genuinely unmarked graves using modern DNA testing to address humanitarian concerns.

It said the field investigation community engagement formed a crucial component of the research methodology, involving semi-structured interviews with a diverse cross-section of stakeholders. These include local clerics and members of Augaf mosque committees, gravediggers with decades of experience families of local militants and disappeared persons, long-term residents with knowledge of local burial practices and former militants who had surrendered or were released.

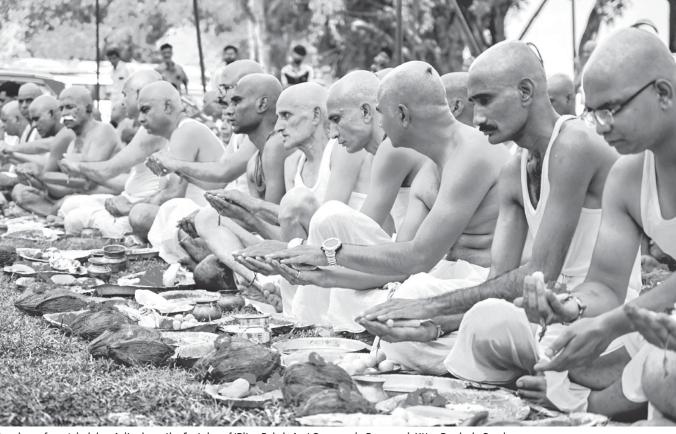
This report debunks the claims of certain advocacy groups and international organisations that have portrayed these burial sites as evidence of state-sponsored atrocities.

The SYSFF report argues that its findings reveal such characterisations are largely unsupported by ground evidence. Wajahat Farooq Bhat called on the international community to demand systematic verification of such claims before making policy decisions.

The study attributes the surge in burials between 1990 and 2000 to the influx of foreign militants following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, a period that fundamentally altered the nature of the Kashmir conflict.

The group, which mainly comprises scholars studying in various universities, said that following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and military establishment redirected their resources and expertise towards Kashmir, viewing it as the next front in their strategic competition with India.

It said the influx of foreign militants created unprecedented security challenges for the security forces, who found themselves confronting well-trained, heavily armed infiltrators operating without local identification or family



People perform 'pind daan' rituals on the first day of 'Pitru Paksha', at Sangam, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Sunday

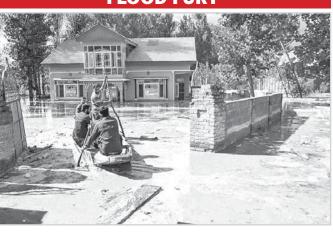
Jammu: Border villages plead for safer future

Pallanwala/Jammu (J&K), Sept 7: Jammu's border villages, which have long been terrorised by cross-border shelling. are braving an even more serious threat today as flash floods caused by unprecedented monsoon rains have left their homes broken, farmlands ruined and their futures uncertain.

The villagers in Pallanwala sector and R S Pura live a life of fear and loss, pleading for relocation, relief and a future where their children can grow without bullets or water sweeping away their homes

In Pallanwala sector along the Line of Control (LoC), flash swollen Chenab August 26 submerged villages up to the first floor of houses, washed away roads and livestock, and displaced more than 3,000 to 4,000

"We have floods every year, but this time it was the worst. I have not seen such devastation in my lifetime – it inundated every area here along the LoC. Thank God we are alive," said 71-year-old Santok Singh of Gigrial, whose family was evacuated by soldiers. The people of this area have lived through the



terror of mortar shelling and relentless machine gun fire from across the border in 1999, 2001, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2019, and most recently in 2023. They were forced to flee their homes and take shelter in camps at Devigarh and Paranwala schools for periods ranging from one month to six months.

Villagers of Pallanwala also braved devastating floods sweeping through their lands in 1984, 1992, 1998, 2003, 2014, and even now, which forced evacuation by the armed forces, who saved their lives and housed them in shelter camps

in schools. With a population of more than 5000 people, Pallanwala-Khour belt is located in a bowl between river Chenab and Munawar Tawi.

Tehsildar Khour Ranjeet Singh said that more than 300 homes have been damaged and twenty - including Gigrial, Hamipur, Naibasti Naraina, Pallanwala, Dhar Channi, Palatan, Mollu, Sajwal Kulle, Chani, Nai Basti, Rangpur, and Pindi along the LoC in this sector – have been affected in floods. He informed that three to four shelter camps in schools and

other places have been set up

for providing food.

'The situation of living here is like being caught between the devil and the deep sea. On one side we face Pakistani aggression, on the other, the Chenab devastates our homes," added villager Surender Kumar, who was evacuated with his family of nine and housed in a shelter camp at a school.

Locals recall that only in 1984 and 1992 had such intensity of floods been witnessed This time, water levels surged beyond evacuatio, submerging villages up to the first floor of houses and sweeping away roads, bridges, livestock, and farmlands.

The people of this border belt are now strongly advocating a permanent solution to their age-old problem of becoming sitting ducks between floods and firing, demanding permanent rehabilitation at safer

A teacher, Bhishan Chand, who took shelter along with his family on the roof of a house for a few hours before being evac uated by army through boats said, "There is only one demand from us. We should get plots of 5 to 10 marlas of land at safer places where this village can be relocated and rehabilitated.

UP govt okays driving 'Nude gang' sparks panic Water supply restored in 80 nc of Jammu city centres in 24 districts



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 7: The Uttar Pradesh government has cleared the establishment of Institutes of Driving Training and Research (IDTRs) and Regional Driver Training Centres (RDTCs) in 24 districts, in a major push to modernise driver education, make licensing transparent, and improve road safety across the state.

Uttar Pradesh recorded around 8,500 fatalities in road crashes in the first half of 2025. In 2024, it logged 24,118 deaths and 23,652 in 2023, according to official figures, with authorities and experts identifying driver error as also among key factors for accidents. Now, nine districts -- Lucknow, Ballia, Gorakhpur, Agra, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Jhansi, Kanpur Nagar, Shahjahanpur and Prayagraj -will host flagship IDTRs.

Another 15 districts -- Va-Bareilly. Meerut. ranasi. Moradabad, Aligarh, Mathura, Azamgarh, Ayodhya, Banda, Mirzapur, Etawah, Saharanpur, Sitapur, Jaunpur and Bijnor -- will get RDTCs.

UP so far has only one IDTR at Rae Bareli and no RDTC. The RDTC set up follows a Centre among women in Meerut PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Reports of more such incidents

Meerut, Sept 7: Panic has gripped Bharala village near Meerut city following incidents of women being pulled into fields by "nude" men.

According to police, they have received reports of two such incidents happening in the past 10 days.

woman August 30 passing a field was allegedly grabbed by two men.

A school bus driver and a guard who witnessed the incident raised an alarm and saved the woman, who escaped with

After the report, police launched a search operation using a drone and installed seven



CCTV cameras in the area. Village head Rajendra said, according to the woman, the vouths who dragged her were completely nude.

"Only two incidents have occurred. A case has been registered against unknown individuals based on a complaint. are rumours," Superintendent of Police, City, Ayush Vikram Singh told PTI.

"Initial investigation suggests the matter is linked to an internal dispute of a private school and local panchayat election politics," he said.

Daurala Police Station SHO Suman Kumar Singh said that the first incident happened on August 25 and the second August 30, both in front of Ved International School

The SHO said police deployed drones and female officers in plainclothes for several days. but found no leads.

Four special police teams have been formed to hunt the culprits, he said.

in 80 pc of Jammu city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 7: Water supply was restored to 80 per cent of consumers in Jammu city after heavy rainfall and flash floods over a fortnight ago disrupted it, an official spokesperson said.

He said since the water supply situation has seen significant improvement, the private water tankers have been permitted to resume independent operations.

Private water tanker services had earlier been placed under the regulatory control of Jal Shakti department, following directives issued by Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana in view of the severe water shortage in several parts of

This temporary measure was

aimed at ensuring equitable distribution, price regulation and uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all residents during the crisis.

With the dedicated and coordinated efforts of the Jal Shakti department, district authori ties and ground staff, normal water supply has now been restored in approximately 80 per cent of the affected areas.

"In the remaining localities, alternative arrangements like deployment of water tank ers, bore-well supplies and temporary water stations are functioning efficiently to meet public demand," the spokesperson said.

He said the Jal Shakti minister has lauded the cooperation of private water suppliers in stabilising the situation during the critical phase.

UP to unveil world's first park crafted from ceramic waste

Built in Khurja, the state's renowned "ceramic capital," the park is slated to open to the public by the end of September

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 7: Uttar Pradesh is set to unveil 'Anokhi Duniya', the world's first-ever park crafted entirely from ceramic waste, according to officials.

Built in Khurja, the state's renowned "ceramic capital," the park is slated to open to the

public by the end of September. As per a press statement, the project is a significant part of the Yogi government's efforts to globally promote traditional industries and products, following the success of the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.



Dr. Ankur Lathar, Vice-Chairman of the Bulandshahr-Khurja Development Authority (BKDA), the park has been constructed on a

PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model across a sprawling 2-acre area.

