



## Ananya's take

Actor Ananya Panday opens up about body positivity, sharing her journey of self-love and handling criticism

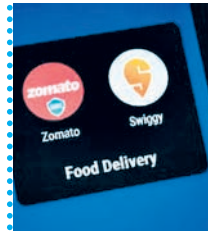
LEISURE | P2



## UK police crackdown

British police say they had arrested almost 900 people at a demonstration the previous day in support of Palestine Action

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## 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

SPORTS | P12

## Planetarium wall caves in; vehicles damaged



POST NEWS NETWORK

**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 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 the damage.

Eyewitnesses described a sudden crash, followed by confusion as people rushed to move away 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 affected 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



Relax! We can roll all this back and call it nation-building the day we get 400-plus seats!

## SHORT TAKES

### SC to hear petitions against SIR in Bihar

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a batch 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 and Joymalya Bagchi will consider the response of political parties like RJD, AIMIM and other petitioners on 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.



**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

PTI PHOTO

# 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 Shyam-sundarpur village in Angul district 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 village and began a probe. Angul Superintendent of Police (SP) Rahul Jain also rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation.

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 Maha-

lik 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 Dar-ingbadi market to witness Ganesh Puja immersion procession. While returning home, she accepted a lift from a man, who allegedly raped her inside the vehicle, an official said, citing the complaint filed at Dar-ingbadi 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 accused soon."

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

REUTERS

**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 city centre.

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-month-old child

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

Marcon earlier Sunday accused Russia of "striking indiscriminately" and said Moscow "is locking itself ever deeper in to 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 Kyiv's city administration. At least 10 locations in Kyiv were damaged, he added. Direct drone hits struck a nine-storey residential building in Kyiv's Sviatoshynskiy district and a four-storey 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 Competition section, an international 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 every woman who's ever been silenced, overlooked, or underestimated. 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 anymore," she said according to the entertainment news outlet Variety.

'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 Saturday.



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

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.

TAURUS

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.

GEMINI

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.

LEO

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 burden 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.

LIBRA

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 lavish them with attention.

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.



## 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*.



## 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, Srian 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

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 Narayan-answami (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 Bhajan*, 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-

atre presentation *Byaghra Rohan* by Nalini Nihar Nayak 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.



# Kritika calls for fairness

**MUMBAI:** Kritika Kamra, who transitioned from television to films and OTT platforms, recently spoke out about the unequal treatment of TV actors compared to those in films.

In a recent interview, she highlighted how the industry categorises actors based on the medium they work in, creating a hierarchy of respect. "For the longest time, I did not believe in this distinction of small and big screen actors," she



shared. "I thought it was just a rough sorting, but even respect is categorised that way."

Kamra pointed out that acting in daily soaps is often seen as less legitimate, resulting in TV actors being overlooked for national awards. "Acting on TV is not considered a craft," she remarked, echoing concerns raised by other actors like Rupali Ganguly. She also criticised how TRPs influence storylines and argued that constant filming affects character development and script quality.

By not recognising TV actors at prestigious platforms, Kamra believes the industry is indirectly stating that television professionals aren't artists. "There's an unsaid understanding that it's a profitable job, but there isn't art in that," she explained.

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



Sreeleela's source of love, 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-negotiable—from 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 summer 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 comfort food.

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

# ANANYA on body positivity

**MUMBAI:** Bollywood actress 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 emphasised 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 actor. "You're almost naked in front of people; building confidence and being kind to yourself is crucial," she shared.

