



Nora's perspectives

Actor Nora Fatehi reacts to whether her dancing skills became a barrier in getting opportunities as an actor

LEISURE | P2



French PM ousted

French govt collapses in confidence vote, forcing President Emmanuel Macron to seek yet another PM

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Investment pact

India and Israel Monday sign a bilateral agreement to promote and protect investments in both the countries

BUSINESS | P11



India crush Singapore

Navneet and Mumtaz dazzle with hat-tricks as India storms into Super 4s with a 12-0 victory over Singapore in women's Asia Cup

SPORTS | P12

Aadhaar no citizen proof but accept for votes: SC to EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: The Supreme Court Monday directed the Election Commission (EC) to include Aadhaar as a 12th prescribed document for establishing the identity of a voter in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of electoral roll in poll-bound Bihar.

At the moment for Bihar SIR, there are 11 prescribed documents which electors have to submit with their enumeration forms.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, however, clarified Aadhaar will not be a proof of citizenship and the commission can ascertain the genuineness of Aadhaar card number submitted by an elector for inclusion in the electoral roll. Observing nobody wants the EC to include illegal immigrants in the electoral roll, the bench said it should be clear that only genuine citizens will be allowed to vote and those claiming to be genuine on the basis of forged documents will be excluded from the electoral roll.

The bench asked the poll panel to issue necessary directions during the course of the day for acceptance of Aadhaar as a document for proof of identity.

The top court also sought EC's explanation on showcase notices it issued to poll officials for not accepting Aadhaar card from the voters. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for poll panel, submitted 99.6 per cent of the 7.24 crore voters in the draft roll had submitted documents and petitioners seeking inclusion of Aadhaar as 12th document would not serve any practical purpose.

The bench referred to provisions of Aadhaar Act of 2016 and the Representation of Peoples Act and said that it is not a proof of citizenship but can be considered as a proof of identity.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Of course, Gyanesh Kumar ji is conducting the polls - but even then, we must take every precaution

Nepal burns over social media ban



DEADLY STIR: Demonstrators gather near the Parliament during a protest against corruption and the government's decision to block several social media platforms in Kathmandu Monday

REUTERS PHOTO

At least 19 killed Over 300 injured Home Minister steps down Curfew imposed in several parts

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, Sept 8: Four days after the Nepal government banned 26 social media sites, including Facebook, WhatsApp, X, Instagram and YouTube, for failing to register with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology within the deadline, at least 19 people were killed and over 300 others injured Monday when police used force during protests by youths, officials said.

Thousands of youths, including school students, under the banner of 'Gen Z', converged in front of the Parliament in the heart of Kathmandu and shouted anti-government slogans demanding immediate revocation of the ban. The protests spread to Pokhara, Butwal, Bhairahawa, Bharatpur, Itahari and Damak.

Nepal Police spokesperson Binod Ghimire said 17 people were killed in clashes in various parts of Kathmandu during the rally, and two protesters died in Sunsari district of eastern Nepal in police firing.

Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak, who represents the Nepali Congress party in the

coalition government led by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, has resigned on moral grounds, the Nepali Congress sources said.

The Nepali Army was deployed in the capital after the situation intensified during the protest. The army personnel have taken control of the roads surrounding the parliament complex in New Baneshwor.

The demonstration turned violent when some protesters entered the Parliament complex, prompting police to use water cannons, tear gas, and live rounds to disperse crowds, eyewitnesses said. Citing hospital officials, 'The Kathmandu Post' reported that eight people died at National Trauma Centre, three at Everest Hospital, three at Civil Hospital, two at Kathmandu Medical College, and one at Tribhuvan Teaching Hospital. The 'Himalayan Times' said hospitals, including Civil Hospital and Trauma Centre, are struggling to accommodate patients and have begun referring them to other facilities.

The local administration imposed a curfew in several parts of the capital.

MORE P10

Non-students evicted from Utkal University hostels

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Utkal University authorities, with the help of Commissionerate Police, Monday launched a massive drive to evict non-students staying illegally in several hostels in the campus for a prolonged period and vacated nearly 200 rooms.

The eviction drive was led by Anup Kanungo, Additional DCP, Police Commissionerate, and a large number of police personnel including striking officer, and traffic police. University faculty members, wardens and Vice Chancellor Jaganneshwar Dandapat were also present during the drive.

According to reports, the operation was carried out at the Boys' Hostel No-1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. When the squad arrived at the hostels to vacate the rooms, the non-students fled, leaving the rooms locked.

The squad broke open the door locks and seized their belongings. However, no non-student was found in any of the vacated rooms.

According to sources, some



non-students were also allotting the hostel rooms on rent to outsiders.

Some students have also alleged that people with political connections were staying inside the hostel, vitiating the campus atmosphere.

The police seized a large pile of belongings of the non-students from Hostel No 3. The police vacated 160 rooms from the possession of non-students at the third hostel.

The police said as many as 24 rooms were illegally occupied at Hostel No-1, 33 rooms in Hostel No-2 and eight rooms in Hostel No-5. These rooms will be vacated soon, said the cops.

Warden Kabir Mohan Sethi

said, "After the non-students are evicted from the hostels, we will allot the rooms to the genuine students. It was a much needed step for the well-being of the students and the campus."

Vice Chancellor Dandapat said, "We are trying our best to vacate the hostels from the grip of non-students. Deserving students of the university will be allowed to stay in hostels. Non-students occupying hostel rooms had long become a tradition in the campus, and we want to change it."

"Earlier, we had also issued notice to them to vacate hostel on time. The hostel belongs to students only not non-students," he added.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 8: The stage is set for a direct contest between ruling NDA nominee CP Radhakrishnan and joint opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy for Tuesday's vice-presidential election, with the BJP-led alliance having a clear edge in the poll necessitated due to the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Members of both Houses of Parliament will cast their

BJD TO ABSTAIN

Bhubaneswar: The BJD Monday announced that its MPs will abstain from voting in the vice presidential elections to be held Tuesday. The party, headed by former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, said it took the decision as part of its policy of "maintaining an equal distance" from both the BJP-led NDA and Congress-led INDIA bloc at the national level. "BJD president Naveen Patnaik has decided that the party's MPs will abstain from voting in the vice presidential elections. He took the decision after consulting senior party leaders, members of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) and lawmakers," BJD MP Sasmit Patra told reporters here.

P3

VP poll today: NDA pick has clear edge

NUMBER GAME	
MPs in electoral college	781
(7 seats vacant - 6 in RS & 1 in LS)	
Majority mark	391
NDA has	425 MPs
Oppn camp has	324 MPs

votes in the Parliament House between 10am and 5pm Tuesday. Counting votes will begin at 6pm, and the results will be announced late evening.

MPs are not bound by party whips to vote in the vice presidential election, which takes place under a secret ballot system.

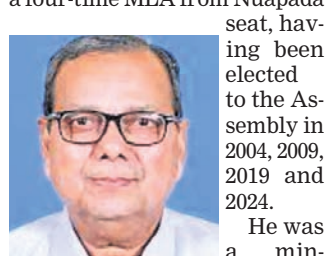
The BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led opposition grouping held separate meetings with their respective MPs on poll eve to sensitise them about the election process and also held mock polls.

The MPs will be handed out ballot papers containing the names of the two contesting candidates and will have to mark their preference by writing the figure '1' opposite the name of the candidate of their choice.

BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia dies at 68

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia, who was suffering from kidney-related ailments, died at a hospital in Chennai Monday. He was 68. The senior BJD leader was a four-time MLA from Nuapada



seat, having been elected to the Assembly in 2004, 2009, 2019 and 2024. He was a minister in Naveen Patnaik Cabinet from 2022 to 2024. With his death, the number of BJD MLAs in the Assembly has now reduced to 50. Condolences poured in from across the political spectrum over the MLA's death.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, in a post on X, said, "Deeply saddened to learn about the demise of MLA and former minister Rajendra Dholakia. I convey my condolences to the bereaved family and pray to Lord Shri Jagannath for the peaceful soul of the departed. Om Shanti."

Zelenskyy backs US tariffs on India

AGENCIES

New York/Washington, Sept 8: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that it is the "right idea" to impose tariffs on countries making deals with Russia, without naming India.

"I think the idea to put tariffs on the countries who continue to make deals with Russia.... I think this is right idea," Zelenskyy said in an interview aired on ABC News' "This Week" Sunday. Zelenskyy was asked if he thinks that the plan to put sanctions backfired when he saw pictures of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin.

Scientists tap secret fresh water under Atlantic

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 8: Scientists have uncovered what is believed to be a vast, hidden freshwater aquifer stretching along the US East Coast, from New Jersey to Maine, located deep beneath the Atlantic Ocean. They found fresh or nearly fresh water at both higher and lower depths below the seafloor than they anticipated, suggesting a larger supply even than that.

This remarkable find follows an unexpected discovery nearly 50 years ago, when a US government vessel, originally searching for minerals and hydrocarbons, drilled into the seafloor off the northeastern United States and stumbled upon fresh water, according to

a report by 'The Independent'. Building on that initial surprise, a pioneering global research expedition, 'Expedition 501', ventured off Cape Cod this summer. Drilling beneath the saltwater, the team extracted thousands of samples, confirming the existence of this colossal underwater reservoir.

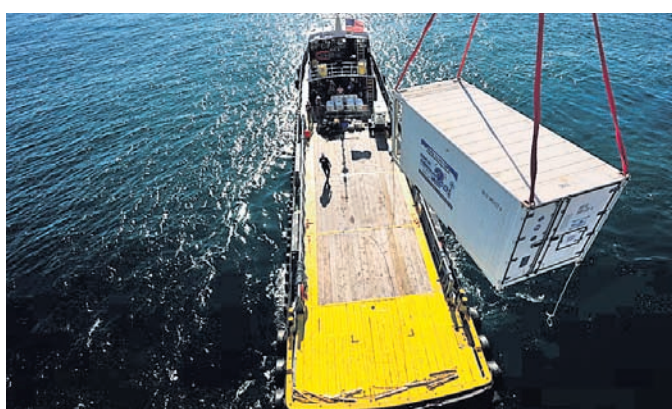
"It's just one of many repositories of 'secret fresh water' known to exist in shallow salt waters around the world that might some day be tapped to slake the planet's intensifying thirst," the expeditions co-chief scientist Brandon Dugan said.

"We need to look for every possibility we have to find more water for society," Dugan, a geophysicist and hydrologist at Colorado School of Mines, told As-

sociated Press journalists who recently spent 12 hours on the drilling platform. The research teams looked in "one of the last places you would probably look for fresh water on Earth."

They found it, and will be analyzing nearly 50,000 liters (13,209 gallons) of it back in their labs around the world in the coming months. They're out to solve the mystery of its origins - whether the water is from glaciers, connected groundwater systems on land or some combination.

The potential is enormous. So are the hurdles of getting the water out and puzzling over who owns it, who uses it and how to extract it without undue harm to nature. It's bound to take years to bring that water ashore for public use in a big



A supply container is lifted from the Gaspee, a crew transport vessel, to the Liftboat Robert platform during an Expedition 501 crew and supply transfer in the North Atlantic

AP PHOTO/CAROLYN KASTER

way, if it's even feasible.

Enter Expedition 501, a \$25 million scientific collaboration

of more than a dozen countries backed by the US government's National Science Foundation

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Your day is packed full. There are negotiations, commitments, plans and decisions to wade through. You may feel low on energy and swamped due to lack of information and inputs from others. But clarity will return gradually as matters conclude, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
Ganesha sees you in a very romantic mood today. Your thoughts, tender and dreamy, will keep drifting towards someone special; someone of the opposite sex. Come evening and you will, in all likelihood, be sitting closely together, arm in arm, with your spouse or your sweetheart.

GEMINI
Your entire attention will be concentrated on the work-front today. You will be on the lookout for new projects and contracts to spur on your earnings. Opportunities for changing your job will come knocking on your door. You will be afforded the full co-operation of your colleagues today.

CANCER
Control your anger, counsels Ganesha. Or else, it will sadden your near ones. Writers may display creative output of high order. The day augurs well for artists, too. This is the time to take up new challenges, says Ganesha.