"Khurja has earned a global reputation for its world-class ceramic products," Dr. Lathar said. "This park, which transforms more than 80 tonnes of ceramic waste into stunning artworks, gives our traditional ceramic heritage a distinct

global identity while serving as an outstanding example of waste-to-art." A dedicated team of six art-

ists and 120 artisans meticulously worked for months to create nearly 100 unique ceramic artworks for the park. Among these are 28 large-scale installations, crafted from discarded items such as broken pitchers, cups, and kettles.

These large installations, along with other striking pieces, are designed in vibrant and eye-catching styles to serve as major tourist attractions.

Beyond the art, the park of-

fers a holistic experience for visitors of all ages, featuring selfie points, a cafe, and beautifully landscaped greenery.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 5.86 crore, the park will maintain a minimal entry fee to ensure its ongoing maintenance and sustainability

Dr. Lathar highlighted that "Anokhi Duniya" not only showcases Khurja's rich crafts manship but also aligns with the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" vision by demonstrating how sustainable development can be achieved by converting waste

into creative, functional art.

national



Why has the ECI suddenly **BLOCKED vital evidence? Who is** it protecting? BJP's Vote Chori department? Is the ECI bending under BJP pressure to derail the CID probe?

PM TO VISIT HP TOMORROW

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur Sunday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Himachal Pradesh September 9 to take stock of the widespread damage caused in the state due to landslides and incessant rains



Ganesh idol immersion:

Seven die in Maha, MP

Post' carries a poignant story. In December 1986, the Border Roads Organ-

isation (BRO) unearthed the

mortal remains of a soldier along with 24 helmets mounted on pickets PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

When you were in your schools and polytechnics, you might have experienced that two things were associated with Uttar Pradesh YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM







Wanted Maoist killed in gunfight

Chaibasa (Jharkhand): A Maoist, carrying a bounty of Rs 10 lakh on his head, was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district Sunday, police said. The encounter broke out this morning in the forests of Panchlataburu hills in Rela Paral area under the jurisdiction of Goilkera police station. Speaking to PTI, Kolhan DIG Anuranjan Kispotta said, "An encounter between Maoists and security forces took place early in the morning. A body was recovered during a subsequent search operation."

Pak singer is stable after bear attack

New Delhi: The team of Pakistani singer Ouratulain Balouch confirmed she is out of danger and is getting medical help following the attack by a brown bear. Balouch is a popular singer and songwriter. She is known for songs such as "Thaqvan", "Jogan Jogan", and "Balive". Her team shared a statement on her Instagram handle Saturday, assuring fans and followers her condition is stable.

Three boys killed in freak accident

Chamarajanagar (Karnataka): Three boys have been killed and another sustained critical injuries when the scooter, which they were riding, collided with a lorry and a car travelling in opposite directions here, police officials said Sunday. The four boys were riding a scooter on the Ring Road near Galeepura in Chamarajanagar, along the national highway stretch connecting to Karivaradaraja Hill Saturday night, they added.

Man falls ill in custody, dies

Hajipur (Bihar): A man arrested in connection with an attack on security personnel died during treatment at a government hospital in Bihar's Vaishali district, police said Sunday.

Mann progressing well: Fortis Hospital

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who was admitted to Fortis Hospital in Mohali Friday after he complained of exhaustion and low heart rate, is progressing well, the hospital authorities said. "His vitals are normal and he has been mobilised.' they said Sunday. Puniab which was to be chaired by Mann Friday, was postponed due to his illness.



Oppn MPs to practise with 'mock poll'

The vice-presidential election has been

described by the Opposition as an ideological

battle, even as the numbers are stacked

in favour of the ruling National

Democratic Alliance (NDA)

New Delhi, Sept 7: Opposition MPs would be briefed Monday on the procedure to vote in the September 9 vice presidential polls, sources in the INDIA bloc said Sunday.

They said a 'mock poll' would be conducted in the Central Hall of the Samyidhan Sadan at around 2:30 PM Monday after the briefing on the procedure to vote in the vice presidential polls.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was to host a dinner for the Opposition MPs as well Monday evening but it has been cancelled in view of the flood situation in the country, the sources said.

It is a direct contest between ruling NDA nominee C P Radhakrishnan and joint opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy September 9. Both candidates this time hail from southern India, with Radhakrishnan from Tamil Nadu and Reddy from Telangana

The vice-presidential election has been described by the Opposition as an ideological battle, even as the numbers are stacked in favour of the ruling National Democratic Alliance

Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody, who is the returning officer for the vice-presidential election, has said that the polling will take place Tues-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

to its proceedings.

day in Room No. F-101, Vasudha, Parliament House.

The polling will commence at 10 AM and close at 5 PM September 9.

"The electoral college for election to the Office of the Vice-President of India consists of the Members of both Houses of Parliament. The nominated Members of Raiva Sabha are also eligible to be included in the Electoral College and, therefore, are entitled to participate in the election."

"The polling arrangements in Parliament House are being made by Shri PC Mody,

the Returning Officer for the Vice-Presidential Election, 2025, and Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha," the statement from the Rajya Sabha secretariat said.

"The counting of votes will commence at 6 PM on the same day and the result will be declared immediately thereafter,'

While Radhakrishnan is a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) veteran from Tamil Nadu and the governor of Maharashtra currently. Reddy is a former Supreme Court judge.

Reddy (79), who retired from

the apex court in July 2011, is a veteran jurist known for several landmark judgments criticising the then Union government for showing slackness in probing black-money cases. He had also declared Salwa Judum, appointed by the Chhattisgarh government to fight Naxals, as unconstitutional.

As an apex court judge, Reddy ordered the formation of a special investigation team to take all steps for bringing back unaccounted monies unlawfully kept in bank accounts abroad.

For the 17th vice-presidential election, the electoral college consists of 233 elected members of the Rajya Sabha (five seats are currently vacant), 12 nominated members of the Raiva Sabha and 543 elected members of the Lok Sabha (one seat is currently vacant).

The electoral college comprises a total of 788 members (781 presently).

The Congress-led opposition is projecting Reddy as a consistent and courageous champion of social, economic and political iustice.

Reddy has had a long and eminent legal career, including as a judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, the chief justice of the Gauhati High Court and a judge of the Supreme Court. He also led the committee that undertook the caste survey in

bouring Mumbai, three men who were swept away in a creek during Ganpati idol immersion were saved with the help of a Ro-Ro boat after a quick alert

The incident took place at around 3 pm Saturday at Na-

iconic Lalbaugcha Raja idol has been delayed by several hours and is expected to conclude around 11 pm due to weather

tide and technical challenges, officials said.

civic officials said. The incident occurred on Khairani Road in the Sakinaka area Sunday morning when a Ganesh idol came into contact with a hanging electric wire.

In Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, two teenage boys drowned after falling into a stream during the immersion of an idol of Lord Ganesh, police said Sunday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/Bhopal, Sept 7: Ga-

nesh festival culminated on a

teary note for lakhs of devotees

who bid farewell to the adorable

elephant-headed god they con-

secrated and worshipped for

ten days, while at least seven

persons died in various inci-

dents, including drowning,

after immersing idols in Maha-

rashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

In Maharashtra, four persons

drowned and 13 went missing in

various water bodies in Thane

Pune, Nanded, Nashik, Jalgaon,

and Amravati districts, officials

In Mumbai city, where im-

mersion processions extend

several hours, a man died of

electrocution and five other

individuals sustained injuries,

said Sunday.

The boys drowned after falling into a stream during the immersion of an idol of Lord Ganesh in Ghatkheda village in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district Saturday night, police said.

Thousands of devotees gathered at Girgaon Chowpatty in Mumbai amid rain Sunday morning to bid farewell to the iconic Lalbaugcha Raja and other idols of the elephant-headed deity, marking the culmination of the 10-day festival.

from maritime authorities, officials said Sunday.

rangi jetty in Virar (West), they said. Meanwhile, the immersion of

conditions and technical issues The idol was shifted onto a raft Sunday afternoon after delays since morning due to high

Generally, the Lalbaugcha Raja idol is immersed in the Arabian Sea off Girgaon Chowpatty in south Mumbai

before 9 am. The idol was moved to a mechanised raft, following sev eral failed attempts, more than eight hours after it arrived at Girgaon Chowpatty and over 28 hours after its grand procession

began from Lalbaug Saturday afternoon. "The idol was finally moved from its platform onto a newly constructed raft at 4:45pm with the help of hundreds of volun-

teers and fishermen amidst a sea of onlookers," an official said. Lalbaugcha Raja is not just the most patronised idol during the 10-day festival, but its im-

mersion is also an unmissa ble segment for thousands of devotees, who throng the chowpatty from just past midnight waiting for its arrival by sunrise after winding through jampacked streets of central

Rat attack: NHRC notice to MP health dept, Indore DM New Delhi, Sept 7: The NHRC has issued notices to the principal secretary of the Madhya Pradesh's health department and Indore's district magistrate over a complaint alleging that a newborn died and others were injured due to "rat attacks" inside a hospital, officials said Sunday. The case, following the complaint related to the alleged incident, was registered by the National Human Rights Commission September 4, according

An aerial view of an area inundated with water of the swollen Yamuna, at Vrindavan in Mathura district,

FAMILY PLACES DEAD MAN IN COW DUNG HOPING FOR REVIVAL

work for Access to Justice'. "As per the complaint received by the Commission, the complainant has reported a deeply disturbing incident that occurred at Indore's MY Hospital, where a newborn tragically lost his life and others were injured due to rat attacks inside the hospital premises," reads the proceedings.