The actress further revealed how she often questions her body image, feeling sometimes too skinny or not skinny

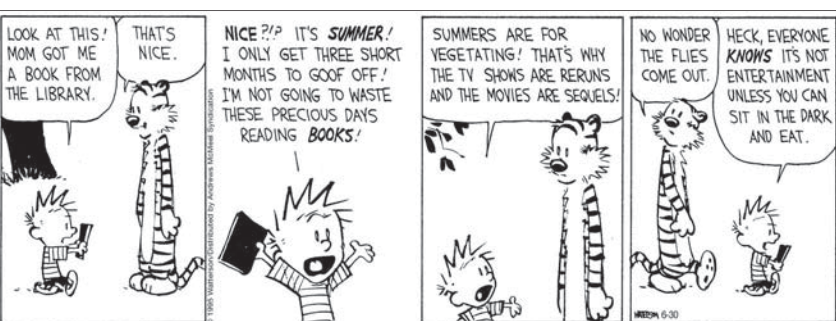
enough, but reminds herself that self-acceptance is a journey. Her heartfelt reflections have resonated widely, with fans praising her honesty and encouraging message. Ananya's words continue to inspire young audiences to embrace self-love and kindness.



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

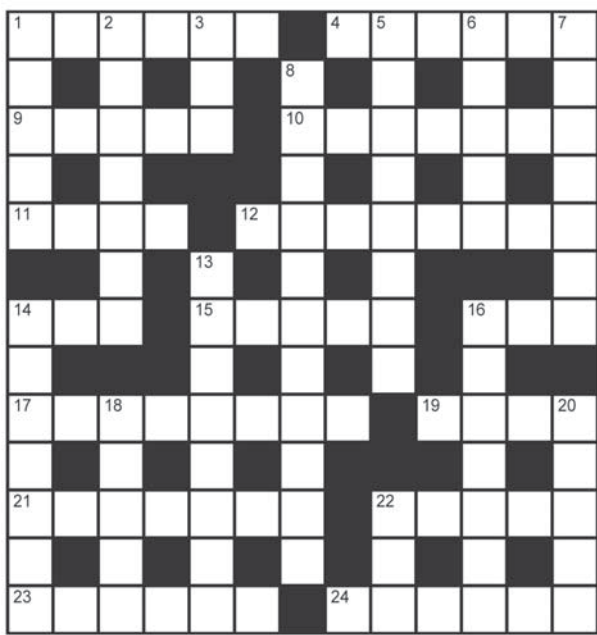


## BREVITY



## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



- Across**

  - 1 Skink, for one
  - 4 Dense
  - 9 Weather forecast
  - 10 Imaginary line
  - 11 Lingerie item
  - 12 Go-between
  - 14 Neon, e.g.
  - 15 Horrible
  - 16 Wordplay
  - 17 Antiquated
  - 19 On the briny
  - 21 Pheasant
- Down**

  - 1 Leans to one side
  - 2 Butterfly attractors
  - 3 Manta
  - 5 Type of sprout
  - 6 Extreme
- 22 Torment
  - 23 Means of escape
  - 24 Prestige
  - 7 Near the beginning (5,2)
  - 8 Enchantress (5,6)
  - 13 Party items
  - 14 Rock group follower
  - 16 Faint (4,3)
  - 18 Fab Four drummer
  - 20 Chasm
  - 22 Aardvark's morsel

## 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.

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

## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# Scrutinise unauthorised state HQ visit by officers



**AGENCIES**

**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 approval.

In a strongly-worded letter addressed to the Collectors of

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 requested 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.

## ‘Odisha losing industrial projects to other states’

AGENCIES

**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 UK-based 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.

## CLASSIFIED LOST

By the virtue of affidavit at Bhubaneswar, No.-576425 on dated- 04.09.2025 and Delanga P.S. Diary No.-13/25 dtd - 06.09.25. I, Biswaranjan Pani S/o Chandra Sekhar Pani, resident of Deypur, Depursasan, Delanga, Puri, 752046, lost sale deed document No. - 631/1992 dtd- 08.04.1992, somewhere in between Maunimatha to Delanga while travelling.If anyone find can contact 9583085079.

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

# 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



## CHSE 43RD FOUNDATION DAY

# Education key to prosperous India: Gond

POST NEWS NETWORK

**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.

## 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 Swatantra 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 Mahapatra, 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.

Nikhil Utkal Kansari Samaj president Akhil Kumar Moharana, cluster president Dandapani Sahu, and Odisha Vikash Parishad (handicrafts) general councillor 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 moderate rain or Thundershower
Min Temp	24.5°	23.4°	
Humidity	82%	88%	
Rainfall	3.4mm	Nil	

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# Explosives godown sealed in Kesinga amid security lapses

“

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

Japan’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.