LEO
You will not be in the mood to take up significant tasks today. You will want to throw your responsibilities to the wind and pursue leisurely activities. However you will still need to tackle some pressing issues. It is easier to swim with the tide, than against, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You will be bubbling with ideas today. You may face a dilemma between your obligations and present duties, which could prove to be very perplexing. New contacts turn out to be very useful. Ganesha says blood is thicker than water, and family and friends will cement their relationship with you.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will learn a lot from your past experiences for a shining future. You will be slightly possessive about some costly item that you own. There will be small concerns during the day about different matters, which will give you mental stress. On the whole the day will pass by nicely.

SCORPIO
No matter how rich and successful you become, it is very important to stay grounded. Never let your success go to your head, advises Ganesha. Rudeness and overconfidence may take away everything from you and may leave you empty handed. So be kind and spread kindness.

SAGITTARIUS
Life is bubbling within you and you shall be in a hyper-elevated state of bliss today. Your high-spirits and energy will inspire you to perform at your best. Moreover, your inner voice will be loud and bellowing. Make the most of this superb day, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Mounting pressure of work and responsibilities during the day may drain your energy, but not your enthusiasm, feels Ganesha. The second half of the day will be tiring, as you will be fighting a tough battle with your competitors. You'll come out triumphant from the fight as you perform smartly and get your acts right.

AQUARIUS
You need not always put up a brave face, feels Ganesha. You can ventilate your emotions and speak your heart out in front of your loved ones. It will make the pain bearable and you'll probably get a way out of your problems. You will feel better by the evening, and a sweet smile will brighten up your face.

PISCES
You need to nurture your personal relationships carefully today, and give them the attention they are due. You need to control the outbursts of your temper and stop arguing with your partner or spouse over insignificant matters. Personal life will be smooth sailing as long as neither of you attempt to dominate over the other, says Ganesha.



EVERYBODY'S SEXY RIGHT NOW: JESSICA SIMPSON

Singer-actress Jessica Simpson believes everybody's sexy right now. Discussing her contenders for People's Sexiest Man Alive, the 45-year-old told the publication: "I mean, there are a lot of people who are sexy. I'm single, so everybody's sexy right now."

MILA KUNIS' REVELATION ABOUT DANIEL CRAIG

Actress Mila Kunis revealed that she feared working with Hollywood star Daniel Craig. "It could go either way after we teamed up for upcoming movie *Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery*," shared Kunis.



31ST GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL

Theatre takes centre stage on day 4



BHUBANESWAR: The fourth evening of the 31st Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2025, organised by Srjan – Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar here Monday captivated audiences with a rare theatrical presentation that delved deep into the complexities of human emotions and moral dilemmas. The penultimate evening began with the ceremonial lamp lighting in the presence of distinguished guests including Chandra Sekhar Hota, Secretary, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, eminent musician Laxmikant Palit; former OSNA Secretary Prabodh Rath, noted Veena maestro Guru KRamarao Patra, Anuja Tarini Mishra, OSD, Odia Language, Literature and Cul-

ture Department and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director of Srjan.

In a festival known largely for dance and music, theatre held the spotlight

with *Byaghrarohana*, a satirical play by Nalini Nihar Nayak and his troupe, the Newquest Repertory.

The play depicted the irony of a kingdom where courtiers and commoners vied to tame a trapped tiger to prove their heroism, culminating in a king's decree that forced his reluctant son into the perilous act. The performance, blending satire and symbolism, left the audience deeply moved with its commentary on power, vanity, and moral corruption.

Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Odisha Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture, the event is partnered by **Orissa POST** and *Dharitri*.

RESHMI YADAV, OP



A scene from Odia play *Byaghrarohana*

'Swipe culture scary to me'

MUMBAI: Actress and influencer Vahbiz Dorabjee opened up about her relationship status during an exclusive interaction with IANS.

When asked if she was single, the Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant actress confirmed that she was indeed not seeing anyone at the moment.

Speaking to this agency, Vahbiz said: "I'm focusing on myself, my lane, my growth. I'm very old-school when it comes to relationships. I believe in the 90s kind of love—loyalty, emotional availability, togetherness."

She added that today's swipe culture feels very scary to her.

"I want someone who adds value to my life, who is my equal, ambitious yet family-oriented," Vahbiz added.

She was asked, "Television schedules are often said to be extremely hectic. What's your take?"

To this, the

Pyaar Kii Ye Ek Kahaani actor stated: "Absolutely.

Television is a very demanding medium. When you sign up, you know what you're committing to. Sometimes there are telecast pressures, and you can't let your production down. Long hours, irregular food, disturbed sleep—all of this affects health deeply."

Sharing if reducing the working hours for TV actors might help, Vahbiz said: "If that happens, it will be a blessing. It will not only improve the performances of actors but also their health. Everyone will benefit."

MUMBAI: Recently, Aditya Datt's *Aashiq Banaya Aapne* completed 20 years. Hence, it's also 20 years in the industry for Tanushree Dutta as that was her debut film. After completing two decades in the industry, the actress spoke about the changes she wishes to see in the film industry.

Asked what exactly would she like changed in the Hindi film industry, the actress said, "I wish to see Bollywood drop the ex-novo complete & pointless culture and go honest, humble and artist-telling touch lives positive society. Everyone deserves to be treated with honor and respect, no matter who they are and where they work."

On her voice against the predators in the film industry, she said, "My social activism & #MeToo is not an attack on Bollywood as an industry but an attempt to cleanse it of nefarious elements and thereby transform it into something far better and harmonious for all souls in Bollywood. We are all holy souls and spirit before we are artists and stars and we must honor ourselves and others as such."



Tanushree for end to superstar culture

pensive and ly defunct superstar back to its ble, sincere tic roots, stories that and inspire evolution in

AGENCIES

Nora explores beyond dance

MUMBAI: Actor Nora Fatehi reacts to whether her dancing skills and hit songs ever became a stumbling block in getting varied opportunities as an actor.

The 33-year-old quips, "When you're known for something so strongly, people can tend to put you in a box. But I see dance as strength, not limitation. It opened doors for me, and now it's up to me to prove myself with roles that showcase my acting as well. I feel makers are slowly beginning to see that I can bring more to the table than just dancing."

But that doesn't mean Nora will ever separate herself from her passion for dance. In fact, she's planning to open her own dance academy soon.

She confirms, "I have been thinking about starting my own worldwide dance academy for years! That's why I started the #dancewithnora community."

Given that she built her career independently, Nora surely received plenty of advice along the way, some even on how to shape her image. She laughs, "Oh yes, I've heard all sorts of advice in my early years, and looking back, I find them quite funny. I think what really works is being yourself and embracing your ambitions. At the end of the day, nobody wants a copy of someone else; it's your uniqueness that makes you stand out."

AGENCIES



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.

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

SOLUTIONS

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

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

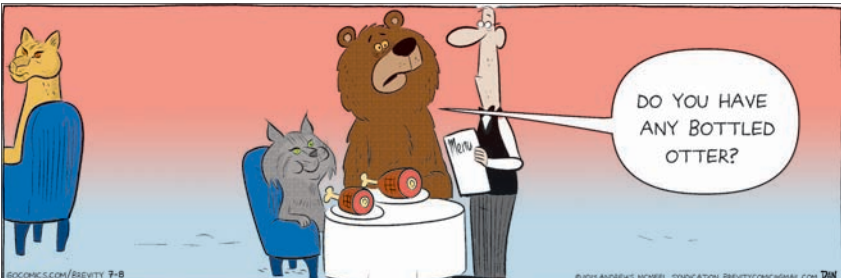
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

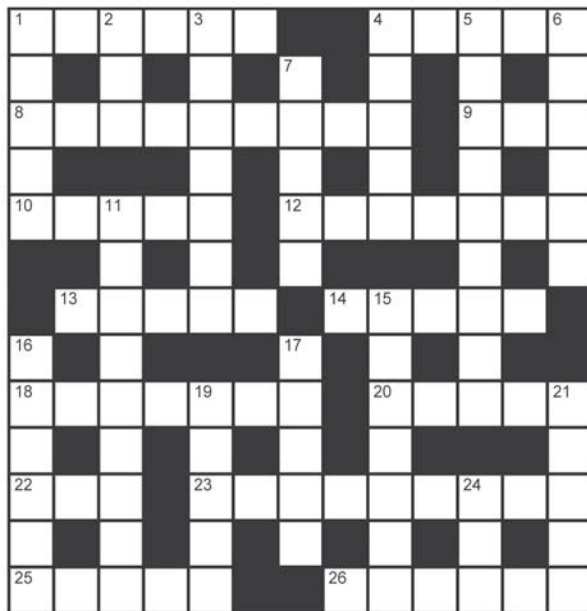


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- Salad ingredient
- Fancy tie
- Kitchen appliance
- Maid's cloth
- Earthy colour
- Part of "surf 'n' turf"
- Hesitate
- Tropical lizard
- Devilfish

Down

- Cruel sorts
- Paltry amount
- Find fault
- Sheets and stuff
- Immediately! (2,4)
- Estate functionary
- Big cats
- Kind of bird?
- Binge eating result, maybe
- Popinjay
- Tidbit
- Port of ancient Rome
- Pie choice
- Stockholm native
- Roadhouse

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Elephants crucial in regenerating forests: Satpathy

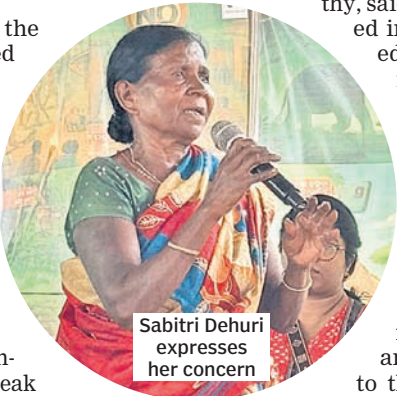
‘HATI SABHA’ IN KEONJHAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda/Keonjhar, Sept 8: Elephants play a key role in regenerating forests, said **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy during ‘Hati Sabha’ at Upara Jagar village under Kumundi panchayat of Banspal block in Keonjhar district Monday.

Speaking at the event, organised jointly by the two newspapers, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) and Bikash Saathi, Satpathy explained how elephants contribute to the forest ecosystem.

“As large wild animals, elephants break



Sabitri Dehuri expresses her concern

vested outside Odisha in industries, hospitals and institutions, while the region itself suffers. He urged that local youths, particularly from the district’s 13 blocks, be engaged in employment through cooperative agreements with mining firms.

Chief Executive of the two leading newspapers, Adyasha Satpathy, said training is needed in tribal-dominated, elephant-prone regions. She added that highlighting local issues at the right platforms is the responsibility of both the publications.

She also called for new proposals and amendments to the government’s



Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy speaks at the event in presence of the newspapers’ Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and others



Villagers from 21 panchayats

branches and consume fruits from tall trees in forests, allowing sunlight to reach smaller plants and enabling new vegetation to grow,” he said.

Satpathy noted that elephants not only shape the forest but also select their own migration routes and even their places of death, underscoring their unique role in the natural world.

He also criticised administrative apathy and negligence of mining companies in Keonjhar, saying the district’s natural wealth has enriched mining firms while leaving behind widespread unemployment and environmental degradation.

“The soil of Keonjhar has absorbed the blood and sweat of its people,” he said.

Satpathy said profits from Keonjhar’s mineral wealth are being in-

conservation.

They alleged that mining has caused massive forest destruction while companies have ignored their social responsibilities.

Kumundi panchayat ward member Gopal Palei alleged that villagers are not receiving enough flashlights, making it difficult to deal with elephant incursions. He added that the Forest department has not been holding awareness or training programmes. “Forest staff should extend more cooperation,” Palei said.

Padakasada resident Sulo Dehuri recounted that elephants entered her home in the dark, ate stored rice and even swallowed the currency notes kept inside the rice container. She urged the forest range officer, present at the meeting, to supply lights to help residents protect themselves.

Sabitri Dehuri, a local, said increased human demand for resources has led to deforestation, while mining has forced elephants closer to villages. “As a result, conflicts between people and elephants have intensified,” she pointed out.

Phuleswari Sethi of the locality said in the past, elephants visiting villages were seen as a spectacle. But deforestation for timber and mining destroyed their migration paths, pushing them into human settlements.

Prasant Kumar Parida, another local, said, “When a home is destroyed, humans react. Likewise, when the habitat of a giant wild animal like elephant is destroyed, it too becomes reactive and aggressive.”