In its notice, the NHRC has

directed authorities that the

allegations levelled in the com-

plaint be inquired into, and

asked to submit an "action

taken report within 10 days' for perusal of the Commission.

The complaint, as per the

proceedings of the case is, 'Net-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Latehar, Sept 7: Police had to coax and persuade relatives of a 45-year-old cattle breeder, who had died of lightning strike, to hand over the body for post-mortem examination. which was kept in the mound of cow dung out of superstition, hoping that he would come alive in Jharkhand's Latehar district, an officer said

on Sunday. Mahuadand Police Station officer-in-charge Manoj Kumar told PTI Sunday that Ramnath Yadav, a cattle breeder and farmer in Rampur village in Mahuadand block of Latehar. had gone along with his wife, Shobha Devi, for cattle grazing on Saturday evening when lightning struck him and he

collapsed at the spot. "Relatives had rushed Yaday to the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Mahuadand for treatment, where doctors, after examining, declared him dead due to lightning. Shobha Devi was also admitted but her condition is stable. However, superstitious relatives brought back the body without informing the police from the CHC and kept it in the mound of cow dung with a belief that the effect of lightning would subside in cow dung and Yadav would be alive again," said Kumar. Even doctors and local administration officials reached the house and tried to coax and persuade the relatives to hand over the body.

"The doctors tried to persuade the relatives that it is

not possible for a dead man to come alive by any means. But they would not relent, and this continued till midnight. We had to use a bit of force, and finally they relented, and the body was sent to Latehar Sadar Hospital in the early hours of Sunday The post-mortem will be conducted Sunday, and thereafter we will lodge the UD case later in the day," said Kumar.

From copying to creativity: Homework in schools is changing

AS CLASSROOMS ACROSS INDIA ADAPT TO EVOLVING LEARNING MODELS, THE HUMBLE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT IS QUIETLY UNDERGOING A TRANSFORMATION -- SHIFTING FROM A DREADED CHORE TO A POTENTIAL TOOL FOR EXPLORATION, COLLABORATION AND CREATIVITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Once synonymous with pages of repetitive math problems and essay writing, homework in Indian schools has gradually evolved into a more diverse and learner-friendly practice, reflecting broader changes in education philosophy.

As classrooms across India adapt to evolving learning models, the humble homework assignment is quietly undergoing a transformation -- shifting from a dreaded chore to a potential tool for exploration, collaboration and creativity.

Educators say homework. once rooted in rote learning, is now being reshaped by policy shifts, digital tools and

tables, copying paragraphs or solving the same exercise multiple times. Today, many schools focus on project-based assignments, presentations, and even community engagement activities," said RC Jain, chairman of a school in the national capital and President of Delhi State Public School Management Association.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also gave a unique homework to teachers to lead campaigns along with their students to promote swadeshi products and give an impetus to "Make in India" and "vocal for local".

While interacting with the National awardee teachers here, he said teachers generally give homework to their students but he wants to give one "homework" to teachers for a change.

Historically, the volume of homework received by school students has been flagged as an area of concern.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) in 2018 had found that 74 pc of urban Indian students receive daily homework, despite persistent learning gaps - calling into question the efficacy of sheer volume alone.

The "10-Minute Rule" formulated by the National PTA and the National Education Association in the United States suggests that kids should be doing about 10 minutes of homework per night per grade level.

This translates to 10 minutes of homework for first graders, going up to 120 minutes for twelfth graders.

While the concept of homework has evolved in India, in dents often spend 3-4 hours daily on homework.

Experts say that the transformation in the concept of homework has been driven partly by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which advocates reducing the academic burden on students and encouraging activity-based learning.

Several state boards and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have since issued circulars asking teachers to assign tasks that are "enjoyable, experimental and application-oriented".

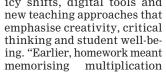
"Instead of simply asking for memorized facts, homework increasingly requires students to understand the 'why' and 'how' of concepts. Students are encouraged to learn through doing, with emphasis on experiments, projects, and innovation challenges rather than new methods promote critical thinking, analysis, and interpretation of information, skills often stifled by rote learning," a senior CBSE official explained

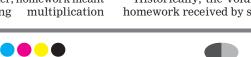
Technology has also played a key role in the transition. With the rise of digital classrooms. students are often asked to cre ate videos, prepare slideshows or use online research to complete assignments.

In some schools, homework has extended beyond textbooks to include activities like inter viewing family members, maintaining a kitchen garden, or documenting local traditions.

Parents, however, remain divided. While many welcome the shift away from rote memorisation, others worry that project-heavy homework can increase dependency on parental support and widen learning gaps. Experts say the challenge lies in balancing academic rigour with flexibility.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is progressing well, it said. The meeting of the Puniab cabinet.











practice, many Indian stu-

just reading textbooks. The

national



In these difficult times, the Delhi government is committed to sharing their pain and extending every possible assistance REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

BHUPEN HAZARIKA'S CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS TO BEGIN MONDAY

The year-long birth centenary celebrations of legendary singer Bhupen Hazarika will commence Monday, with the Assam government and various other organisations set to pay tributes to the maestro





seeing that separatism and violence have reduced in the North East, and

These are the results of efforts

SUNIL AMBEKAR | RSS'S NATIONAL PUBLICITY IN-CHARGE

Pratap Simha has been ignored by his own party. He needs to be relevant in politics and hence he is doing

such things. The court will hear the case and take a decision DK SHIVAKUMAR K'TAKA DEPUTY CM

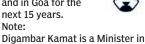








Digambar Kamat predicts: BJP cannot come to power in India for the next 20 years. and in Goa for the next 15 years.



Goa's BJP govt. *Slow claps'

@PunsterX

SHORT **TAKES**

Woman dead, 18 hurt in building fire

Mumbai: A woman died and 18 persons were injured in a fire that broke out in a 24-storev building in Dahisar in north Mumbai Sunday, officials said. The blaze erupted around 3 pm in New Janakalyan Society at Shanti Nagar in said. "Thirty-six residents were rescued, of which 19 were rushed to different hospitals. Of the seven who were admitted to Rohit Hospital, one, a woman, died. One male from this group is critical. The condition of others is stable. Ten of the injured were taken to Northern Care Hospital, and one each to Pragati Hospital and civic-run Shatabdi

Man arrested for 'raping' minor tribal

Dumka: A middle-aged man was arrested in Jharkhand's **Dumka district Sunday for** allegedly raping a 13-year-old tribal girl who worked as a domestic help in his house, police said. The arrest came a day after the survivor and her mother lodged a complaint at Gopikandar police

Gujarat receives

Ahmedabad: Several parts of Gujarat received heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours, throwing life out of gear, especially in Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and other areas in the southern part of the state, officials said Sunday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said a depression over southwest Rajasthan moved southwestwards and laid centered over north Gujarat and adjoining southwest Rajasthan Sunday and is "very likely" to move westsouthwestwards during next 2 days".

Rain abates in many parts of north India

New Delhi, Sept 7: Rains in north India, which have been ravaged by floods triggered by heavy rains in recent weeks, seem to have slowed down, bringing much-needed breather to many parts, including Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, that require urgent relief work to be carried out for people displaced to camps due to the floods.

Rajasthan. however. continued to receive heavy to very heavy showers, with the Jaipur Meteorological Centre Sunday issuing a warning of more intense showers in parts of the state. According to the weather

office, a well-marked low-pressure area over the southern part of the state has intensified into a depression, under whose influence, heavy to extremely heavy rainfall was recorded at isolated places in the southern districts during the past 24

Officials said the highest rainfall of 210 mm was recorded at Sanchore in Jalore district. The met department further said heavy rainfall activity may continue in Barmer, Jalore, and Jaisalmer districts Monday. Light rains were witnessed

in some parts of Himachal Pradesh, with Manali receiving 24.2 mm of rainfall since Saturday evening, which is the highest in the state.

Meanwhile, a car carrying

Hazratbal row:

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Over 50 detained

Srinagar, Sept 7: More than 50

persons have been detained for

questioning in connection with

the vandalisation of a plaque

with the Ashoka emblem in

the Hazratbal shrine here as

police intensified searches for

those involved in the incident,

The police checked the vid-

eos and CCTV footage of the incident that occurred after

the Friday congregational

prayers, following which

these people were detained,

against women who vandalised

the plaque but any minor found

involved in the incident will not

A huge controversy erupted

in Kashmir after the plaque

with the Ashoka emblem was

hurting religious sentiments

by using the national emblem

dullah has 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 the

Ashoka emblem in the mosque

was "provocative" and blas-

phemous, the BJP slammed

the defacement of the plaque,

claiming the incident was an

attempt to revive terrorism and

separatism in the Valley.

Chief Minister Omar Ab-

in the mosque.

be proceeded against".

The official said action "as per law will also be taken

officials said Sunday

they said.



Rajasthan, however, continued to receive heavy to very heavy showers, with the Jaipur Meteorological Centre Sunday issuing a warning of more intense showers in parts of the state

three police personnel plunged into the swollen Kshipra river after rains in Madhya Pradesh's Uijain district after skidding off a bridge, officials said.

Rain lashed some parts of Punjab Sunday but the amount of rainfall received was evidently less compared to previous days. Punjab has been among the worst-hit states by this year's monsoons, with hundreds of villages submerged under water due to the swollen Sutlei, Beas and Ravi rivers and seasonal rivulets.