ANNE FRANK

“

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 heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

“

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.

ALLAN BLOOM

## 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”.

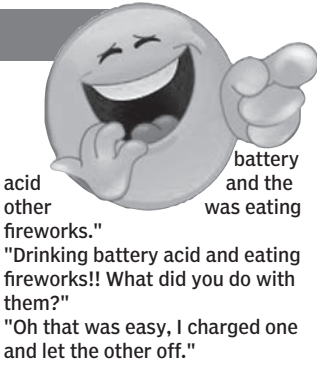
## LOL

### DEALING WITH CRIMINALS

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

“Oh yes dear, what happened?”

“I came across two guys down by the canal, one of them was drinking



acid other fireworks.”

“Drinking battery acid and eating fireworks!! What did you do with them?”

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

FOCUS

CULTURE

# A TRIBUTE TO BHUPEN DA



Today, 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

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 University 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 well-versed 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 Nau-boicha 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 young talent and make India a nurturing ground for creativity and artistic excellence.

*The writer is the Prime Minister of India.*

## SPECTRUM PRESS FREEDOM

# Telling truth shouldn’t be criminalised

Switzerland, long admired 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 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

than 18,000 Credit Suisse accounts 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 Reyl 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

Vincenz, then-CEO of Raiffeisen 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

turn down offers to participate 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 jail 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.*

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## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**

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## 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*

# North Kashmir's 4,056 unmarked graves



OVER 90% BELONG TO FOREIGN, LOCAL TERRORISTS

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 ‘Unraveling 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 graveyards 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 accounts.

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 stated.

It noted that these individuals 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

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 Auqaf 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 connections.



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

PTI PHOTO

## Jammu: Border villages plead for safer future

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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 floods caused because of the 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 people.

“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 Gigril, whose family was evacuated by soldiers. The people of this area have lived through the

### FLOOD FURY



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 Gigril, 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

## UP govt okays driving 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 Buddha Nagar, Jhansi, Kanpur Nagar, Shahjahanpur and Prayagraj – will host flagship IDTRs.

Another 15 districts – Varanasi, Bareilly, Meerut, 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 Bareilly and no RDTC. The RDTC set up follows a Centre

scheme announced in January this year for regional level facilities catering to a population of 25 lakh, an official said.

The approval was conveyed through a government letter issued September 5, which asked the Transport Department to move ahead with detailed proposals and make land available for the projects.

Officials said IDTRs would be large-scale, fully equipped hubs spread across 10-15 acres, offering 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 other centres.

RDTCs, in contrast, will be smaller facilities spread over around 3 acres, located closer to citizens to cater to regional demand. They will offer induction training for new drivers, refresher courses for in-service drivers including bus, freight and school transport operators, hazardous goods handling modules, and automated testing.

## ‘Nude gang’ sparks panic among women in Meerut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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.

A 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 injuries.

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 youths who dragged her were completely nude.

“Only two incidents have occurred. A case has been registered against unknown individuals based on a complaint.

## Water supply restored 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 the district.

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 authorities 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 tankers, 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 artists 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 craftsmanship but also aligns with the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” vision by demonstrating how sustainable development can be achieved by converting waste into creative, functional art.



of the day quote

We are seeing that separatism and violence have reduced in the North East, and there is peace. These are the results of efforts made in recent years

**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

Helping our neighbour is our duty. Madhya Pradesh is sending ₹5 crore and a train with relief material to Chhattisgarh

**MOHAN YADAV** | MP CM

POST OF THE DAY

Digambar Kamat predicts: BJP cannot come to power in India for the next 20 years, and in Goa for the next 15 years. Note: Digambar Kamat is a Minister in 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-storey building in Dahisar in north Mumbai Sunday, officials said. The blaze erupted around 3 pm in New Janakalyan Society at Shanti Nagar in Dahisar East, an official 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 Hospital," he said.