Among others, FES’ block team coordinator Swastik Tripathy and project manager Bhabani Shankar Parida, Bikash Saathi members Manas Panda and Arvind Singh, Kumundi panchayat naib sarpanch Niladri Senapati, and Biranchi Narayan Dehuri, a senior citizen of the village, were present during the event.



The two newspapers’ Editor and Chief Executive, FES and Bikash Saathi representatives and locals at the programme

VP polls: BJD MPs to abstain from voting

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Odisha’s principal Opposition party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday announced that its MPs will abstain from voting in the September 9 vice presidential polls.

The party, headed by former CM Naveen Patnaik, said it took the decision as part of its policy of ‘maintaining an equal distance’ from both the BJP-led NDA and Congress-led INDIA bloc at the national level.

“BJD president Naveen Patnaik has decided that the party’s MPs will abstain from voting in the vice presidential elections. He took the decision after consulting senior party leaders, members of the political affairs committee (PAC) and lawmakers,” BJD MP Sasmrit Patra told PTI over the phone. Patra said that BJD maintains an equal distance from both the NDA and the INDIA bloc.

“Our entire focus is on the development of the state and its 4.5 crore people,” Patra said. The vice presidential poll will be held Tuesday. Reacting to the development, both Congress and BJP said BJD’s decision will indirectly help the NDA candidate for the vice president’s post. Welcoming BJD’s decision, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Jual Oram said, “By deciding that BJD MPs will abstain from voting, Naveen Babu has indirectly supported the NDA candidate.”

BJP’s Bargarh MP Pradeep Purohit echoed Oram in saying that the BJD’s decision will benefit the NDA candidate.

“They have not opposed our candidate,” he said. Saptagiri Ulaka, the lone Congress MP from Odisha, said, “We hope Naveen Babu will reconsider his party’s decision. The INDIA bloc candidate, B Sudershan Reddy, is not a Congress

leader. He is an eminent jurist who is being supported by the grand old party and others. If BJD MPs vote for him, that will not impact the regional party’s policy of maintaining equidistance. There is still time to reconsider.”

Ulaka said it appears that Patnaik no more has any control over his party, ‘which was evident’ during the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

“Some BJD MPs supported the Bill, one abstained, and one opposed it. This indicates that Naveen Babu does not have any control over his party now,” the Congress MP alleged. OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said, “Abstaining from voting means supporting the BJP... this was an opportunity for the BJD to prove that it is opposed to the saffron camp.”

Das said BJD, through its decision to abstain from voting, extends ‘tacit support’ to the BJP-led NDA’s candidate, CP Radhakrishnan.

“With this decision, Naveen Patnaik has once again proved that BJD and BJP are one. We have been saying that Congress, and not BJD, is the real opposition in Odisha,” he said.

Rejecting the claims, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, “BJD has made its mark as a successful political party all over India. The party has the support of the people and is the number one party in the state even today. BJD will never compromise with the interests of the state.”

BJD MPs in 2012 had also abstained from voting in the vice presidential elections.

BJD has only seven MPs in the Rajya Sabha and none in Lok Sabha. The MPs of both Houses have the voting rights in the vice president elections. NDA has 293 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 129 members in the Rajya Sabha and commands a clear majority.

‘Reveal interview marks to unsuccessful candidate’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: State’s Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) has directed the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) to reveal interview marks to a candidate who was not selected for the post of an assistant teacher in 2022.

The SCIC has passed this order after hearing a petition filed by Minati Rani Mohapatra of Bhadrak district, who had applied for the post of assistant teacher in history, the commission said in a statement Monday.

As per the recruitment advertisement, the selection was based on career marks and interview

marks. She did not find her name in the list of selected candidates published by OPSC in June 2022.

Unhappy with the result, she filed an RTI application in December that year before the OPSC, asking for details of her marks obtained both in the career assessment and interview.

The OPSC provided her with the career marks but refused to inform her interview marks on the grounds that the panel does not disclose interview marks to candidates, according to the statement.

In his judgment, SCIC Manoj Parida stated that such a decision of the OPSC was contrary to the provisions of the RTI Act.



The candidate has a right to know the marks scored in the interview, so that she can improve her performance in the next attempt, the commission said

The candidate has a right to know the marks scored in the interview, so that she can improve her performance in the next attempt, the commission said.

“Every candidate, particularly the candidates who have failed the test, has a right to know why they could not succeed. The OPSC cannot keep the candidates in the dark,” it said.

Parida has stated that Section 22 of the RTI Act, 2005, supersedes all other Acts and Rules in providing information to applicants. He asked the OPSC to change its procedure and provide them with details regarding the marks scored by the candidates.

9 Sept 7pm



ODISSI
Ratikant Mohapatra's SRJAN Ensemble presents 'Duryodhana'

PRESENTATION OF
Shalimar's **Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2025**
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Sri Alekha Chandra Samal (Odissi Music)
Shalimar's **Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Kalā Sammān 2025**
Sri Arnab Bandyopadhyay (Odissi Dance)
Sri Raghunath Das (Odissi Dance)
Shalimar's **Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuvā Pratibhā Sammān 2025**
Smt. Shatabdi Mallik (Odissi Dance)
Sri Muralidhar Swain (Odissi Mardala)



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SLCC convenes to bolster fight against cyber frauds



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: The 34th meeting of Odisha’s State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) was held at the Reserve Bank of India here Monday, focusing on strengthening measures against cyber frauds. The meeting was chaired by Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, and convened by RBI Bhubaneswar Regional Director Sarada Prasan Mohanty. It followed a workshop in which bankers were urged to enhance collaboration with law enforcement agencies to tackle cyber fraud effectively. DGP Vinaytosh Mishra of the

CID Crime Branch highlighted prevalent fraud types in the state, including investment scams, digital arrest scams, fake job offers, fraudulent websites, and social media-related frauds. He stressed the critical need to monitor and curb mule accounts, which often facilitate cybercrime. RBI officials outlined proactive regulatory measures and coordination initiatives with state agencies, alongside customer awareness programs to prevent fraud. The deputy legal advisor detailed the legal implications of the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act, 2019, and its role in deterring unauthorised deposit collections. Emphasising a multi-pronged approach, Garg underlined the importance of continuous public awareness campaigns, swift legal action against cybercriminals, and preventive measures to plug existing vulnerabilities. She urged officials and banks to act decisively to protect citizens from falling prey to Ponzi schemes and other fraudulent financial activities. Key state government officials present at the meeting included Finance department Principal Secretary Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra, and Home department Special Secretary Radha Kishan Sharma. From the RBI, chief general manager, Central Office, Mumbai Puspamitra Sahu and deputy legal advisor, Legal Cell, Kolkata Sankalp Tyagi, also participated. Senior officials from several departments such as Finance, Revenue, Disaster Management, Cooperation, Law, the Police Commissionerate, Cyber Crime Wing, and representatives from SEBI were in attendance, reflecting the multi-agency effort to curb financial and cyber frauds.

CSIR-IMMT’ battery minerals training

BHUBANESWAR: The CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar, Monday launched a three-week programme on “Capacity Building in Battery Minerals Value Chain” for officials of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). The programme, scheduled from September 8 to 26, was inaugurated by former IIT-Kharagpur Professor PK Sen, in the presence of IOCL Chief General Manager (HR & BD) Gautam Datta, and presided over by CSIR-IMMT Director Ramanuj Narayan.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Tangi- Choudwar, dated 08.09.2025, I, SK Abdul Sidik, S/o- SK Abdul Gafur, Village/P.O.- Jaripada, P.S.- Tangi, Dist.- Cuttack- 754201, Odisha, declare that I, SK Abdul Sidik and SK. Abdul Siddik is one and same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as SK Abdul Sidik for all purposes. SK Abdul Sidik

My name is written as Sanjay Kumar Thatoi, S/o- Santosh Kumar Thatoi, Bangara, Binjharpur, Jajpur in my Aadhaar Card. The same is wrongly written as Sanjaya Kumar Thatoi in my Birth Certificate. By this affidavit I declare that my correct name is Sanjay Kumar Thatoi.

I, Sanjeeb Kumar Sethi, S/o- Sarat Sethi, At- Aparna Nagar, Chauliaganj, Shantivihar, Cuttack, Dist.- Cuttack, PIN- 753004, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 77AA 135675, dated- 04.09.2025, that now onwards I shall be known as Sanjeep Kumar Sethi for all future purpose.

Review meeting on senior citizens’ pilgrimage scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: A review meeting on preparations for the Senior Citizens’ Pilgrimage Scheme was held Monday at the Circuit House conference hall here, chaired by Khurda District Collector Amrit Raturaj. In the first phase of the current financial year, a total of 775 senior citizen pilgrims from the districts of Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and Dhenkanal will participate in a pilgrimage to Ayodhya and Varanasi. Accompanying them will be 25 officials assigned to assist throughout the journey. The pilgrims are scheduled to depart from Bhubaneswar railway station September 10 and return by September 15. They will arrive in Bhubaneswar from their respective districts September 9 and be accommodated temporarily at five government institutions: Capital High School, Unit-9 Girls’ and Boys’ High Schools, Bharat Scouts and Guides, and Bhim Bhoi Government High School for the Visually Impaired. During the meeting, detailed discussions focused on ensuring the safety, food and beverages, and healthcare needs of the senior citizens. Adequate arrangements have been made at the accommodation centers to provide security, health check-ups, nutritious food, drinking water, toilets, and other essential facilities. Furthermore, evening spiritual discourse programs will be conducted at each center to enrich the pilgrims’ experience. The District Collector emphasised the importance of sincere and diligent execution of responsibilities by all officials to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of the pilgrimage scheme.

Guv urges coffee plantation expansion in Koraput

EXPANSION IN KORAPUT STRESSED TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND UNLOCK POTENTIAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/ Koraput, Sept 8: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Monday urged the Coffee Board and the Koraput district administration to draw up comprehensive plans for expanding coffee cultivation in the region, highlighting its immense potential for economic and social transformation. Interacting with stakeholders of coffee cultivation on the first day of his four-day tour to Koraput and Malkangiri districts, the Governor stressed the need to create easier access for farmers to coffee plantations. He said wider participation in coffee cultivation would not only boost production but also improve livelihoods in this tribal-dominated belt. Kambhampati pointed out that Koraput falls under the Scheduled Area category, where farmers often face hurdles in accessing cultivable land because of restrictions on ownership and transfer. To overcome this bottleneck, he called for a detailed survey to identify suitable land, particularly General Category private land, which could be made available for interested cultivators. “Enabling rightful access to farmland will inspire confidence among growers and encourage more farmers to take up coffee plantation,” he said. The Governor’s meeting was attended by Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha, Kotpad MLA Rupu Bhatra, District Collector Manoj Satyawan Mahajan, Superintendent of Police Rohit Verma, and senior officials of the Coffee Board and district administration. Later in the afternoon, Kambhampati held a review meeting with NALCO officials at the Special Circuit House in Damanjodi. He was apprised of the company’s operations and future plans. Emphasising the importance of value addition, he called for the promotion of auxiliary industries linked to NALCO products and underlined the role of small-scale industries in strengthening the local economy, generating employment, and fostering entrepreneurship. The Governor also reviewed the functioning of the Council



made available for interested cultivators. “Enabling rightful access to farmland will inspire confidence among growers and encourage more farmers to take up coffee plantation,” he said. The Governor’s meeting was attended by Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha, Kotpad MLA Rupu Bhatra, District Collector Manoj Satyawan Mahajan, Superintendent of Police Rohit Verma, and senior officials of the Coffee Board and district administration. Later in the afternoon, Kambhampati held a review meeting with NALCO officials at the Special Circuit House in Damanjodi. He was apprised of the company’s operations and future plans. Emphasising the importance of value addition, he called for the promotion of auxiliary industries linked to NALCO products and underlined the role of small-scale industries in strengthening the local economy, generating employment, and fostering entrepreneurship. The Governor also reviewed the functioning of the Council

of Analytical Tribal Studies, the Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College, and the Indian Red Cross Society with respective officials. He urged them to work in greater coordination to maximise outreach and impact. During his visit, Kambhampati met veteran weaver and Padma Shri awardee Gobardhan Panika from Kotpad and “Seed Girl” Harshita Priyadashini Mohanty from Jeypore, commending their contributions in preserving traditional craft and promoting agricultural innovation. He concluded the day by visiting the Jagannath Temple at Sabar Shrikhetra in Koraput, offering prayers for the well-being of the people of Odisha.