All schools, colleges and universities that had been closed in view of the floods will reopen for students from September 8, according to the government.

The water level in the Pong dam dropped by around two feet to 1.392.20 feet, though it remained two feet more than its upper limit capacity of 1,390 feet Sunday evening, officials

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Punjab Tuesday to take stock of the flood situation, BJP state unit chief Sunil Jakhar said.

Amritsar received 3.7 mm of rain between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. Ludhiana received 2.4 mm. while Patiala received 9.2 mm rain Sunday. Faridkot, Pathankot and Ferozepur also witnessed rain.

In neighbouring Haryana, Sirsa received a downpour of mm, Mewat 1 mm rain, Ambala 12.1 mm and Hisar received

Weather conditions over the Delhi NCR region remained largely dry Sunday, with only scattered light rainfall in select

The Ridge recorded 5.7 mm of cumulative rainfall till 8.30 am, while Mayur Vihar and Pitampura reported 16 mm and 1.5 mm, respectively.

The water level in the Yamuna was recorded at 205.56 metres at 8 am at the Old Railway Bridge, which is below the 206 metre evacuation mark officials said. The IMD has predicted thunderstorms with rain for the city Monday.

The local met station in Himachal Pradesh has issued yellow warnings of thunderstorms and lightning in isolated areas of the state Sunday and Mon-

Naina Devi received 16.8 mm of rain, Dhaulakuan 16.5 mm, Nahan 13.1 mm, Rampur Bushahr 12 mm, Kufri 11.6 mm, Kothi 10.4 mm and Bharmour 10 mm while thunderstorms lashed Shimla, Jubbarhatti, Kangra, Kufri and Jot.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a fresh spell of rainfall and thunderstorms across Arunachal Pradesh beginning Monday and continuing through the week, with varying intensity across regions.

PM attends workshop for BJP MPs, resolution on GST reforms passed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday attended a workshop for BJP MPs where a resolution was passed lauding the government for the GST reforms ahead of the party's nationwide outreach to highlight its benefits.

Modi remained in the midst of the MPs and attended different sessions on the first day of the "Sansad Karyashala".

Sources said the Prime Minister gave suggestions and shared his views while attending meetings MPs divided into different groups.

In a meeting in which members of a few parliamentary com-

mittees were combined, he asked them to take active participation in discussions and in reading and preparing reports. Union Parliamentary Af-

fairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said MPs from the BJP's allies will also join the meeting on Monday, and Modi will address the ruling alliance members.

NDA MPs are also likely to participate in a mock polling exercise in preparation for the September 9 vice presidential election. Leading party leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda, attended the programme aimed at helping parliamentarians contribute effectively in and outside Parliament. Several members highlighted that PM Modi chose to sit in the last row like an "ordinary" party member when he arrived. Sharing a picture of Modi, Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan said, "This is the BJP's strength that everyone here is a karyakarta (worker)

Modi later said remained in the midst of the Karvashala' **MPs and attended** in Delhi. MP different sessions colleagues from all over on the first day India and othof the "Sansad er senior leaders exchanged Karyashala" valuable perspec

> sues." He added, "In our Party, platforms like 'Sansad Karyashala' are important because they are great forums to learn from each other and deliberate on how we can serve people even better."

tives on diverse is

The different sessions during the two-day workshop will be devoted to a host of issues. including the work of parliamentarians and the highlights of the government's successes The venue was replete with ma terials showcasing the benefits of the latest GST reforms and other achievements, including Operation Sindoor.

Kharge slams ECI

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Con-Commission must ensure full transparency and stop acting like an "agent of the BJP", as party chief Mallikarjun Kharge accused the poll body of having "stonewalled crucial information" and "shielding" those behind alleged "vote chori".

Kharge shared on X a media report which claimed the case related to an attempt to remove electors by allegedly forging Form 7 ahead of the Karnataka Assembly election in 2023 has gone cold since the Election Commission of India is yet to share crucial data needed to nab the accused.

There was no immediate response from the Election Commission on the charges, but the poll body has in the past dismissed all such claims by the Congress as "baseless".

Is the ECI now "BJP's back-office for vote chori"? Kharge asked. "Understand the chronology. Ahead of the May 2023 Karnataka elections, the Congress had exposed a massive deletion of voters: in the Aland Constituency. Thousands of voters were stripped of their rights through a very sophisticated operation of forging Form 7 applications, he alleged. "In February 2023, a case was filed. The probe revealed 5,994 forged applications clear evidence of a massive attempt at voter fraud. The Congress government then ordered a CID probe to catch the

culprits.' The Congress chief said, "But here's the twist: while ECI had earlier shared part of the documents needed to trace the forgery, it has now stonewalled the crucial information, effectively shielding those behind

the Vote Chori!" "Why has the ECI suddenly blocked vital evidence?" he asked. "Who is it protecting? BJP's Vote Chori department? Is the ECI bending under BJP pressure to derail the CID probe?" the Congress chief

SC to hear pleas on Bihar electoral roll revision today vandalised in the Hazratbal shrine Friday, with political PRESS TRUST OF INDIA parties accusing Waqf Board draft roll to submit their claims chief Darakshan Andrabi of

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a batch of pleas. including those of political parties, challenging the June 24 decision of the Election Commission to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of elec-

toral rolls in poll-bound Bihar. A bench of Justices Surva Kant and Joymalya Bagchi will consider the response of political parties like the Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD), AIMIM and other petitioners on the poll panel's note where it has submitted that 99.5 per cent of the 7.24 crore electors in the draft electoral roll had filed their el-



Aspirants and others jostle to board a train at Prayagraj Junction railway station after appearing for PET

examination conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Service Selection Commission (UPSSSC), in Prayagraj

igibility documents in the SIR

The top court will resume hearing on the batch of pleas including those filed by NGO, activists and political parties since August 22, when it had directed the Election Commission to allow excluded voters from the

through the online mode, besides making physical submissions in the SIR exercise in Bihar.

On September 1, the top court, while hearing some applications filed by political parties for extension of deadlines, was told by the poll panel that claims, objections and corrections in the draft electoral roll prepared in Bihar under the SIR exercise can be filed beyond September 1 but these would be considered once the electoral roll is finalised.

It had said claims and objections in the draft roll can be filed till the last date of nomination forms in each assembly

VP of India: Office with perks, but no regular salary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Vice President of India, the second-highest Constitutional office in the country, is perhaps the only post that does not enjoy the benefits of a regular salary.

The vice president draws his salary for his role as the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament. NDA candidate C P Radhakrishnan and opposition nominee P Sudershan Reddy are in the fray for the September 9 vice presidential elections necessitated due to the surprise resignation of Jag-

deep Dhankhar July 21.

The salary and allowances of the vice president are determined under the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953.

"There is no provision for a specific salary for the vice president; instead, they receive remuneration and benefits commensurate with their role as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha," officials said. The vice president is enti-

tled to draw the salary of the President of India when he assumes the responsibility in a caretaker role. In such a situation, the vice president ceases to be the chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha chairman is entitled to



a salary of ₹4 lakh per month. The vice president enjoys several perks and allowances

medical care, train and air travel, a landline connection, mobile phone service, personal such as free accommodation, security and staff.

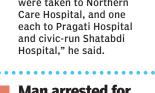
The salary and allowances of the vice president are determined under the Salaries and **Allowances of Officers of Parliament** Act, 1953

A former vice-president is entitled to a pension of nearly ₹2 lakh per month, a Type-8 bungalow, one personal secretary, one additional personal secretary, one personal assistant, one physician, one nursing officer and four personal attendants. In the case of a former vice-president's death, his or her spouse is entitled to a smaller Type-7 house for her lifetime. After the sudden resignation, Jagdeep Dhankhar recently applied for a pension as an ex-legislator of Rajasthan Dhankhar, who represented

the Kishangarh Assembly constituency as a Congress MLA from 1993 to 1998, received a pension as a former legislator until July 2019. It was discontinued after he

was appointed the governor of West Bengal. Dhankhar, now 74, is entitled

to a ₹42,000 pension per month as a former legislator, an official had said.



station Saturday.

heavy rainfall

international



the smell of deportations in the morning. **Chicago about** to find out why it's called the **Department of**

DONALD TRUMP

'GOD'S INFLUENCER'

Pope Leo XIV declared a 15-year-old computer whiz the Catholic Church's first millennial saint Sunday, giving the next generation of Catholics a relatable role model who used technology to spread the faith and earn the nickname "God's influencer." Leo canonized Carlo Acutis, who died in 2006, during an open-air Mass in St Peter's Square that was attended by tens of thousands of people, many of them millennials



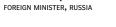
World peace leaders. We must unite to save the earth and ourselves, let us act now for peace, together

MOHAN MUNASINGHE | NOBEL LAUREATE

Some groups and individuals are openly stating that those who say anything that goes against Shariah will not controlled

be tolerated, that women will be MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR SECRETARY GENERAL, BNP It is a demon

stration that three great powers, representing three great civilisations are aware of their common interests in a number of areas SERGEI LAVROV



Dengue, chikungunya

SHORT TAKES

grip Bangladesh Dhaka: Bangladesh faces a fast-worsening public health crisis as the mosquitoborne diseases dengue and chikungunya spread side by side, overwhelming hospitals and heightening fears of an even bigger outbreak in the weeks ahead. According to the Directorate General of Health Services, the South Asian country has recorded over 33,800 dengue cases and 132 deaths this year. In the first week of September alone, at least 10 people died and to hospitals with fever. is making a forceful return.

more than 1,500 were admitted Chikungunya, absent for years, Between January and July, four Dhaka-based labs confirmed 785 cases of the virus, with detection rates topping 30% in some facilities. In the port city of Chittagong, officials reported 30 cases in just 24 hours, pushing the city's tally to nearly 3,000 this year. The deadliest year on record was

US frees SK workers

infections reported.