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 station Saturday.

Gujarat receives heavy rainfall

**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 west-southwestwards during next 2 days".

Rain abates in many parts of north India

PRESS TRUST OF 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 hours.

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: Over 50 detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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, officials said Sunday.

The police checked the videos and CCTV footage of the incident that occurred after the Friday congregational prayers, following which these people were detained, they said.

The official said action "as per law will also be taken against women who vandalised the plaque but any minor found involved in the incident will not be proceeded against".

A huge controversy erupted in Kashmir after the plaque with the Ashoka emblem was vandalised in the Hazratbal shrine Friday, with political parties accusing Waqf Board chief Darakshan Andrabi of hurting religious sentiments by using the national emblem in the mosque.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah 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 blasphemous, the BJP slammed the defacement of the plaque, claiming the incident was an attempt to revive terrorism and separatism in the Valley.

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 Jagdeep Dhankhar July 21.



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 Ujjain 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 Sutlej, 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 said.

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



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

SC to hear pleas on Bihar electoral roll revision today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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 electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar.

A bench of Justices Surya 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-



igibility documents in the SIR exercise.

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

49.5 mm, Panipat received 10.5 mm, Mewat 1 mm rain, Ambala 12.1 mm and Hisar received 14.6 mm.

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

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 Monday.

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 of MPs divided into different groups.

In a meeting in which members of a few parliamentary committees were combined, he asked them to take active participation in discussions and in reading and preparing reports.

Union Parliamentary Affairs 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 minis-

ters 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 on X, "Attended the 'Sansad Karyashala' in Delhi. MP colleagues from all over India and other senior leaders exchanged valuable perspectives on diverse issues." 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."

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 materials showcasing the benefits of the latest GST reforms and other achievements, including Operation Sindoor.

Kharge slams ECI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The Congress Sunday said the Election 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 posed.

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.



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



of the day

quote

World peace relies more on each one of us rather than governments or 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 be tolerated, that women will be controlled

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR | SECRETARY GENERAL, BNP

It is a demonstration that three great powers, representing three great civilisations, are aware of their common interests in a number of areas

SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

SHORT TAKES

Dengue, chikungunya grip Bangladesh

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh faces a fast-worsening public health crisis as the mosquito-borne 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 more than 1,500 were admitted to hospitals with fever. Chikungunya, absent for years, is making a forceful return. 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 2023, with 1,705 deaths from dengue and more than 321,000 infections reported.

US frees SK workers

**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 electric vehicles.

60 Nigerians killed

**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.



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

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

'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



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 impacted."

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."

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 telecommunications 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.

Trump signals 'phase two' of Russia sanctions

REUTERS

**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

when he took office in January.

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 Rus-

sian 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 need our European partners to follow us".

"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 three yet".

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 last year.

**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 and Ishiba.

**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 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 falling birthrates and separate surnames for married couples. As party leader he largely kept those views to himself.

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

advocated for a more assertive 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-premier 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.



Tricolori, of the Italian Airforce fly over prior to the Italian Grand Prix race at the Monza racetrack in Monza, Italy, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

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 operation.

The tactics deployed by supporters of Palestine Action in their attempt to overwhelm the justice 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 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 subject 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 attended by around 20,000 people, passed with very few arrests.

However, the protest organised 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 officers were punched, kicked, spat on and had objects thrown at them," the Met Police said.

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

REUTERS

**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 sci-on Shinjiro Koizumi to revive their bids for the LDP's top job.

For now, Ishiba, who has also served as agriculture minister, will likely return to the back benches, where the awkward manner that earned him scorn as premier once helped

of the day

quote

The GST Council's decision to simplify the tax structure from the current four slabs -- 5,12,18 and 28 per cent, to a two-rate structure 5 and 18 per cent will make taxation more transparent and easier to follow

AJAY KUMAR SRIVASTAVA | CEO, INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will take up with industry bodies complaints relating to non-reduction in prices of goods after the reduced GST rates are implemented from September 22

SANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL | CHIEF, CBIC

The consumer insights for 2025 point to it being a unique festive season

SACHIN TAPARIA | FOUNDER, LOCALCIRCLES

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

**New 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-of-the-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 Stays 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 future-ready corporate architecture, designed to align the company's expanding portfolio with its strategic vision.