CEREMONIAL LAUNCH: Speaker Surama Padhy lights the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate Navadiksha programme for PG, DM and MCH residents at the new auditorium of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Monday

OP PHOTO

OUAT VC Pravat Kumar Roul reappointed for three years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: The Governor and Chancellor of Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) Hari Babu Kambhampati has reappointed Prof Pravat Kumar Roul as the Vice-Chancellor for a second term. The extension has been granted under Sub-section (2) of Section 6 read with Sub-section (6) of Section 9 of the OUAT Act, 1965. Prof Roul’s new tenure will span three years, effective from September 9, 2025, or until further orders, whichever comes first. His reappointment comes amid criticism from student groups, including Student Against Corruption (SAC), which had previously raised concerns over delays in announcing a new VC. SAC convener Bibhuti Bhushan Mohapatra had alleged procedural irregularities and administrative lapses in the selection process. Prof Roul was first appointed as OUAT VC in 2022 for a three-year term, and his second term is expected to continue the university’s academic and administrative initiatives.



City AIIMS organises nat’l training on oxygen mgmt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: In a pioneering move to strengthen emergency preparedness and improve patient care, the department of Hospital Administration at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Monday organised the national capacity building training on Medical Oxygen Management – Training of Trainers (ToT). The one-day event, held in collaboration with the Disaster Management Cell of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the department of Hospital Administration at AIIMS-New Delhi, marked the first-of-its-kind initiative to standardise medical oxygen management across the country. The programme was inaugurated by AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas in the presence of key dignitaries, including medical superintendent Dillip Kumar Parida, dean (Academics) PR Mohapatra, dean (Research) Satyajeeet Misra, Lt Col Abhijit Sarkar (DDA), medical superintendent of AIIMS-New Delhi Nirupam Madan, additional professor in the department of Hospital Administration at



AIIMS-New Delhi and Project Lead Vijaydeep Siddharth, and head of the department of Hospital Administration at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Jawahar SK Pillai. MoHFW additional secretary V Hekali Zhimomi addressed the gathering through a video message, underlining the importance of capacity building in medical oxygen management. Technical expert, (Oxygen PMU) at MoHFW Bharat Bhushan Dahiya also graced the occasion. In his address, Biswas reflected on the vital lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic and stressed the urgent need for comprehensive training in oxygen stewardship and manifold services to ensure the quality, safety, and rational use of medical

gases in healthcare facilities. The training brought together expert resource persons from hospital administration, paediatrics, neonatology, and trauma and emergency medicine, who conducted sessions on the planning and design of medical gas systems, regulatory frameworks, and oxygen ecosystem development. The programme also included hands-on skill training in adult, paediatric, and neonatal oxygen management, including ventilator use. A key highlight was the introduction of a stewardship model, promoting professional-led local oxygen management, regular audits, and rapid response strategies during crises. A total of 74 participants from diverse healthcare institutions across Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and from, AIIMS-Deoghar, AIIMS-Raipur, AIIMS-Patna, and AIIMS-Guwahati were nominated for the training. The landmark initiative aims to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and prepare the system to effectively manage oxygen-related challenges in future medical emergencies.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.96 ▼ 0.19	SENSEX	80787.30 ▲ 76.54	GOLD	₹108,620 ▲ ₹892
EURO	103.37 ▲ 0.02	NIFTY	24773.15 ▲ 32.15	SILVER	₹126,045 ▲ ₹1,348

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.6°	33.6°	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thunderstorm.
Min Temp	24.5°	23.5°	
Humidity	85%	91%	
Rainfall	TRACE	Nil	

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Rural healthcare in shambles as digital dispensaries shut

HEALTH DEPARTMENT YET TO TAKE OVER; ASSETS WORTH ₹3 CRORE GATHERING DUST



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Sept 8: Nabarangpur district has long struggled with a shortage of doctors and specialists. To provide better healthcare in rural and remote areas, 25 digital dispensaries were opened in 2017-18 at Rajiv Bhawans in various panchayats. Now, however, all these dispensaries remain locked.

A private Kolkata-based agency, Glocal Health Care System Pvt. Ltd., had signed an agreement to run these facilities. The dispensaries functioned properly in 2017-18 and 2018-19. The company was being paid ₹217 per patient treated. Setting up each dispensary cost ₹12.5 lakh, covering equipment such as laboratory units, ECG machines, tables, chairs, and internet services.

As per the agreement, the company was supposed to de-

posit a security of ₹33.49 lakh but failed to do so. It was receiving a monthly operating amount of ₹8.17 lakh. After December 5, 2019, the contract could not be renewed. The health department adjusted the outstanding dues and paid the balance. Since then, the dispensaries have remained locked, leaving rural communities without access to healthcare.

More than ₹3 crore was spent on these 25 dispensaries, but the furniture and equipment now lie unused and are deteriorating. The company has not yet handed them over to the district health department. Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Santosh Kumar Panda said a committee has been formed to send official letters to Glocal Health Care System Pvt. Ltd. instructing them to transfer the facilities. Several letters have already been sent. If the com-

pany still refuses, the district administration will seek the collector's approval to form a committee, break the locks in the presence of a magistrate, and take possession.

According to the 2011 Census, the district's population was 2,001,421, of which 14.53 percent belonged to Scheduled Castes and 55.79 percent to Scheduled Tribes. The district has 189 panchayats and 894 revenue villages. Despite this large population, there is a severe shortage of doctors and health staff.

Nabarangpur has 41 primary health centres, 10 community health centres, the Umerkote Sub-Divisional Hospital, and the Nabarangpur District Headquarters Hospital. Out of 68 sanctioned specialist posts, 53 are vacant. Of the 307 sanctioned doctors, 127 posts remain unfilled.

Among other staff positions, 94 out of 401 nursing posts, 23 out of 41 lab technicians, 10 out of 18 radiographers, 108 out of 520 female health workers, 361 out of 473 male health workers, 62 out of 120 pharmacy officers, 106 out of 122 Multi-Purpose Health Workers (Female), 67 out of 104 Multi-Purpose Health Workers (Male), six out of 10 PHEOs, 13 out of 25 clerks, and 40 out of 229 Class IV posts are lying vacant.

In total, 890 health staff positions in the district are vacant, including 180 posts for doctors and specialists. With such a large number of vacancies, the state of healthcare in the district is self-evident. Overburdened clerical staff and a shortage of doctors and specialists at primary and community health centers have compelled patients to depend heavily on the district headquarter hospital (DHH).



SPORTS MEET: A raider tries to tag the defenders during a kabaddi match at a block-level sports meet organised by Bharati Vidyapitha at Mini Stadium in Ganjam, Monday

POCSO court sentences man to 10-yr RI in minor rape case

Balasore: A Special POCSO Court in Balasore Monday sentenced Sarthak Si of Alalpur village under Jaleswar police limits to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and slapped a fine of ₹10,000 after convicting him for kidnapping and raping a 15-year-old girl. In default of payment, the convict will undergo an additional six months of imprisonment, the court ordered. According to the prosecution, the convict had abducted the girl on her way home from a computer class and later confined her in a lodge, where he committed the offence. The victim's father lodged an FIR, June 5, 2013, leading to the registration of a case under Sections 363, 366(A), 376, and 34 of the IPC, along with Section 4 of the POCSO Act. Police later arrested him on the charge. Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda informed that the judgement was delivered after examining 12 witnesses and 17 exhibits.

Headmaster accused of sexual harassment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 8: A headmaster in Malkangiri district has been accused of sexually harassing a Class VI student, prompting outrage among villagers and parents who have lodged a complaint with education authorities.

The incident was reported at MV-9 School under Gaudaguda panchayat in Malkangiri Sadar block. According to the complaint, headmaster Prashant Kumar Samantaray allegedly pressed the boy's private parts and made obscene remarks. Since the incident, the boy has not attended school for 15 days out of shame, family members said.

The boy's father submitted a written complaint to the Block Education Officer (BEO), August 26. However, villagers said no action has been taken against the accused even after 10 days.

Angry villagers gheraoed the school demanding immediate action September 5. Informed, CRC coordinator Ranjit Nayak reached the spot and tried to pacify the protesters.

Villagers also alleged irregularities in the mid-day meal scheme, mismanagement of government funds, and misconduct towards other teachers. They claimed that although the school management committee chairperson does not receive OTPs on his phone during fund withdrawals, money is still being withdrawn without transparency.

Records show Samantaray has a history of disciplinary



action. He was earlier suspended from Tangapalli School over a mid-day meal scam. He was also arrested and jailed for misbehaving with a teacher at MV-4 School. Similarly, he was suspended from MV-1 School over misconduct with a female teacher. At Daniguda School, he allegedly misbehaved with the then headmaster Suresh Chandra Mallik and created divisions within the village.

Altogether, Samantaray has faced suspension four times and served jail terms in the past. Villagers alleged that despite repeated complaints, the Education department is trying to suppress the matter.

Block Education Officer Rabindra Nath Dhar confirmed that a complaint has been received. "An inquiry is under way. Action will be taken based on the findings," he said.

Youth swept away at Gundichaghagi waterfall in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkikote, Sept 8: A 22-year-old youth was reported missing Monday after being swept away at the Gundichaghagi waterfall, a popular tourist spot in Ghatagaon block of Keonjhar district.

The missing youth has been identified as Debesh Kumar Behera of Bartana village under Soro police limits in Balasore district. Fire service personnel have been conducting search operations, but no trace of him has been found. According to reports, Debesh had come with his sister and brother-in-law to visit the Ghatagaon Maa Tarini shrine. After the morning darshan, the family went to the nearby waterfall for sightseeing. While attempting to cross from one side of the stream to the other after taking selfies, Debesh slipped on a rock and fell into the strong current.

Despite desperate attempts by his sister, brother-in-law and other onlookers to rescue him, they failed. Fire officials were alerted, and around noon, Officer Purnachandra Panda arrived with a team to launch a search. However, they returned unsuccessful. Officials said heavy rainfall triggered by a low-pressure system has intensified the current at the waterfall, hampering rescue efforts. The fire department said the search operation is continuing.

Environmentalist Trilochan Sahoo vows to safeguard nature, culture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, Sept 8: Climate change has become a major issue and it is time to reflect deeply on its consequences, environmentalist Trilochan Sahoo said.

Speaking at the inaugural Odisha Climate Conclave held at Fakirpur City School under the Anandapur Municipality limits in Keonjhar district, Sahoo pledged his dedication to protecting both nature and culture.

Highlighting his initiatives,



Sahoo spoke about the "Mu Gachha Kahuchi" campaign that encourages people to plant and care for at least one tree on their birthdays, the "Gaon Pain

Dine" programme that urges villagers to dedicate at least one day for community and greenery, and the "Baitarani Cleanup Drive."

Sahoo said these campaigns have strengthened his identity and that receiving the 2024 Dharitri Climate Award has brought him recognition at both the state and national levels.

"In words we often say we care about the environment, but in reality, we do not act with the same concern," Sahoo said. "That is why I started this conclave — to create awareness

among students, the youth and people from all walks of life about the importance of environmental protection and the impact of climate change."

He said efforts will be made to spread progressive lessons on environmental protection to every rural area of the state. "Obstacles and criticism are always there, but we must move forward to do something for society, our land and the environment," he added, noting the support he has always received from family, friends, well-wishers and teachers.

Maa Manikeswari University tags trees with QR codes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 8: Maa Manikeswari University here in Kalahandi district has launched a digital initiative of affixing QR codes to trees which will help spread awareness about trees and their benefits, a report said.

Trees and living beings like humans and animals are interdependent. While trees provide oxygen, they also absorb harmful carbon dioxide, making their preservation vital for life. Among plant species, millions are medicinal in nature, requiring both study and conservation.

Thanks to the efforts of the former Vice-Chancellor late Prof Sanjay Satpathy and Dr Ghanshyam Behera, head of the Botany department, QR codes have been affixed to 100 trees on the campus. Plans are underway to expand the project to 500 more trees.

By scanning the QR code with a smartphone, users can instantly access information about a tree in Odia, Hindi and English. The details include its botanical name, medicinal properties, uses and benefits.