2023, with 1,705 deaths from

dengue and more than 321,000

Seoul: More than 300 South Korean workers detained following a massive immigration raid at a Hyundai plant in Georgia will be released and brought home, the South Korean government announced Sunday. Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik said that South Korea and the US had finalised negotiations on the workers' release. He said South Korea plans to send a chartered plane to bring the workers home as soon as remaining administrative steps are completed. US immigration authorities said Friday they detained 475 people, most of them South Korean nationals, when hundreds of federal agents raided Hyundai's sprawling manufacturing site in Georgia where the Korean automaker Hyundai makes

60 Nigerians killed

electric vehicles.

Maiduguri: Boko Haram militants killed dozens of people in a nighttime assault on a village in northeastern Nigeria that is home to residents who recently returned from a closed camp for internally displaced persons, residents and authorities said. The attack on Darul Jamal in the Bama local government area took place late Friday and killed at least 60 people, a resident of the village. Mohammed Babagana, told The Associated Press. Borno state Gov Babagana Zulum, who visited the attacked community late Saturday evening, confirmed to reporters that over 60 died in the attack.

DIGITAL BLACKOUT

Red Sea cable cuts snap Asia internet

Undersea cables are one of the backbones of the internet, along with satellite connections and land-based cables



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Sept 7: Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access in parts of Asia and the Middle East, experts said Sunday, though it wasn't immediately clear what caused the incident.

There has been concern about the cables being targeted in a Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels, which the rebels describe as an effort to pressure Israel to end its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But the Houthis have denied attacking the lines in the past.

Undersea cables are one of the backbones of the internet, along with satellite connections and land-based cables. Typically, internet service providers have multiple access points and reroute traffic if one fails, though it can slow down access for users. Microsoft announced via a status website that the Mideast "may experience increased latency due to

undersea fibre cuts in the Red Sea." The Redmond, Washington-based firm did not immediately elaborate, though it said that internet traffic not moving through the Middle East "is not

NetBlocks, which monitors internet access, said "a series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries," which it said included India and Pakistan. It blamed "failures affecting the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.'

impacted.

The South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 cable is run by Tata Communications, part of the Indian conglomerate. The India-Middle East-Western Europe cable is run by another consortium overseen by Alcatel Submarine Networks. Neither firm responded to requests for comment. Pakistan Telecommunications Co Ltd, a telecommunication giant in that country, noted, in a statement Saturday.

that the cuts had taken place.

In the United Arab Emirates, home to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, internet users on the country's state-owned Du and Etisalat networks complained of slower internet speeds. The government did not acknowledge the disruption.

Subsea cables can be cut by anchors dropped from ships, but can also be targeted in attacks. It can take weeks for repairs to be made as a ship and crew must locate themselves over the damaged cable.

The lines' cut comes as Yemen's Houthi rebels remain locked in a series of attacks targeting Israel over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. Israel has responded with airstrikes, including one that killed top leaders within the rebel movement.

In early 2024, Yemen's internationally recognised government in exile alleged that the Houthis planned to attack undersea cables in the Red Sea. Several were cut, but the Houthis denied being responsible. On Sunday morning, the Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel acknowledged that the cuts had taken place, citing NetBlocks.

From November 2023 to December 2024, the Houthis targeted more than 100 ships with missiles and drones over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. In their campaign so far, the Houthis have sunk four vessels and killed at least eight mariners.



Houthi drone targets south Israel, halts flights

Tel Aviv: A drone launched from Yemen by the Houthi militant group has hit Israel's southern airport, closing the airspace and halting flights, the Israeli military said Sunday. Israel said the Houthis launched multiple drones some of which were intercepted outside of Israel. At least one hit near the Ramon International Airport near the southern Israeli city of Eilat. In May, a Houthi missile hit near Israel's main airport, injuring four people lightly and causing many airlines to cancel their flights to Israel for months. Israel later struck and destroyed the main airport in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa. One person was lightly injured from shrapnel as a result of the drone, according to Israel's rescue services Magen David Adom. Sunday's attack came two weeks after an Isreali strike on Sanaa, the rebel-held capital of Yemen, killed the prime minister of the Houthi government, along with many of his cabinet. Prime Minister Ahmed al-Rahawi was the most senior

LONDON'S PALESTINE ACTION RALLY

Police condemn abuse after over 890 arrests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 7: The Metropolitan Police Sunday condemned the "intolerable" abuse suffered by officers who were "kicked and spat on" as they made over 890 arrests at a protest here against the banning of Palestine Action as a terror group.

Hundreds gathered at Parliament Square over the course of the weekend to oppose the group's proscription by the UK government, holding placards such as "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action" in protest over the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Police had, in August, arrested a large number of people during a similar protest defying the ban on the same organisation.

A total of 857 individuals were arrested in Parliament Square in London under the UK Terrorism Act 2000 over alleged offences, the Met Police said. Other arrests were made for other offences, including on

suspicion of assaulting officers. "In carrying out their duties, our officers have been punched, kicked, spat on and had objects thrown at them by protesters." said Met Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Claire Smart, who led the policing

the iustice system, as well as the level of violence seen in the crowd, required significant resources which took officers out of neighbourhoods to the detriment of the Londoners who rely on them CLAIRE SMART | MET POLICE DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER "It is intolerable that those

porters of Palestine Action in

their attempt to overwhelm

whose job it is to enforce the law and keep people safe - in this case arresting individuals committing offences under the Terrorism Act - should be subiect to this level of abuse."

On Saturday, the Met Police said it had deployed more than 2,500 officers to manage protests across the UK capital. The majority of protests, including the Palestine Coalition march at tended by around 20,000 people passed with very few arrests.

However, the protest organ ised by the Defend Our Juries organisation in support of the proscribed terrorist organisation Palestine Action saw the

most arrests. "Throughout the demonstration, there was a coordinated effort to prevent officers from carrying out their duties which escalated to violence where of ficers were punched, kicked spat on and had objects thrown at them," the Met Police said.

Trump signals 'phase two' of Russia sanctions when he took office in January.

Washington, Sept 7: US President Donald Trump said Sunday he is ready to move to a second phase of sanctioning Russia, the closest he has come to suggesting he is on the verge of ramping up sanctions against Moscow or its oil buyers over the war in Ukraine.

Trump has repeatedly threatened Moscow with further sanctions but withheld them as he pursued peace talks.

The latest comments suggest an increasingly aggressive posture, but Trump stopped short of saying he was committed to such a decision or what a second phase might entail.

Asked by a reporter at the



White House if he is ready to move to "the second phase' of sanctions against Russia, Trump responded, "Yeah, I am.' He did not elaborate.

Trump has been frustrated by his inability to bring a halt to the fighting after he initially predicted he would be able to end the war in Ukraine swiftly

The exchange was a follow-up to Trump's comments Wednesday defending the actions he had taken already on Russia, including imposing punitive tariffs on India's US-bound exports last month.

India is a major buyer of Russia's energy exports, while Western buyers have cut back in response to the war.

"That cost hundreds of billions of dollars to Russia," Trump said Wednesday. "You call that no action? And I haven't done phase two yet or phase three.'

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday that the US and the European Union could heap "secondary tariffs on the countries that buy Russian oil," pushing the Russian economy to the brink of collapse and bringing Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table. The treasury secretary said

the US is prepared to increase

pressure on Russia, "but we

Houthi official killed in the Israeli-

US campaign against the Iranian-

need our European partners to "We are in a race now between how long can the Ukrainian military hold up

versus how long can the Russian economy hold up," he said. Last week, Trump said he put

secondary sanctions on India for its purchases of Russian oil. "the largest purchaser outside of China", and indicated that he hasn't done "phase two or phase

Shigeru Ishiba: The 'smile again' PM who voters frowned on

Ishiba's resignation will trigger a leadership race in his **Liberal Democratic** Party, with the winner facing a parliament vote to become PM

Tokyo, Sept 7: Shigeru Ishiba took over Japan's ruling party promising to revive it from scandal. Less than a year later he is stepping down as prime minister after three electoral losses shook the party's grip on power.

An unlikely premier who vowed to make Japan "smile again", Ishiba won the Liberal Democratic Party leadership election on his fifth attempt in late September 2024. That put him at the helm of a party that has dominated Japan's postwar politics but was at one of its lowest ebbs since its founding in 1955.

His brief tenure as prime minister and party president

was marked by months of fraught tariff negotiations with US President Donald Trump's administration, details of which were finalised just days before he was set to stand down.