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 growth rate

KUMARESH PATTABIRAMAN | MANAGER (INDIA), LINKEDIN

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The reduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on biogas plants and devices will boost private investment in the sector, the Indian Biogas Association said Sunday.

The GST on biogas plants and devices has been cut to 5 per cent from 12 per cent, effective September 22.

The GST Council, comprising 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 Services Tax (GST) was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

Biogas plants and devices should become cheaper and more accessible and more financially attractive for investment, said the Indian Biogas Association (IBA) in a statement.

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 significantly improve project viability, and the direct impact would translate into 4-5 per cent increase (even on a conservative side) in new investments in the industry over the short to medium 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, solar-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 renewable energy. The reduction of GST will lower the installation expenses.

METAL OUTLOOK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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

per 10 grams.

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.

US 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 silver.

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

SCO MEETING

India bats for fair trade

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 is essential to maintain trust 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.

Market experts believe 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

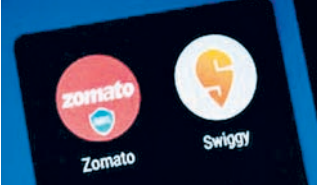
Food delivery to get costlier

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 platform 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-

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 making housing more affordable, lowering infrastructure costs and creating new jobs.

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

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

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 Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

"The cement industry will generate jobs across mining, logistics, production and distribution. Lower cement prices will stimulate demand, create employment and strengthen the growth prospects of allied industries," the ministry said.

In another major relief, the GST rate on cement-bonded particle boards, jute particle boards and similar materials has been cut from 12 per cent



to 5 per cent. Widely used in housing, prefabricated structures and furniture, particle boards are vital for low-cost construction.

The ministry said the cut would reduce costs for both rural and urban housing projects, while the use of jute-based boards would also support re-

newable and biodegradable materials in line with India's climate goals. With most of these industries driven by MSMEs, 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

per cent, a move expected to 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 municipalities 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 domestic investment and generate employment across sectors. "The GST rate cuts will make housing more affordable, strengthen infrastructure competitiveness and accelerate sustainable urbanisation," MoHUA said in a statement.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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 Complex.

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 home side.

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.