Officials said the QR code system is an innovative step in promoting eco-awareness through digital means. Students and visitors can now easily learn about the usefulness of trees, which in turn will help encourage conservation. Many species of trees, plants and shrubs are slowly



disappearing. Those who can still identify them may not be around in the future. To preserve this knowledge, experts believe it is important to identify plant species while such knowledge holders are alive. They recommend affixing QR codes through government initiatives or institutional programmes so that people can easily recognise the plants and benefit from them.

According to Botany Department head Dr Behera, the late Prof Satapathy had initiated this innovative system with that vision. QR codes were first used on trees

in 2011 at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, South London, one of the world's largest gardens with 30,000 plant varieties. In India, the practice began in 2013 at the Thalassery Heritage Garden in Kerala, where tourists can scan codes to learn about different species.

At Maa Manikeswari University, QR codes are now being affixed to various medicinal plants for preservation. Faculty member Gananath Bag, along with Dr Behera, is continuing efforts to expand the initiative. Students and researchers on campus are already learning more about plant species through the codes.

There is growing opinion that QR codes should also be attached to trees in botanical gardens, along roadsides and along forest edges, with administrative support to make plant knowledge more accessible to the general public.

Rourkela steel plant sets new single-day coil weight record

Rourkela: The state-of-the-art Hot Strip Mill-2 (HSM-2) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has set a new benchmark September 7 by achieving its highest-ever daily production in terms of coil weight. The unit rolled out 416 coils weighing a total of 9,444 tonnes, surpassing its previous best of 9,430 tonnes recorded March 24, 2025. This remarkable feat was made possible through seamless coordination and dedicated efforts of the HSM-2 collective and supported by several key departments. Congratulating the team, RSP Director In-Charge Alok Verma lauded the mill collective and associated departments for their outstanding performance. He urged them to sustain the momentum and aim for even greater achievements in the future.

Tension in Bonai town following group clash

Rourkela: Tension was palpable at Bonai in Sundargarh district Monday following a group clash. An argument between two young men belonging to different communities escalated Sunday night, leading to the clash, police said. DIG (Western Range) Brijesh Kumar Rai said as a precautionary measure, around 100 police personnel have been deployed in Bonai. The situation is becoming normal. Police have arrested a few persons from both sides, he said. No was severely injured in the violence, which was brought under control with the intervention of community leaders, he added. Senior police officers are on alert and keeping a close watch on the situation, the DIG said. The opposition BJD had given an eight-hour bandh call in Bonai Monday, demanding Notified Area Council (NAC) status for its local body. But the bandh was postponed in the wake of the situation.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KANDHAMAL
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO-04/2025-26
Letter No.2345, Dt.02.9.2025
Name of Work : Construction of new Check Dams in Kandhamal district under MATY Scheme for 2025-26
No Works : 04 (Four) Nos.
Estimated Cost : Rs. 33.64 lakh to Rs. 46.82 Lakh
Tender paper cost : Rs. 6000.00 (Non-refundable)
Period of Completion : 180 (One hundred eighty days) only
Availability of Bid documents : From 10.00 AM of 10.09.2025 to 17.30 hrs of 25.09.2025 in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Time of receipt of bid through online : From 10.00 AM of 10.09.2025 to 17.30 hrs of 25.09.2025 through online
Date of opening of bid documents : At 11.00 hrs of 26.09.2025 in the O/O S.E.
Digital Signature : The bidder must possess compatible Certificate
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website <http://dowr.orissa.gov.in>
Name and address of the OIT: Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Kandhamal, Phulbani, At/Po: Phulbani, PS: Phulbani Town, Dist: Kandhamal, E-mail: kmidplb@gmail.com
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- (Er.Surjya Narayana Panigrahi)
Superintending Engineer
M.I.Division, Kandhamal
OIPR-32487/11/0018/2526

Nothing, not even the darkest falsehood can stop the ultimate triumph of Truth.

THE MOTHER



Evolving Nepal

Violence erupted in Kathmandu 8 September as thousands of young Nepalese took to the streets and clashed with security forces leading to the death of at least 19 persons. The unprecedented showdown is being described as an uncontrolled outburst of rage of the country’s youth against corruption but more so due to a government ban on social media websites. The protests, termed by some as by the Gen Z (born between mid-1990s and early 2010s) follows the recent pattern seen in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — which led to the removal of governments in the two countries in 2022 and 2024, respectively. Observers say the violent protests by the youth in Bangladesh, who ventilated their anger at the ruling party and successfully forced a regime change has particularly inspired the youth in Nepal. Among the protesters in Nepal there were a large number of school and college students, some of whom were in their uniforms.

Growing dissatisfaction among the youth with corruption in the country seems to have materialised into this demonstration. The youth had, for some time, been seething with anger at what they felt was monumental corruption and mismanagement in recent years. The people were particularly angry that they had to pay high taxes with no “proper documentation” of how it was being utilised.

What added fuel to the fire was the government’s 4 September announcement that it was blocking several social media platforms. The youth could not bear it any longer when the government blocked 26 social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. The social media’s reach in Nepal is such that almost 90 per cent of the 30 million people use them daily. As of 2021, about 7.5 per cent of Nepal’s population was living abroad, reliant on platforms such as Meta’s Messenger to communicate with their families back home.

These protests by the young are in sharp contrast to the virtual meekness and abject surrender to the authority we see in the youth in India currently. India has been subjected to social media bans umpteen times, mostly without any rhyme or reason. From Punjab, Assam, Mizoram to virtually most other states, yet the youth remain stoically unmoved as if they have lost their vigor. This reflects on their ability to think independently and react to the reality around. They apparently think that youth is solely according to the calendar years they have lived, rather than truly being young in their minds, accepting new ideas and expanding their thought horizon in sync with global changes.

Youth are known across the globe over centuries as prime-movers of socio-political-economic changes. Unfortunately Indian youth seem to be more busy with their immediate needs or being led by political outfits as if they are, as the American poet HW Longfellow said, “dumb driven cattle.” Many of them have mentally turned into cattle, probably because at their sub conscious level they empathise with gau-rakshkaks by resorting to acts not permissible in a civilized society. In reality, there is nothing wrong in protecting any animal but humans have gained a reputation of having intellectually evolved. Evolution or change is a constant.

The Nepalese youth as in several other Asian countries have once again shown that they would not vegetate, but would do justice to their thinking abilities, come what may. They have demonstrated their resolve to gain new insights into social and political evils and try to stem the rot as far as they can. Their fight against the wrongs committed by the Establishment is a healthy sign of an evolving society.

WISDOM CORNER

We humans have lost the wisdom of genuinely resting and relaxing. We worry too much. We don't allow our bodies to heal, and we don't allow our minds and hearts to heal.

THICH NHAT HANH

Meditation is to be aware of every thought and of every feeling, never to say it is right or wrong, but just to watch it and move with it. In that watching, you begin to understand the whole movement of thought and feeling. And out of this awareness comes silence.

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

Love is the expression of one's values, the greatest reward you can earn for the moral qualities you have achieved in your character and person, the emotional price paid by one man for the joy he receives from the virtues of another.

AYN RAND

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1948:** The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was proclaimed, setting the stage for the Korean War. After the Second World War, the Korean peninsula had been divided across the 38th parallel. The northern part was occupied by the Soviets while the south was occupied by the Americans. The Cold War impeded unification and on October 9, 1948, Kim Il-sung declared the creation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the support of the USSR.
- 1956:** Rock and roll star Elvis Presley made his first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show.
- 1976:** Death of Mao. Marxist revolutionary Mao Zedong, who died this day in 1976, emerged as the undisputed Chinese Communist Party leader following the Long March (1934–35) and dominated China in the period after the communist takeover in 1949.
- 1991:** Tajikistan Declares its Independence from the Soviet Union. The Central Asian country had been conquered by Russia in the late 19th century. In 1929, the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic was created as a constituent republic of the Soviet Union. Independence in 1991 came after the collapse of the USSR.



LOL

A PRISONER WITH SKILLS

Several years ago, Andy was sentenced to prison. During his stay, he got along well with the guards and all his fellow inmates. The warden saw that deep down, Andy was a good person and made arrangements for Andy to learn a trade while doing his time. After three years, Andy was recognized as one of the best carpenters in the local area. Often he would be given a weekend pass to do odd jobs for the citizens of the community.... and he always reported back to prison before Sunday night was over.

The warden was thinking of remodeling his kitchen and in fact had done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the job for him. But, alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I'd really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place."

SUMMIT OF OPPORTUNITIES

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS



For a majority of the SCO summit participants, Tianjin signals their solidarity and re-adjustments in what is especially now a constantly changing state of global and regional orders

summit participants, Tianjin signals their solidarity and re-adjustments in what is especially now a constantly changing state of global and regional orders. Bandwagoning, Eurasian integration, securing finance options for their infrastructural and other needs and a chance of broader neighbourhood stability has triggered interest.

The Tianjin summit, for instance, announced the establishment of an SCO Development Bank. China announced \$280 million aid to member states, in addition to 10 billion yuan in loans. Like the BRICS New Development Bank, this is expected to not only contribute to regional infrastructure build up but also substantially reduce dependence of member states on the West and the US dollar.

This is significant as the monetary order under the Bretton Woods systems and institutions has been unable to meet the growing requirements and infrastructural needs of the Global South countries. This is so even though many Chinese-funded projects have fallen into the debt-trap controversy.

The SCO profile as such is impressive. Only five countries were part of its previous avatar in 1996. But since 2001,

it has grown to be the largest regional inter-governmental organisation, covering Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Asia.

The SCO has currently expanded to 10 member states, two observer states and 14 dialogue partners. It includes nearly 44% of the global population and a quarter of the world's GDP. The SCO's focus on countering terrorism is also attracting regional attention. It established the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in 2002, initially headquartered at Tashkent till 2022, but now moved to Moscow. Even though acute contradictions and double standards exist in addressing terror outfits, RATS is emerging as a significant regional organisation in pooling data related to terrorists, training programmes and paramilitary exercises.

The SCO conduct of joint drills such as Peace Mission exercises with member states participation, data bases, sharing information against terrorist groups, countering drug trafficking, arms smuggling and others is gradually building it as a viable alternative.

Ever since Russian Premier Yevgeny Primakov mentioned building a multipolar world order, during his visit to New

Delhi in 1998, the SCO has been assiduously countering the unilateral policies of the US. At its summit meeting in 2005, the SCO declared that the US establish a timetable for withdrawing troops from Central Asia. Despite the best efforts of the US, including its troops in Afghanistan, the Eurasian region largely remained out of bounds for US influence. Recent efforts by the Trump administration, in discussions with Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asim Munir and the appointment of Sergio Gor as US envoy to India (with additional tasks of Central Asia and South Asia) are attempts at making forays into the Eurasian region.

As the largest producers of energy (Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran and others) and energy consumers (China, India and others), the SCO Energy Club, established in 2013, offers a unique and useful combination, even though the Trump administration is targeting such connections, especially those involving India.

Despite the public display of bonhomie at Tianjin, the SCO is ridden with major differences in harmonising national interests of member states, with some entering into active skirmishes, trade barriers or imbalances, equations with major powers and double standards on issues such as countering terrorism or protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity. PM Modi alluded to some of these issues in his speech.

While the SCO is guided by a consensus approach, in reality, China and Russia call the shots in the organisational issues as well as in the agenda setting. This results in an acute balance of power equations or even acute differences among member states. Unless the issues are resolved it could lead to conflict.

The writer is Professor in Chinese Studies at JNU.

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SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Whoever controls energy controls the future

There are multiple competing theories about what drives the anti-green policies embraced by US President Donald Trump. Perhaps they reflect the influence of carbon-heavy industries in Republican-controlled states. Or perhaps they channel ideological hostility to the notion that the state should play any kind of planning role in the economy.

Whatever the case, it is increasingly apparent that the Trump administration wants to halt decarbonisation not only in the US but globally. Viewed from this perspective, much of the recent US policy incoherence starts to make more sense – albeit in a dangerously regressive way.

The US sits atop vast reserves of fossil fuels, which have underpinned its national prosperity for decades. They have lit cities, powered factories, stimulated postwar job growth, and forged broad regional political coalitions among labour, agriculture, and corporations. They are also highly profitable commodities, with exports creating global dependence on US supplies. Fossil fuels are a core component of the country's political economy – and a key fac-

tor in US domestic and foreign policymaking.