At home, the self-described lone wolf saw support for his administration steadily erode as his government struggled to contain consumer price rises that fuelled growing discontent over squeezed earnings and sluggish economic growth. LOSS AFTER LOSS

In the upper house election in July, voters handed Ishiba, 68, a resounding rebuke. Many backed opposition groups promising tax cuts and tighter controls on immigration blamed for depressing wages, including the far right Sanseito party. The LDP and its coalition partner Komeito lost their majority in the chamber. It was Ishiba's third straight electoral defeat, following setbacks in Tokyo's local elections in June and a lower house loss in October when his party was mired in a political donations scandal that forced his predecessor to resign.

A former defence minister



who entered parliament in 1986 after a stint as a banker at the height of Japan's bubble economy, Ishiba was seen as a figure popular with the public who could revive the LDP's standing when he was elevated to party leader. But within the party, he was seen by some as a contrarian and had clashed with previous leaders. His first act as party leader

was to apologise for any unpleasantness he had caused. but LDP lawmakers were not prepared to forgive him for the electoral defeats he oversaw. With the LDP and Komeito

now reliant on opposition support to stay in power, Ishiba's departure opens the door for leadership rivals like hawkish right winger Sanae Takaichi and the telegenic political scion Shinjiro Koizumi to revive their bids for the LDP's top job. For now, Ishiba, who has al-

so served as agriculture minister, will likely return to the back benches, where the awkward manner that earned him scorn as premier once helped

NEXT IN LINE FOR LEADERSHIP

SANAE TAKAICHI, 64: If chosen, Takaichi would be Japan's first female prime minister. A ruling party - Liberal Democratic Party - veteran who has held a variety of roles, including economic security and internal affairs minister, she lost to Ishiba in the leadership race in a run-off vote

SHINJIRO KOIZUMI, 44: Heir to a political dynasty with a hand in governing Japan for more than a century, Koizumi would become its youngest prime minister in the modern era. Koizumi ran in the last year's party leadership race, presenting himself as a reformer able to restore public trust in a scandal-hit party

YOSHIMASA HAYASHI, 64: Hayashi has been Japan's chief cabinet secretary, a pivotal job that includes being top government spokesperson, since December 2023 under then-premier Fumio Kishida

YOSHIHIKO NODA, 68: Former Prime Minister Noda is the leader of the biggest opposition group - Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, the centre-left Constitutional Democrats.

him stand out in Japan's staid advocated for a more assertive politics. There he was known as a dissenting voice weighing in on contentious issues ranging from nuclear energy and the US-Japan security pact to

Seen as an LDP intellectual heavyweight and expert on national security policy, Ishiba

falling birthrates and separate

surnames for married couples.

As party leader he largely kept

those views to himself.

Japan, less dependent on the US for its defence. He also promoted the idea of Japan joining a NATO-like alliance in Asia. His retreat from front-line

politics may give the ex-pre mier more time for his other passions, such as building the plastic models of ships and planes he displays in his office and steering parliament's ramen appreciation society.

business



India, the second-largest and fastest-growing market for LinkedIn with over 16 crore users, could become the largest for the professional networking platform in 2-3 years at the current

KUMARESH PATTABIRAMAN

LNJ GREENPET, SUMITOMO CORP SIGN PACT

LNJ GreenPET Sunday said it has inked an initial pact with Japan-based Sumitomo Corporation to establish a strategic collaboration in the recycled polyethylene terephthalate (r-PET) sector in India. The agreement outlines a multi-pronged framework for cooperation, encompassing commercial development, raw material procurement, marketing, and potential investment opportunities for the company's upcoming r-PET project in India, a company statement said.



Boost to biogas sector

New Delhi, Sept 7: The re-

duction of Goods and Services

Tax (GST) on biogas plants

and devices will boost private

investment in the sector, the

Indian Biogas Association

The GST on biogas plants

and devices has been cut to 5

per cent from 12 per cent, ef-

The GST Council, compris

fective September 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

said Sunday.



decision to simplify the tax structure from the current four slabs

per cent, to a two-rate structure 5 and 18 per cent will make taxation more transparent and easier to

AJAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA | CEO, INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

The Central



of goods after the reduced GST rates are implemented from Sep tember 22 SANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL | CHIEF, CBIC





SHORT **TAKES**

📕 Hyundai, Tata reduce prices

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Sunday said it has reduced prices of its entire model range by up to ₹2.4 lakh to pass on the GST rate cut benefit to customers. The company said the price cut ranging between ₹60.640 on Verna to ₹2.4 lakh on premium SUV Tucson will be applicable from September 22. In a separate statement. Tata Motors said it will pass on the full benefit of the GST reduction on its entire commercial vehicle range to customers, effective September 22, 2025, when the revised rates come into effect. The Mumbai-based auto major said prices of CV range would come down in the range of ₹30,000 to ₹4.65 lakh. The company has already announced a price cut in its passenger vehicle portfolio.

Food safety standards 2.0

lew Delhi: Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi will inaugurate a new chemical laboratory at the National Test House in Ghaziabad September 10, as the country seeks to strengthen quality testing capabilities across various industries. The state-ofthe-art facility will test packaged drinking water, natural mineral water, food packaging materials, and construction materials, including cement and metals, according to an official statement. The laboratory has received accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) under ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards and holds approvals from the Bureau of Indian Standards, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, and under the Fertilizer Control Order of 1985.

OYO's parent

firm rebrands New Delhi: IPO-bound OYO's parent entity, Oravel Stays, will now be called Prism to serve as the umbrella entity for all its businesses and bring together various brands of the global travel tech platform. In a letter to shareholders sent by OYO, Chairman of the Board and founder Ritesh Agarwal mentioned that Oravel Stavs will launch Prism Life, in short Prism, as its new corporate identity. He further shared that the transition to Prism marks the establishment of a clearer and more futureready corporate architecture. designed to align the company's expanding portfolio

with its strategic vision.

Gold, Silver likely to witness growth in prices

New Delhi, Sept 7: Gold and silver prices surged sharply over this week, pushing gold to ₹1.06 lakh per 10 grams and silver beyond ₹1.23 lakh per kilogramme.

According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold now stands at ₹1,06,338 per 10 grams, compared to ₹1,02,388 a week ago, an increase of ₹3,950. The price of 22-carat gold has risen to ₹97,406 from ₹93,787, while 18-carat gold has climbed from ₹76,791 to ₹79,754

Silver too witnessed a strong rally. During the review period, its price rose by ₹5,598 to ₹1,23,170 per kilogramme, up from ₹1,17,572 earlier.

The sharp rise in precious metal prices has been attributed to global uncertainty. President Donald

Trump's decision to impose tariffs on several countries has heightened global volatility, prompting investors to turn to safe-haven assets like gold and

Limited supply against rising demand has further supported



the rally. Jatin Trivedi of LKP Commodities said that gold is trading at ₹1,06,700 on MCX and \$3.550 on Comex. He added that investors are

now focused on the US Federal

where a rate cut is being anticipated. Meanwhile, tariffs are also boosting demand. He noted that the overall out-

look for gold remains positive. If prices sustain above ₹1,06,450, they could test the next resistance level of ₹1,07,260. Since January 1, the price of

24-carat gold has climbed from ₹76,162 per 10 grams to ₹1,06,338, marking a gain of ₹30,176 or 39.62 per cent.

Silver has also risen from ₹86,017 per kilogramme to ₹1,23,170, a jump of ₹37,153 or

ing the Centre and states, last week decided to cut tax rates on 375 items and reduce the number of slabs to just 2 from 4 currently. From September 22, a 5 per

cent GST will be levied for most common-use goods and 18 per cent on everything else. The GST Council took a unanimous decision to do away with the 12 and 28 per cent slabs, the biggest rejig in 8 years since Goods and Ser vices Tax (GST) was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

Biogas plants and devices should become cheaper and more accessible and more fi nancially attractive for investment, said the Indian Biogas Association (IBA) in a state

A reduction of 7 per cent (from 12 per cent to 5 per cent) in the applicable GST rate for the CBG (compressed biogas) sector is expected to signifi cantly improve project viability, and the direct impact would translate into 4-5 per cent in crease (even on a conservative side) in new investments in the industry over the short to me dium term. Indirectly, across the industry value chain, the multiplier effect would be much larger, it said.

By 2030, \$4-5 billion of private investment is anticipated to be pumped into the Indian CBG industry.

This is in line with the goal for lowering the burden of tax on the rest of the green energy sources apart from biogas, such as windmills, so lar-powered generators, solar lanterns and waste-to-energy systems.

The hope is that in combination with these devices, rural areas will more easily be able to access decentralised renew able energy. The reduction of GST will lower the installation expenses.

SCO MEETING

India bats for fair trade ₹12,257cr in Sept

India cautioned that *export-related measures* should not be weaponised or misused to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains, and emphasised that their calibrated and transparent use is essential to maintain trust

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: India has cautioned against weaponising export-related measures or misusing them to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains at an SCO meeting, an official statement said Sunday.

At the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Trade Ministers' Meeting in Vladivostok September 6, India said that calibrated and transparent use of these steps in international commerce.

India has also called for addressing persistent trade deficits by ensuring greater market access and simplifying processes for trade facilitation.

These remarks are important as India's auto and electronics sector faced issues due to export restrictions on rare earth magnets and fertiliser by China.

China is a member of the organisation. India also warned that trade-linked climate measures should not result in arbitrary or unjustified discrimination. "...persistent trade imbalances must be addressed through better market access, cooperation on standards, and streamlined trade facilitation.