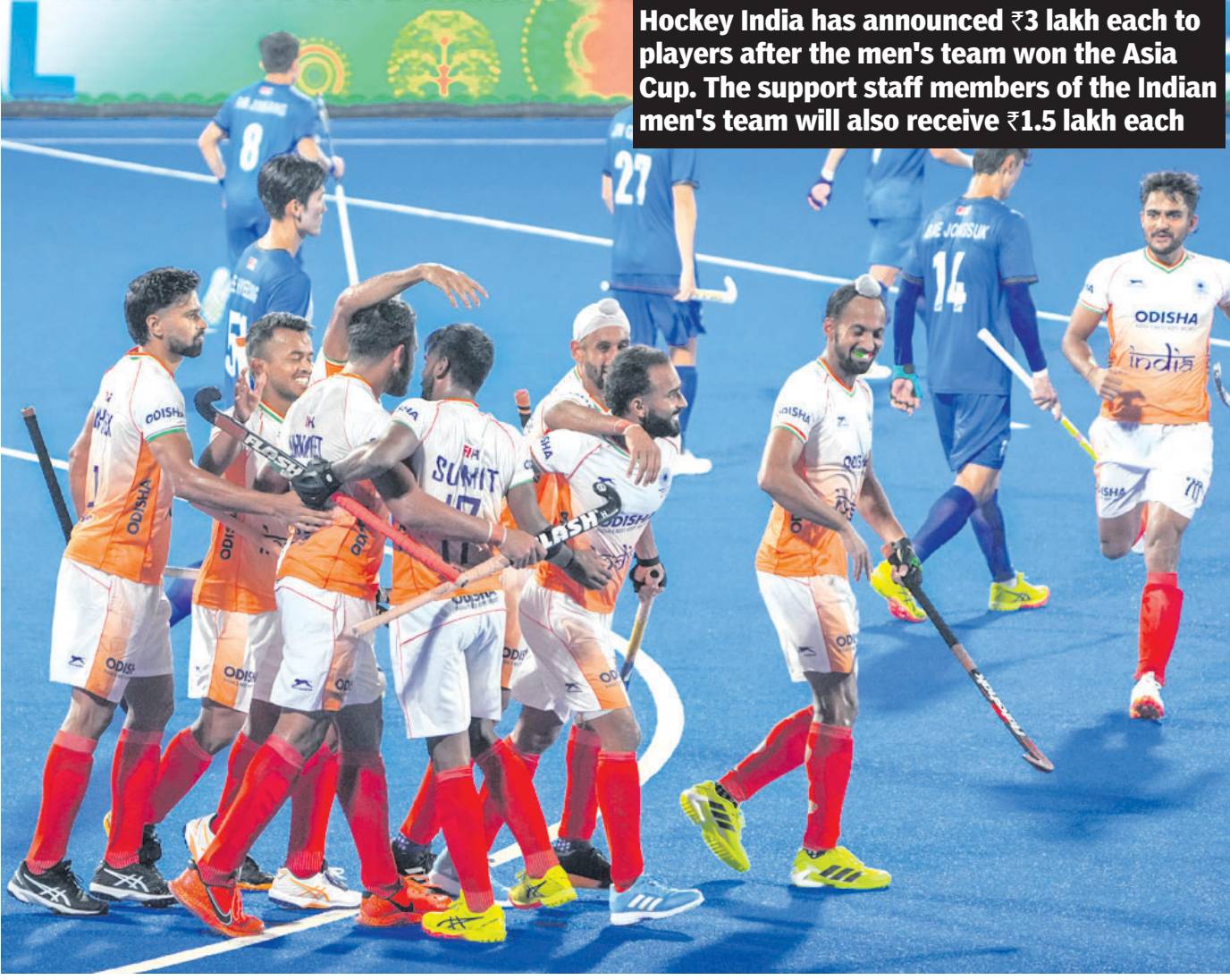
It was skipper Harmanpreet Singh's brilliant stick-work from the left flank that set it up for Sukhjeet, who found the top-left corner of the Korean goal with a reverse hit.

Dilpreet Singh came close to scoring in the eighth minute but his deflection off Vivek Sagar Prasad's pass was saved by Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim.

On the very next move, India earned a penalty stroke but Jugraj Singh's try was saved by Kim.

The Indians were relentless in their attacking forays as they

# India champions of Asia



Hockey India has announced ₹3 lakh each to players after the men's team won the Asia Cup. The support staff members of the Indian men's team will also receive ₹1.5 lakh each

**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 | PM

kept the Korean defence under tremendous pressure.

An inch-perfect aerial ball from Harmanpreet found San-

jay 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

## 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

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

The 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 penalty-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."

## 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*

**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

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 Girard, Jean Philippe Bouch and Francois Dubois, but the Indian unit showed remarkable com-

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 gold medal.

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.

## SABALENKA CROWNED QUEEN OF QUEENS

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

REUTERS

**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 2012 to 2014.

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 on-

to 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 tennis 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

**I knew that the hard work we put in, like, I deserved to have a Grand Slam title this season**

ARYNA SABALENKA



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 winner, before offering her opponent heartfelt praise.

Leaving Flushing 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.

**Sabalenka takes Grand Slam haul to four**  
**Underlines claim as modern hardcourt queen**

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

Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos 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 are amazing."



## 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

Group H clash of the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers here.

Al Hashmi Mohialdin (18') had put Qatar in the lead early on, before Muhammed Suhail

(52') equalised. However, a Jasssem Al Sharshani (67') penalty ensured the three points for Qatar Saturday. Buoyed by their 2-0 victory against Bahrain in the last match, India made a 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 control 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.

## 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 Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton had solid 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.