The Trump administration recognises this. It includes ideological realists who understand that energy transitions make hegemony – that energy is power. Just as coal drove the industrial revolution in England, oil and gas fuelled America's postwar dominance. Whoever controls energy controls the future.

Unfortunately for the US, if the next energy transition is a green one, the future surely belongs to China, whose green-tech dominance is so firmly established that it does not really matter which metric you look at. In terms of the critical minerals used for such technologies, China supplies the majority of the world's refined lithium (70%), cobalt (78%), graphite (95%), rare earths (91%), and manganese (91%). In terms of green-tech manufacturing, China accounts for 80% of solar panel production, 50-70% of the wind turbine market, and over half of electric vehicles. And in terms of deployment, it is undertaking three-quarters of the world's renewable-energy projects.

This is all good news for those who care about decarbonisation; but it is bad news

for those hoping to extend US hegemony. If the US wants to preserve its global primacy, then realist logic dictates that it needs China to fail. And the US can engineer that outcome by continuing to do exactly what it is doing.

Since Trump returned to office, his administration has been reshaping American consumption by imposing massive import tariffs and abandoning the previous administration's programme of domestic decarbonisation incentives and investments. The Inflation Reduction Act was an explicit attempt to compete with China in green tech. But now Americans are being weaned off the renewables that they were just beginning to enjoy.

Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill spells disaster for the future of US green-tech investment, and his administration is further deregulating fossil fuels and adding more hurdles for clean-energy projects. While the Environmental Protection Agency works to extinguish its own ability to regulate carbon emissions, NASA satellites that track US emissions are being targeted for self-destruction. All these moves, coupled with 30% tariffs on imports from China,

signal to green-tech producers that the world's top consumer no longer wants their wares.

Moreover, the US is trying to undercut global demand for Chinese green tech by compelling its largest trading partners to import US fossil fuels instead. These moves come straight from the US postwar playbook: By ensuring that European markets would be dependent on US oil, the Marshall Plan prevented the Soviet Union from wielding its own energy influence over the continent.

The current US government is not just trying to rebalance trade. It is obstructing global decarbonisation as a matter of policy. The Trump administration is doing everything it can to ensure that fossil fuels remain dominant in the energy mix of the twenty-first century. If it succeeds, the short-term returns to the US will be huge. But the long-term damage to the planet will be orders of magnitude larger.

Mark Blyth is Professor of International Economics at Brown University. Daniel Driscoll is Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of Virginia.

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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

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



Fragile fall

Sir, This refers to “Leadership crisis,” Orissa POST, Sept 8. Japan has once again been thrown into political turbulence with the resignation of Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. His government collapsed under the weight of electoral defeats, economic malaise, and scandals that eroded public trust in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Soaring inflation, surging rice prices, and revelations of political slush funds left his administration battered, while growing dissent within party ranks sealed his fate. Ishiba's resignation is not just the story of one leader's failure, but of a system trapped in chronic instability. Japan's revolving-door politics has repeatedly undermined its ability to craft long-term strategies, leaving policies hostage to factional battles and public disillusionment. For the LDP, Ishiba's downfall has triggered an urgent scramble for succession, with rival factions pushing contenders to salvage credibility. The crisis lays bare deeper structural weaknesses—economic stagnation, demographic decline, and fragile governance—that no single resignation can mask. Ishiba's fall epitomizes the fragility of Japanese leadership in the modern era, where prime ministers rise and fall with alarming regularity.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Sky is the limit

Sir, India began slowly only to gain momentum as the tournament progressed to lift the Hockey Asia Cup for the fourth time at Bihar's Rajgir. This was exemplified by the way the team thrashed China 7-0 in the semis and literally crushed defending champions South Korea 4-1 in the decider on Sunday. This was India's first Asia Cup win in eight years and, more importantly, they have directly qualified for the World Cup in 2026. The beauty of India's game on Sunday lay in its domination affront. Not once did Harmanpreet and his boys allow leeway for the South Koreans to bounce back. Although the two finalists had played out a 2-2 draw in the super-4, India was far superior to Korea in the finals thanks to the brilliant opening goal by Sukhjeet Singh after which the team never looked back. Under coach Craig Fulton, the team has blossomed into a formidable unit that can thump any team on its day.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



YAMUNA RECEDES, SILT REMAINS

Flood-affected families stuck between relief camps, ruined homes

EVEN AS PEOPLE PREPARE FOR THE LONG TASK OF RECLAIMING THEIR HOMES, THE YAMUNA IS SHOWING SIGNS OF RETREAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Safeena, 39, has been staying at a relief camp in Mori Gate for flood-affected families of Delhi. The aforementioned “relief” at the camp only refers to respite from absolute distress.

While her family could flee the raging Yamuna waters with the most valuable articles — important documents and jewellery, but the everyday essentials that run a home, the kitchen articles, the beds and mattresses, are likely washed away. That is debt, adding to the already existing burden of prior borrowings.

“We somehow saved our papers and jewellery, but the things that cost the most, our beds, mattresses and kitchen utensils, are all still there. We don’t know if they have been washed away or are lying under the silt. Now we have to buy everything again,” she said.

The economic burden is forcing more members of families to look for work.

Pointing to her 17-year-old son, Safeena said, “Even he has to go to work now. We need money to repair the house and feed ourselves.” Women, too, said they will have to step out to earn.

“Earlier, I was managing the house, but now I will even have to find some work. Our expenses will go up after the flood and we cannot survive on one person’s income,” said Farzaana, a mother of two, as she sat on a charpoy with her elderly mother-in-law.

Ghanshyam and his family, too, have been staying at the Mori Gate camp. He said that he and his son were in the village when the floodwater destroyed their home in the area.

“I just got my eldest daughter married in the village. My wife and my other two daughters were here. They managed to grab our important documents, kitchen utensils and a few mat-



tresses.

“I am already under a huge debt since I had taken money on interest to cover the costs of all the celebrations and dowry. But now I will have to borrow again to rebuild my home,” he added.

Sunita, a 32-year-old single mother, managed to save

important papers, a few mattresses and utensils before the floodwater entered their shanty near Mori Gate.

Last year, she lost her husband to COVID-19.

Sitting at the relief camp, where she and her daughters have been staying for over a

week, Sunita told PTI that beds, cupboards and makeshift doors have been ruined, tin sheets have been bent and daily essentials destroyed.

“The house was built by my husband. How will I manage now? Who will build us a home? My daughters are not even 18

yet, and I am not in touch with any of my in-laws,” she said.

The water level of the Yamuna river at Delhi’s Old Railway Bridge was recorded at 205.22 metres at 2 pm Monday, below the danger mark of 205.33 metres the day before, officials said. The river breached the danger level last Tuesday, and had reached the season’s highest Thursday when it was recorded at 207.48 metres.

Echoing similar worries as Sunita, several recalled receiving financial assistance after the 2023 floods and said they hoped the government would extend similar support this time as well.

Though Delhi did not witness a full-scale flood, the overflowing Yamuna displaced about 10,000 people across low-lying areas. Relief camps set up in schools and open grounds have provided temporary refuge, but families rue that the cost of returning home could push them into deeper debt and months of struggle.

New drive to boost reading, writing in Delhi schools

NEW DELHI: Delhi’s students from Classes 1 to 8 will now strengthen reading, writing, comprehension and basic math skills through targeted learning tools, teacher training, regular assessments and customised interventions under the Delhi NIPUN Sankalp programme. With the objective of ensuring that every student gains essential foundational skills, the initiative focuses on improving literacy and numeracy across government, aided and municipal schools in the capital. According to a Directorate of Education (DoE) data, a recent survey results showed that about 38 per cent of students struggle with comprehension, while 43 per cent face difficulties in mathematical concepts, highlighting the urgent need for structured support.

Under the programme, teachers will use specially developed 21 assessment tools to understand each student’s learning level and provide targeted interventions, DoE stated, adding that baseline assessments are already being conducted and follow-up revision exercises will be administered every three weeks. Students who require additional practice will be provided with extra worksheets to reinforce learning.

Vessel boost key to Kochi Water Metro expansion

The Kochi Water Metro has served more than four million passengers as of April 2025, reaching this milestone within its first two years of operation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 8: Kochi’s Water Metro, billed as the country’s first public boat service powered by electricity, is drawing interest from several states eager to replicate the model – but its chief says scaling up vessel production is the biggest hurdle.

Loknath Behera, the managing director of the Water Metro, said that several states were keen to replicate the network, which has been hailed as a model for sustainable urban transport.

“Kochi model can be replicated wherever there are navigable water bodies. The term ‘water bodies’ covers a wide range – in some places you have rivers, like in Varanasi, Patna and Kolkata; in Odisha there is the Chilika lake; and in Mumbai it is a hybrid, with both the sea and creek waters. So, we can’t actually 100 per cent replicate this (KWM) and there will be variations in the vessels,” Behera, a 1985-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, who retired as the Kerala

LOKNATH BEHERA, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE WATER METRO, SAID THAT SEVERAL STATES WERE KEEN TO REPLICATE THE NETWORK, WHICH HAS BEEN HAILED AS A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORT

Police chief in 2021, said.

During an interaction with reporters here, Behera, who is also the managing director of Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL), said that while the central government was “very keen” on replicating India’s first-of-its-kind sustainable transport system in different parts of the country, several states were even “more enthusiastic.”

“For example, the transport minister of Goa visited last week, and he is now inviting us to carry out a feasibility study for a similar project there,” he said. Behera said countries such as Malaysia have also expressed interest in the project.

“They have asked us to send a team to do reconnaissance. Malaysian MPs came here, travelled on the Kochi Metro and said this should be replicated. But we have to go through

the MEA for this,” said Behera, who took over as managing director of Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) in August 2021.

However, he asserted that for replicating the project at a national level, vessel production has to be ramped up manifold.

“Our biggest challenge is that we are not able to produce the number of vessels as per the requirement because it takes a lot of time to make these boats. Cochin shipyard, which is one of the biggest shipyards in the world... they are able to produce only five to six (boats) per year,” Behera told PTI.

“We (KWM) require around 70 boats, and we have reached only 20. So, it takes time. That’s one of the major blocks right now. It’s not easy to build these boats,” he added.

He said talks are underway with the Ministry of Shipping to bring together a consortium of shipyards and private players. “If we go for boats for the entire country, we will need at least 500 boats in the next three to four years. But it is a difficult task unless all the people come together,” he said.

According to a statement issued by KMRL, which manages the water metro system, in April, the union government is considering replicating the KWM in 21 additional locations across the country.

It also said that the World Bank has expressed interest in partnering with the Water Metro initiative – launched April 25, 2023.

The Kochi Water Metro has served more than four million passengers as of April 2025, reaching this milestone within its first two years of operation.

AI, DRONE SURVEY

DJB takes steps to revamp sewerage infrastructure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Looking at the rapid urbanisation of the national capital, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has initiated a Sewerage Improvement Scheme (SIS), a comprehensive master plan to revamp the sewerage infrastructure of the national capital, officials said Monday.

In a step towards modernising its ageing systems and tackling Yamuna pollution, the DJB plans to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) and drone technology into its infrastructure planning. The board has set a 15-month timeline to deliver a full report, aiming to plug decades-old gaps, expand coverage, and ensure zero untreated sewage reaches the Yamuna River.

“To identify gaps and short-



comings, qualified consultants will be hired to develop a comprehensive programme to strengthen, optimise, and expand its sewerage infrastructure, keeping in mind the needs by 2043. A tender has been issued to hire a consultant,” an official said.

The DJB has identified five previous reports on drains, sewerage gaps, water quality and Yamuna River pollution, all of which will be studied to prepare the plan.

Currently, the DJB has a

sewage treatment capacity of around 600 million gallons per day (MGD) across all existing STPs against the estimated generation of 792 MGD. There are a total of 37 sewage treatment plants (STPs), of which 18 are undergoing upgradation.

To further enhance treatment capacity, the sewerage master plan will have a detailed report on the expenditure required for setting up new plants and the upgradation requirements of existing plants.

“Review and consolidate existing data on sewerage infrastructure, including network coverage, pumping stations, and (STP). Analyse operational performance and identify system gaps to support the formulation of a short-term rehabilitation and upgrade strategy,” the SIS states.