"India cautioned that export-related measures should not be weaponised or misused to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains, and emphasised that their calibrated and transparent use is essential to maintain trust in international commerce," the commerce ministry said

in the statement. India's trade deficit with China has increased to about \$100 billion in 2024-25.

With the SCO accounting for 42 per cent of the world's population and 17.2 per cent of global trade, India emphasised the importance of coordinated action to enhance trade flows, address vulnerabilities, and support inclusive growth across the region.

Representing India, Amitabh Kumar, Additional Secretary. Department of Commerce, underlined the need for an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

On the digital economy, India proposed SCO workstreams focused on fair, transparent and predictable regulatory frameworks, voluntary cooperation on best practices, and capacity-building for secure, innovation-led digitalisation.

FPIs withdraw Market experts believe ease," Himanshu Srivastava,

that a combination of global and domestic factors triggered the latest withdrawals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Foreign investors pulled out ₹12,257 crore (\$1.4 billion) from Indian equities in the first week of September, weighed down by a stronger dollar, US tariff concerns, and persistent geopolitical tensions.

This came following a net outflow of ₹34,990 crore in August and ₹17,700 crore in July.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reached ₹1.43 lakh crore so far in 2025, data with the depositories showed.

In the coming week, FPI flows are expected to be driven by US Fed commentary, US labour market data, RBI rate cut expectations and its stance on rupee stability, Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst, Angel One, said.

'While near-term volatility may persist, India's structural growth story, policy reforms, such as GST rationalisation, and expectations of an earnings revival could bring FPIs back once global uncertainties Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment, said. Market experts believe that

a combination of global and domestic factors triggered the latest withdrawals. "Multiple factors contribut-

ed to this risk-off sentiment -- a stronger dollar, renewed US tariff threats, and continuing geopolitical tensions added to global uncertainty,' Srivastava said. Domestically, slowing corpo-

rate earnings momentum and concerns over high valuations -- Indian equities continue to trade at a premium to other emerging markets -- prompted FPIs to book profits and reduce exposure, he added. Echoing similar views,

Khan said US tariff tensions, a weak rupee and global riskoff sentiment led to the selloff. The sentiment was cushioned by the rationalisation of GST rates by the government and healthy first quarter GDP data of 7.8 per cent. VK Vijayakumar, Chief In-

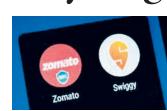
vestment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said that sustained massive DII buving is enabling FPIs to encash at high valuations and take the money to cheaper markets, such as China, Hong Kong, and South Korea

Food delivery to get costlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The hike in platform fees by Zomato, Swiggy and magicpin ahead of the festive season is set to make ordering food costlier for millions of users across the country, which is likely to rise further due to the 18 per cent Goods and Service Tax (GST) levy on delivery charges from September 22.

Swiggy has hiked its plat form fee to ₹15, inclusive of GST, in select markets. Rival Zomato has raised its platform fee to ₹12.50 (excluding GST). whereas the third-largest food delivery player, magicpin, has also revised its platform fee to ₹10 per order, in line with broader industry trends, making it expensive for food delivery consumers. Estimates suggest that the ad-



ditional burden on account of 18 per cent GST to be levied on delivery charges from September 22 is expected to add roughly ₹2 per order for Zomato users and ₹2.6 for Swiggy customers.

"Recent GST changes do not impact our cost structure. Thus, for consumers, there would be no impact of the GST increase. Our platform fees will remain at ₹10 per order, which is also the lowest among major food delivery companies," the spokesperson added.

Platform fees have emerged as an additional source of rev-

per cent, a move expected to

The additional burden on account of 18 per cent GST to be levied on delivery charges from September 22 is expected to add roughly ₹2 per order for Zomato users and ₹2.6 for Swiggy

enue for food delivery players in the recent past. The simultaneous hikes by Zomato, Swiggy and magicpin underline a growing trend of rising costs in India's food delivery sector, raising questions about whether affordability and convenience can still go hand in hand for millions of customers

Housing Ministry hails GST cuts as boost to urban growth

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has welcomed the recent reduction in goods and services tax (GST) rates on key construction materials, calling it a significant step toward costs and creating new jobs.

making housing more affordable, lowering infrastructure The ministry said the move aligns with the government's Housing for All mission and will also support smart cities.

metro projects and other urban infrastructure initiatives. Among the most notable changes, the GST rate on cement has been cut from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. Cement is

per cent to 20 per cent of building expenses and about 11 per cent of overall project costs.

Round 2 of India's biggest arithmetic competition was held at RD Women's University in association with

Dharitri & Orissa POST, Sunday. Almost 1100 kids attended from DAV Chandrasekharpur, DAV Unit8, Loyola School &

Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

generate jobs across mining, logistics, production and diswill stimulate demand, create industries," the ministry said.

particle boards, jute particle

boards and similar materials

has been cut from 12 per cent

tures and furniture, particle construction.

boards are vital for low-cost The ministry said the cut would reduce costs for both rural and urban housing proj-

ects, while the use of jute-based

boards would also support re-

to 5 per cent. Widely used in newable and biodegradable materials in line with India's climate goals. With most of these industries driven by MS-

MEs, the tax cut is expected to create more jobs in semi-urban and rural areas. Similarly, GST on marble

and granite blocks has been reduced from 12 per cent to 5 lower flooring and tiling costs and make housing more affordable. The ministry noted that the natural stone sector employs millions of workers in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and will benefit from reduced import dependence. The brick industry, which

plays a critical role in rural and low-cost housing, will also benefit. GST on sand-lime bricks and brickwork has been cut from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. Since brick kilns are largely MSME-operated, the ministry said the measure will reduce capital requirements, cut housing costs and encourage the construction of pucca houses in rural areas

Beyond housing, the gov-

ernment has also reduced GST on services provided by common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. This is expected to encourage industries and mu nicipalities to adopt centralised waste management, reduce pollution and support sustainable urban development. The move will also create "green jobs" in plant operations, waste segregation and maintenance. Overall, the ministry stressed that these reforms will reduce

construction costs, boost domes tic investment and generate em ployment across sectors. "The GST rate cuts will make hous ing more affordable, strengther infrastructure competitiveness and accelerate sustainable ur banisation," MoHUA said in a statement.

one of the largest input costs in construction, accounting for 15

According to the ministry this reduction will lower the cost of both public and private

projects, increase the efficiency of government spending and encourage affordable housing schemes such as the Pradhan The cement industry will

tribution. Lower cement prices employment and strengthen the growth prospects of allied In another major relief, the GST rate on cement-bonded

housing, prefabricated struc-

Rajgir, Sept 7: Dilpreet Singh scored a brace as a dominant India defeated defending champions South Korea 4-1 to win the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament after a hiatus of eight years and qualify for next year's FIH World Cup, here Sunday.

Dilpreet (28th, 45th minutes) and Sukhjeet Singh (1st) scored fine field goals while Amit Rohidas (50th) converted a penalty corner in front of a packed stadium at the Rajgir Sports

Korea's lone goal was scored by Dain Son in the 51st minute. India were on the ball from the start and looked determined. The co-ordination between the defence, midfield and forward line was a treat to watch as they penetrated the rival circle frequently.

The Koreans, on the other hand, preferred to defend, which was not the best of idea against an attacking The Koreans hardly created

any real scoring chances in the first two quarters as the Indian defence stood tall.

India opened the scoring inside the first 30 seconds of the game through Sukhjeet. It was skipper Harmanpreet

Singh's brilliant stick-work from the left flank that set it up for Sukhjeet, who found the top-left corner of the Korean goal with a reverse hit. Dilpreet Singh came close

ute but his deflection off Vivek Sagar Prasad's pass was saved by Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim. On the very next move, In-

to scoring in the eighth min-

dia earned a penalty stroke but Jugraj Singh's try was

The Indians were relentless in their attacking forays as they

Clinical Men in Blue beat Korea to lift Asia Cup after 8 years, qualify for World Cup



Congratulations to our Men's Hockey Team for their splendid win in the Asia Cup 2025 held in Rajgir, Bihar. This win is even more special because they have defeated the defending champions, South Korea! This is a proud moment for Indian hockey and Indian sports. May our players continue to scale even greater heights and bring more glory to the nation! NARENDRA MODI I PM

kept the Korean defence under tremendous pressure.

An inch-perfect aerial ball from Harmanpreet found Sanjay on the left corner, and he passed it to Dilpreet inside the circle, who did the job by putting the ball into the goal

as India went into half-time leading 2-0.

Korea's first real chance came in the 40th minute in the form of back-to-back penalty corners but the Indian defence stood rock solid.

India finally secured their first penalty corner in the 44th minute but Harmanpreet's try was blocked by the first rusher.

But just at the stroke of the

third quarter, India made the scoreline 3-0 through Dilpreet.

It was Harmanpreet, whose free hit from 23 yards found Raj Kumar Pal, who guided the ball towards Dilpreet and the striker made no mistake in finding the net with a neat deflection.