According to the scheme, the study will have a comprehensive needs assessment factoring in demographic growth and future urban development in achieving universal coverage of the sewerage infrastructure across the city.

Prioritising the Yamuna, the sewerage master plan will have to identify a set of immediate and short-term measures to “achieve zero untreated sewage discharge into the Yamuna river, whether directly or via stormwater and drainage networks,” officials said.

As the issue is closely related to Yamuna river cleanliness, the consultants will also carry out drone surveys of the small and large drains carrying untreated waste across the national capital and unsewered areas to connect them to the network.

Church dedicated to teen saint Carlo Acutis consecrated in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 8: As Pope Leo XIV canonised the London-born Italian Carlo Acutis September 7, a new church dedicated to the “millennial saint” was consecrated at Palikkara near here at around the same time.

According to Church officials, the church is among the first in the country dedicated to the teenage saint, who died of leukaemia in 2006 at the age of 15.

Roby Philip, joint convener of the church construction committee, said the initiative was that of Varapuzha Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil, who envisioned a church for the new generation dedicated to Saint Acutis.

The church, built on land owned by the diocese, was completed within a few months after construction began in April this year.

“The church also houses relics

of the saint. Around 140 families will attend prayers here, which will be held every Tuesday and Sunday,” Philip said.

The consecration ceremony was led by Archbishop Kalathiparambil along with Vicar Generals Mathew Kallingal, Matthew Elanjimattam, and church vicar Rocky Kollamparambil.

Philip added that a chapel dedicated to Saint Acutis and Saint Antony is also being built nearby. Carlo Acutis, who was passionate about the Eucharist, was known for creating a website documenting miracles and was popularly called “God’s influencer.”

His tomb is in Assisi, Italy. He was beatified by Pope Francis in 2020 before being canonised Sunday.

Pope Leo Sunday declared Carlo Acutis, a London-born Italian who became a patron for internet users, as the Catholic Church’s first millennial saint.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT
Request For Proposal (RFP)
(Reference No-10942)

“Operation, Maintenance and Management of Aviation Security Training Institute at Directorate of Aviation, Govt. of Odisha, BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar

No. JJ- The Director of Aviation, Directorate of Aviation, Government of Odisha invites proposals from reputed, experienced and duly certified agencies for Operation, Maintenance and Management of Aviation Security Training Institute for Aviation Security at Directorate of Aviation, Govt. of Odisha, BPI Airport for two years extendable by another 12 months based on satisfactory performance.

Eligible and interested agencies may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following websites of Government of Odisha and submit their offer.

<https://tendersodisha.gov.in, nicgep/app>
<https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders>.

The responses are to be submitted online and queries, if any, may be referred in writing to the Director of Aviation, Directorate of Aviation, Government of Odisha, BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar at the E-mail: orissa_aviation@yahoo.co.in, transcivilaviation@gmail.com

Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned latest by 03.00 PM on 04.10.2025 (“**Bid Due Date**” or “**BDD**”). Bids received after the above BDD shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./ Special Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation
Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department
OIPR-38001/11/0043/2526

Workers from Kerala, Cochini Jews celebrate Onam across Israel

There are about ninety five thousand Jews of Indian origin living in Israel who still carry fond memory of their motherland, India, and celebrate and cherish their heritage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Sept 8: Indian caregivers, predominantly Malayalees, and Jews of Cochini origin, have celebrated the festival of Oman with great fervor in various cities of Israel during the past few days.

Hundreds of Indian community members came together in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Netanya for the celebrations that included colourful Pookams, festive Sadya and cul-

tural programmes performed by the caregivers community in Israel.

Ambassador of India to Israel, JP Singh, also attended the festivities in Jerusalem and lauded the work that caregivers are doing in Israel.

Recalling his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last month, Singh told the gathering that the Israeli Premier “appreciated Indian caregivers for their dedication and professionalism in the field of Care-giving.”

The Indian envoy also reiterated the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the embassy should always “work to ensure safety and well-being of Indian caregivers, workers and students in Israel.”

Singh assured the caregivers of constant support and assistance by the Indian mission in Israel. There are thousands of



caregivers from India working in Israel, a big chunk of them from Kerala. The Cochini Jewish community in Israel also marked 26th year of Onam celebrations in Israel.

Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian embassy, Sarvajeet

Soodan, attended the festivities organised by the community.

Embassy officials also met brave Indian caregivers, Meera and Sabitha, and appreciated their exemplary courage in saving the lives of people during the October 7th terror attack.

There are about ninety five thousand Jews of Indian origin living in Israel who still carry fond memory of their motherland, India, and celebrate and cherish their heritage.

The community takes particular pride in the fact that India was the only country where Jews never faced any demotion.

“This year’s Onam celebrations by Indian caregivers not only symbolizes the efforts of the Indian diaspora to maintain their ties with India while in Israel, but also embody the festival’s spirit of inclusiveness, where people of all religions and backgrounds come together in harmony”, Jolly Stephen, a caregiver from Trivandrum, told PTI. “By encouraging community bonding, Onam reminds us that joy, peace, and togetherness remain within reach, no matter how far we are from home”, she added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF PANCHAYATRAJ & DRINKING WATER
Office of the Block Development Officer, Basta
Email : ori-basta@nic.in
“e” PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. PS-BASTA-02/2025-26

No.i-299 : Bid documents consisting of work, estimated amount put to tender, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

1	Name of the work	CONST OF ADDL CLASS ROOM AT HATUCHARAN HIGH SCHOOL, DHITIPURA, UNDER SANTOSHUPUR G.P IN BASTA BLOCK
2	No. of work	01 no. individual working
3	Estimated cost for put to tender	Rs.15,02,507.00 (excluding G.S.T.)
4	Period of completion	5 (Five) calendar months
5	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	From Dt.12.09.2025 at 10.00 hours to Dt.23.09.2025 at 17.00 hours
6	Date of receipt of bids in the portal	From Dt. 12.09.2025 at 10.00 hours to Dt.23.09.2025 at 17.00 hours
7	Date & Place of opening of Bids	Dt.24.09.2025 at 11.30 hours in the O/o Block Development Office Basta
8	Date of Lottery (if required)	Dt.14.10.2025 at 11.30 hours in the O/o Block Development Officer, Basta
9	Procurement Officer/Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bids	Block Development Officer, Basta

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in said website.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Basta

OIPR-19171/11/0004/2526

of the day

quote

During our campaigns, we explain this clearly to people. The DMK has been in power for four years now, but they have not introduced any significant schemes

EDAPPAJI K PALANISWAMI | AIADMK GENERAL SECY

The Frontier Highway along Arunachal's border with Tibet is set to be a game-changer

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

The journey from a minimal literacy rate of around seven per cent to a fully literate state had been full of challenges, yet the State had consistently moved forward with the aim of providing quality education

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

The Telegraph editor Sankarshan Thakur dies

New Delhi: Veteran journalist Sankarshan Thakur, editor of The Telegraph whose prowess with words added that extra edge to his analyses and ground reports, died at a Gurgaon hospital Monday after prolonged illness. He was 63. Born in Patna in 1962, Thakur was the son of senior journalist Janardhan Thakur. He received his early education at St Xavier's in Patna and later in Delhi, before earning a degree in political science from Hindu College, Delhi University.

RSS gen sec Dattatreya admitted to AIIMS

Jodhpur/New Delhi: RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale was admitted to AIIMS Jodhpur Monday after he suddenly fell ill due to high blood pressure, doctors in the hospital said. A team of doctors is attending to Hosabale, the sarkaryawah of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). His condition is better and he has been kept under observation, according to the doctor at AIIMS Jodhpur. "Hosabale's health suddenly deteriorated in the afternoon, following which he was immediately rushed to AIIMS where he was diagnosed with high BP," they said.

Bajaj Chetak electric scooter catches fire

Kolhapur: Fire officials Monday said a Bajaj Chetak electric scooter caught fire while it was parked on the roadside at Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur district of western Maharashtra. Nobody was injured in the incident, which happened on Friday, an official said. The scooter maker Bajaj Auto said it has initiated a probe.

Bar body ends strike

New Delhi: The Delhi district courts bar body Monday called off its strike after receiving an assurance from the Delhi Police commissioner's office that police officials will appear physically in courts to present evidence. "Since a circular has been issued from the office of commissioner of police that in all criminal trials, all police officials/ personnel shall physically appear before courts for the purpose of deposition/ evidence, the coordination committee in its meeting held today has resolved that since our demand for direction of police officials to appear physically in courts has been met with, call for abstinence from work is being withdrawn," said a communication from Tarun Rana secretary of New Delhi Bar Association.



Where all such disturbance was reported? If there is anyone who disturbs peace, it's them (BJP) only. BJP is an expert in inciting and spoiling peace

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

LAWYER IN RAHUL GANDHI DEFAMATION CASE ENDS LIFE

A lawyer from Surat, who had been part of the Congress' legal team that represented MP Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case, allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a river here, police said Monday. Lawyer Firoz Pathan, who was suffering from depression, allegedly took the extreme step September 4, said Dharmesh Patel, inspector of Maroli police station in neighbouring Navsari district where the body was found.



Oppn MPs meet to display unity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc held a meeting in the Parliament complex Monday in a show of unity on the eve of the vice presidential election, and urged MPs to listen to their inner conscience and vote independently in this "ideological battle".

The MPs were told not to let their vote go to waste in the September 9 vice presidential poll and were informed about the procedure of casting votes, while exuding confidence about their victory and leaving nothing to chance.

Sources said the Opposition MPs were urged to listen to their "inner conscience" before casting their votes and not cast an invalid vote. The last vice-presidential polls saw some votes declared invalid.

The parliamentarians also took part in a mock poll for Tuesday's election.

Opposition MPs were told to only mark preference '1' in their ballot and not mark anyone as their second preference on the ballot paper.

The second preference votes are counted only in case there is a tie between the two candidates.

Top leaders of the Congress, Samajwadi Party, DMK, TMC, RJD, JMM, Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP), CPI and CPI-M met in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan (old parliament building) and were briefed about the election process of Tuesday, in which members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are eligible to vote.

Ruling NDA nominee C P Radhakrishnan and joint Op-

VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



Sources said the Opposition MPs were urged to listen to their "inner conscience" before casting their votes and not cast an invalid vote

The last vice-presidential polls saw some votes declared invalid

position candidate B Sudershan Reddy are pitted against each other in a direct contest for the vice-presidential election.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has a clear edge in the poll necessitated by the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar July 21. The vice-presidential poll has been described by the Opposition as an ideological battle, even as the numbers are stacked in favour of the NDA.

Members of Parliament are not bound by party whips to vote in the vice presidential election, which takes place under a secret ballot system.

The MPs will be handed out ballot papers containing the names of the two contesting candidates and will have to mark their preference by writing the figure '1' opposite the name of the candidate of their choice.

While SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav welcomed all those pres-

ent, Congress leader and chief whip of the Congress in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh informed the MPs about the voting procedure.

The Opposition has nominated Congress leaders Naseer Hussain and Manickam Tagore, besides TMC leader Shatabdi Roy, as the polling agents for their joint candidate Reddy. Shaktisinh Gohil and Manickam Tagore have been nominated as his counting agents.

Among the leaders who attended the meeting in Samvidhan Sadan were Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party leader Sonia Gandhi, NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar, DMK leader T R Baalu and SPs Akhilesh Yadav, among others.

In a fervent appeal to MPs ahead of the vice presidential polls, Opposition nominee Sudershan Reddy exhorted them not to let party loyalty guide their choice and asserted that by voting for him, they would be ensuring that the Rajya Sabha stands as a true temple of democracy.

Reddy, in a video message, told the MPs that this is not just a vote to elect their vice-president but is a vote for the spirit of India itself.

SNIPPETS

Nitish Katara murder: SC refuses to extend interim bail of Vikas Yadav

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday refused to extend the interim bail of convict Vikas Yadav, who is serving a 25-year jail term in the sensational 2002 Nitish Katara murder case, and asked him to move the Delhi High Court instead. Yadav's interim bail is expiring September 9. His counsel, senior advocate S Gurukrishna, urged a bench comprising Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma to extend his client's reprieve by four more days to enable him to file an appropriate application in the high court. The bench, however, refused the plea.