Five minutes later, India secured their second penalty corner and Rohidas found the net with a fierce grounded hit

SABALENKA CROWNED QUEEN OF QUEENS

The Belarusian defeats Amanda Anisimova for her 2nd consecutive US Open title

I knew that the hard work we put in, like, I de-

GOLDEN PERIOD

With four titles in their bag, India have become the second-most successful team in the Asia Cup behind five-time champions Korea

ndia had last won the title in 2017 in Dhaka following successes in the 2003 (Kuala Lumpur) and 2007 (Chennai) editions of the continental

he title ensured India's direct entry into next year's FIH World Cup to be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 14 to 30

to hand the hosts a comfortable 4-0 lead.

A minute later Korea pulled a goal back through a penal-

ty-corner conversion from Son. In the 56th minute, Korea got their fourth penalty corner but failed to breach the resolute Indian defence.

COACH LAUDS TEAM EFFORT

Chief coach Craig Fulton termed India's Asia Cup-winning campaign as a "good squad performance" and said the boys had fulfilled his desire by becoming the champion team in Asia.

"It was a good squad performance. If you take seven games in 10 days that's really difficult to do. We were physically stronger than all the teams here I think and that's No 1 thing to do. The rest was very little," he said after the final.

"I said before we want to be No 1 in Asia, we want to build depth in our squad and that's the No.1 thing. I think we are getting there now. "We prepared well, we executed well. We didn't start so well but finished really strong, so really happy the way we finished playing seven games in 10 days."

New Delhi, Sept 7: Indian football is showing signs of returning to normalcy as the All India Football Federation's executive committee has confirmed that the Super Cup will be held from October 25, whilst approving the Federation's Request for Quotation (RFQ) for selecting an agency to manage the process of awarding the tender for the Indian Super League.

AIFF confirms Super

Cup from October 25

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

As per the Supreme Court order September 2, AIFF is to take necessary measures to ensure the Indian football calendar begins on time, which would need the football governing body to find a new commercial partner, after failing to reach a new Masters Right Agreement with the AIFF.

The tender process will be overseen by former Supreme Court judge L Nageswara Rao, Kesavaran Murugasu, member, Audit & Compliance Committee. Asian Football Confederation (AFC), and AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey

"The Executive Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) convened virtually on Saturday, September 6, 2025. and approved the Federation's Request for Quotation (RFQ) process for selecting an agency to manage and award the rights to monetise AIFF's commercial properties for a limited term.

The AIFF also went on to confirm the dates for the Super Cup, which would allow clubs to begin pre-season training, as the governing body works on the tender process and hopefully allow the league to begin after the conclusion of the domestic tournament.

"Additionally, the AIFF's MRA Task Force Committee, which was constituted at the AIFF Executive Committee meeting on April 7, 2025, will continue as the Tender Committee to evaluate the recommendations of the professional services firm.

Bullseye: Archers strike historic compound gold



The Indian men's trio of Rishabh Yadav, Aman Saini and Prathamesh Fuge fought back from behind to stun France 235-233 in gripping final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gwangju (South Korea), **Sept 7:** India scaled a historic first in men's compound archery team event here Sunday, winning the gold to make up for the disappointment by the women's team that failed to finish on podium for the first time in the World Championships in eight years.

India's top qualifier Rishabh Yadav also returned with a double, bagging silver in the mixed team event with veteran Jyothi Surekha Vennam, while there was disappointment on the women's front as the team bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals to end a consistent medal run since 2017.

Seeded second on the back of Yadav's eighth-place finish in the individual qualifiers, the Indian men's trio of Yadav, Aman Saini and Prathamesh Fuge fought back from behind to stun France 235-233 in a gripping final.

France fielded Nicolas Girrard, Jean Philippe Boulch and François Dubois, but the Indian unit showed remarkable com-

It's not just Fuge, each member of the trio showed character and complemented each other without succumbing to pressure JIWANJOT SINGH TEJA | INDIA'S CHIEF

COMPOUND COACH

posure under pressure, as has been the trend since Saturday.

Much of the credit should go to Fuge. India's lowest-ranked qualifier at 19th, who redeemed himself after starting with two 9s in the first end.

The 22-year-old then unleashed six perfect 10s in a row, including a decisive final arrow that sealed India's landmark India trailed 57-59 after the

opening end, but stormed back with six 10s in the second end to level the match at 117-all. Both sides shot 59 each in the third, keeping scores tied at 176-176.

In the final end, the French faltered under pressure, while India remained flawless, with Fuge's last arrow -- yet another 10 -- clinching the historic gold.

Women's team setback

The only setback came from the women's compound team, which lost in the pre-quarterfinals to crash out of medal contention Saturday. This ended a proud streak of four successive World Championship podium finishes since 2017.

New York, Sept 7: World number one Aryna Sabalenka retained her US Open crown with a battling 6-3 7-6(3) win over American eighth seed Amanda Anisimova in the US Open women's final Saturday, underlining her claim as the modern queen of the hardcourt.

The Belarusian has not missed a hardcourt major final since 2022. Her latest trophy brings her Grand Slam haul to four, as she became the first woman to win back-to-back US Opens since Serena Williams claimed three straight from

The clash between two of tennis's hardest-hitting, biggest-serving women boiled down to unforced errors as Sabalenka kept them to 15 compared to 29 from the racket of her opponent.

"I want to thank everyone who came here, who flew in to be there in my box," said Sabalenka, who fell to her knees after clinching victory with an unreturnable serve and embraced her coaches in the stands in a scene of utter joy.

Playing in only her second major final, New Jersey-born Anisimova had the partisan fans

at the famed Arthur Ashe Stadium on her side but could never hang onto the momentum. "It's been a great summer, losing in two finals in a row is great but it's also super hard," said 24-year-old Anisimova. who was left in tears yet again after the heartbreak of her 6-0 6-0 drubbing in the Wimbledon final two months ago. "I didn't fight hard enough for

my dreams today.' For the second consecutive Grand Slam, Anisimova found herself tantalisingly close to etching her name into the ten-

nis history books - only to watch it slip away in straight sets. Ticket-toting fans ducked a sudden downpour at Flushing Meadows that forced organisers to put on the retractable

roof at Ashe, where the usual

served to have a Grand Slam title this season praise. Leaving Flush-

array of A-listers packed the stands. The rain slowed down as the players warmed up and Sabalenka brought a perfect storm of tenacious tennis to her opponent. Sabalenka claimed her

100th Grand Slam match win with the victory and slapped her trainer's bald head, in what has become a traditional celebration for the twice Australian Open Sabalenka

winner. before offering her opponent heartfelt

ing Meadows \$5 million richer, Sabalenka arrived at her post-match press conference grinning and toting a large bottle of champagne, pausing at one point to take a hearty gulp.

Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz will Sunday write the latest chapter of a sizzling rivalry that has ushered in a new era and shaped an unforgettable 2025 season when they clash in the U.S. Open final for a third straight Grand Slam showdown.

Granollers, Zeballos cap dream year with men's doubles title

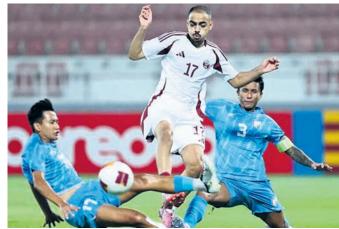
los saved three match points on their way to a dramatic 3-6, 7-6(4), 7-5 win over British pair Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski in the US Open men's doubles final Saturday to seal a second Grand Slam title this year. The fifth-seeded Spanish-Argentine duo reaffirmed their dominance over the sixth seeds. who they beat to claim their first major together at the French Open in June before ousting them again in the Wimbledon quarterfinals a month later, "It was an amazing battle," 40-year-old Zeballos said. "These

matches are so unfair when there is a winner and a loser. The guys (Britons) did great, and they also deserved to win. "I can't believe we just won the US Open. It's so beautiful to be here. It's always tough to find a good crowd for doubles, but you guys



Blue Colts go down fighting

10-man India lose 1-2 to Qatar in AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doha, Sept 7: India went down 1-2 to hosts Qatar after being reduced to 10 men in their second quick start to the game, Suhail getting an early chance, where he shot just inches over the crossbar from outside the box in the second minute. The hosts slowly gained con-

trol of the game and took the lead in the 18th minute, when Mohialdin, off a corner, headed the ball powerfully into the ground, making it loop over the heads of the Indian defence after the bounce as it went into the top corner. An intense midfield battle ensued after Qatar took the lead, India constantly looking to find their way back in the game

(52') equalised. However, a Jas-

sem Al Sharshani (67') penalty

ensured the three points for Qa-

tar Saturday. Buoyed by their

2-0 victory against Bahrain in

the last match, India made a

Verstappen completes Italian double

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Monza (Italy), Sept 7: Max Verstappen claimed a dominant victory at the Italian Grand Prix Sunday ahead of title contenders and McLaren teammates Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri

It was a first win since May for Verstappen - and only his third of the season — and capped a wonderful weekend at Monza for the four-time world champion, who had posted the fastest lap in Formula 1 history

at the track Saturday to claim pole position. Norris was second to trim the

gap to Piastri in the title race to 31 points. He had started the day 34 points behind the Australian driver. Ferrari's Charles Leclero

and Lewis Hamilton had sol id performances at the team's home race. Cheered on by the passionate, red-clad tifosi, Leclerc finished fourth while Hamilton surged through the field at the start to cross the line in sixth



on, before Muhammed Suhail Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: (0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159

Group H clash of the AFC U23

Al Hashmi Mohialdin (18')

had put Qatar in the lead early

Asian Cup Qualifiers here.