Doctor among 10 held for selling babies using fake adoption papers

New Delhi: A doctor was among the 10 people arrested for allegedly selling infants unwanted by their parents to childless couples for amounts ranging between ₹1.8 lakh and ₹7.5 lakh using forged adoption papers, police said Monday. Six children, all aged below one year, have been rescued from various locations in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, they said. Those arrested include Sundar (35), the main accused, who allegedly acted as a middleman. According to the police, he worked as a medical representative and coordinated between the biological parents and prospective buyers. He also maintained contact with quacks who allegedly provided medicines to parents seeking to give up their children.

Sonia slams govt on Nicobar project

New Delhi: Terming the Great Nicobar infrastructure project a "planned misadventure", Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi Monday said it poses an existential danger to the island's indigenous tribal communities and is being insensitively pushed through, making a "mockery of all legal and deliberative processes". The collective conscience cannot, and must not, stay silent when the very survival of the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes is at stake, Sonia Gandhi said in an article published in 'The Hindu'.



An artisan prepares an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of the 'Durga Puja' festival in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

India's future at risk as young lungs deteriorating: Experts

Once thought of as diseases of old age, lung cancer, COPD and tuberculosis are now being seen earlier in life, raising fears of a demographic and economic disaster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Experts have cautioned that lung health in younger Indians is deteriorating rapidly, with nearly 81,700 new cases of lung cancer each year reflecting the magnitude of the threat.

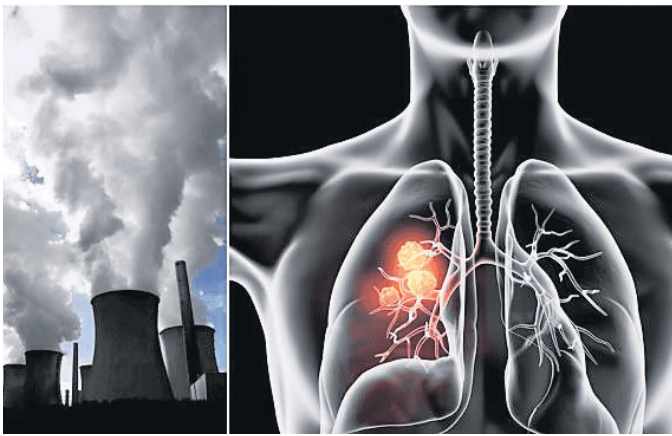
Once thought of as diseases of old age, lung cancer, COPD and tuberculosis are now being seen earlier in life, raising fears of a demographic and economic

disaster.

The young who run at dawn in smog, the professionals who commute long distances through choking traffic, and the students sitting in polluted classrooms are breathing toxic air into their lungs every single day, experts noted.

This invisible injury will surface in their most productive years, when the country needs them most, they said.

The crisis is not confined to outdoor pollution. Evidence shared by experts at RESPICON 2025, the eighth National Conference of Respiratory Medicine, Interventional Pulmonology and Sleep Disorders, held Saturday, showed that kitchen smoke and indoor biomass fuels are significantly raising lung cancer risk among non-smoking women, a danger often overlooked in public debates.



Children, too, continue to bear the burden — pneumonia still accounts for 14% of global under-five deaths, and repeated infections driven by polluted air are undermining childhood health and immunity.

The RESPICON 2025 was in-

augurated by Dr Vatsala Agarwal, Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Delhi, who called for placing respiratory health at the centre of India's policy priorities.

She said, "Clean air is not a luxury; it is a fundamental

right. Respiratory health must move from the margins to the mainstream of India's health agenda. Protecting the lungs of our young population is protecting the economic and social fabric of the nation. We cannot allow toxic air to steal away both our present and our future."

Dr Rakesh K Chawla, Programme Director and Chairman, RESPICON 2025, said, "If we halve exposure to fine particulate pollution and apply guideline-based care for COPD, asthma and TB, we could prevent hundreds of thousands of hospitalisations each year and add years of healthy life back to our people. This is not only about hospitals or patients — it is about protecting the strength and vitality of an entire generation. Without urgent action, India will face its economic

peak with a workforce already gasping for air."

Dr Aditya K Chawla, Organising Secretary, RESPICON 2025, said that respiratory health is India's climate story, cancer story, and child-survival story rolled into one.

The conference was jointly hosted by Jaipur Golden Hospital and Saroj Group of Hospitals in New Delhi.

Attended by over 1,200 delegates, postgraduate students, senior pulmonologists and international faculty, the conference explored solutions such as clean-air prescribing in clinics, spirometry-first diagnosis for chronic cough, fast-track TB care with universal NAAT testing, expanded adult vaccination, and early lung cancer detection using low-dose CT and EBUS-guided diagnosis.

of the day


quote

The state is getting ready to represent the future of electric vehicle transportation. Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to formulate an electric vehicle policy



MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

In Chhattisgarh, solar power consumers are now emerging not just as energy producers but also as energy contributors



VISHNU DEO SAI | CHHATTISGARH CM

GST reforms will also help ease the living of common people as the tax on certain essential commodities has been reduced to zero. Everybody should know the benefits they can derive from the GST 2.0. We should pass on these benefits to the people of Goa




PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

X

POST

OF THE DAY

Rapist Prajwal Revanna will be paid ₹522 per day in jail, while under MGNREGA in states like Gujarat, people get just ₹288 per day. Is this justice?



@DrNimoYadav

SHORT TAKES

Delhi ‘kalash’ theft: 3 held

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested three men, including the main accused, in connection with the theft of multiple gold ‘kalash’ from a Jain religious ceremony near the Red Fort and recovered stolen items worth more than ₹1.5 crore, an official said Monday. The incident occurred September 3 at the Jain Parv Pandal, set up at the 15 August Park near the Red Fort, during the ongoing Jain Samaj’s Daslakshan Mahapary (August 28-September 9).

J’khand health minister gets ‘death threat’

Ranchi: Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari Monday claimed to have received a death threat from an anonymous caller while he was in Bokaro the previous day. Ansari told PTI that a case has been lodged against the caller at the Bokaro Steel City police station Monday.

NFR to run special steam, diesel trains

Guwahati: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) will operate four pairs of Special Steam and Diesel Rides and four Special Diesel Joyrides train services under its Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) to cater to the festive rush and winter season. These trains will start operating from September 19, an NFR statement said here Monday.

ED conducts raids in 20 places in Bengal

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday launched a series of coordinated raids at over 20 locations spread across West Bengal, including Kolkata, targeting individuals and businesses allegedly involved in a sand smuggling racket, a senior official said. Raids were being carried out in several areas, including Behala, Regent Park, Bidhannagar and Kalyani in connection with the scam, he said.



The world as a collective is seeking a stable and predictable environment for trade and investment. At the same time, it is imperative that economic practices are fair, transparent and to everyone’s benefit

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Teen’s skeletal remains found from Dharmasthala



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mangaluru (Karnataka), Sept 8: The SIT probing the alleged case of multiple rapes, murders, and burials in Dharmasthala recovered human skeletal remains during a spot inspection at Bangale Gudde September 6, police said Monday.

The discovery was made in the presence of a relative of the victim, a 17-year-old college student, police added.

The student was allegedly raped and murdered October 9, 2012—a case that remains unresolved more than a decade later.

Despite a CBI probe and Supreme Court intervention, the real perpetrators have never been identified.

Police sources said the relative exhumed a human skull from the site on instructions from activist Girish Mattannavar, who had earlier obtained information from complainant CN Chinnaiah, based on whose complaint SIT was formed.

Human skeletal remains found during spot inspection in Dharmasthala case

The SIT later confirmed that at least two sets of skeletal remains were recovered during the exercise.

“During the spot mahazar (spot inspection) at Bangale Gudde, the SIT recovered skeletal remains of at least two individuals. This is a shocking development for the investigation team,” a senior police source said. Officials suspect more remains may be buried at the desolate site.

The recovered bones have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for analysis. Investigators are probing why Chinnaiah, despite being aware of the site, did not disclose it earlier.

Police added that the relative

acted under Mattannavar’s direction and recorded the exhumation on video. He has not been taken into custody but is likely to be questioned further.

“We will investigate how the person came to know of this location and why it was kept hidden for so long,” a police official said.

“The FSL report will be crucial in establishing the identity of the deceased and the circumstances of their death.”

The multiple burial case, which has gripped the region, remains under close watch, with the SIT expected to widen its probe following the latest findings. Investigators have also received leads extending into Kerala and Tamil Nadu. A YouTuber from Kerala, Manaf, has been summoned to appear before the SIT Monday.

A controversy erupted after a complainant, later identified as CN Chinnaiah and arrested on charges of perjury, claimed burying a number of bodies, including those of women with signs of sexual assault, in Dharmasthala over a period of time, with the implications pointing towards the administrators of the local temple.

The BJP had protested against targeting the temple. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had also warned of action if the complaint was false. Veerendra Heggade, the Dharmadhikari or the custodian of the temple too had welcomed the constitution of the SIT.

Munnabhai should remain in jail: SC in exam proxy case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: You are destroying the entire system of public examinations, the Supreme Court Monday told an accused, who allegedly used a proxy person to appear for him in the CTET examination in Uttar Pradesh in December 2024.

“Munna Bhai andar rehna chahiye (Munnabhai should remain inside),” a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed in an apparent reference to Bollywood movie “Munna Bhai MBBS”.

In the 2003 movie, actor Sanjay Dutt played the character of Munna Bhai who used another person to appear for him in the medical examination.

“You are destroying the entire system of public examinations. There are a number of candidates who suffer because of such people,” the bench said. The counsel appearing for the petitioner said three people were chargesheeted in the case and two of them were granted bail. He said the purported “solver”, who appeared as a proxy candidate in the case, was also granted bail.

ARMY, NAVY CONDUCT DIVING TRAINING

The Indian Army’s para special forces and Navy’s marine commandos Marcos conducted a week-long joint scuba and combat diving exercise in chilling conditions at an altitude of 17,000 feet in Sikkim, a Defence official said Monday



A youngster jumps into the Yamuna river after it began to recede, in New Delhi. The water level at the Old Railway Bridge dropped to 205.22 metres at 2 pm Monday, slightly down from the danger mark of 205.33 metres a day earlier, officials said

PTI PHOTO

PUNJAB FLOODS

₹20K compensation for per acre crop damage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 8: The Punjab Cabinet Monday decided to provide ₹20,000 as compensation for each acre of crops damaged and also gave its nod to a scheme allowing farmers to extract and sell sand deposited in their fields after the floods.

Officials said farmers of flood-affected villages will not require any permit till December 31 to remove sand from their farmland under the ‘Jisda Khet, Usdi Ret’ (One who owns farmland, owns sand) scheme.

The decisions were made in the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann from a hospital in Mohali, where he was admitted last week with complaints of exhaustion and low heart rate.

The permission for removal of silt or sand from agricultural land by way of this “one-time measure” shall not be considered mineral mining. Farmers in flood-hit areas had expressed concern over the accumulation of sand brought by flood waters to their agricultural fields.

In a video message after the meeting, Mann said, “We are giving permission to farmers to extract sand from their fields. If you want to sell sand or you want to use it for yourself, he said can do so.”

According to the Cabinet decision, the deputy commissioners concerned shall list out affected villages where farmers, cultivators, or a group of farmers can remove silt, sand and river-borne materials deposited by the flood.

All district mining officers, as well as district-level and sub-divisional level monitoring committees, shall facilitate the removal and lifting of silt without disturbing the original ground surface by way of pits, trenches or otherwise, officials said.

As far as crops damaged by the deluge, Mann said the state government will give a compensation of ₹20,000 per acre to affected farmers. “Until now, this is the maximum compensation to be given by any state,” he claimed. “Cheques will be handed over to you (farmers),” the chief minister said.

According to officials, crops on 1.76 lakh hectares of land have been damaged in the flood, the worst faced by the state since 1988.

Mann also said ₹4 lakh will be given to every family that lost a member in the calamity. Also, houses damaged in the flood would be surveyed for providing financial assistance to the affected people, he said after the Cabinet meeting.



Two terrorists, 2 soldiers killed in encounter in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 8: Two terrorists, including one believed to be a Pakistani national, and two soldiers were killed in a fierce encounter in the Kulgam district of south Kashmir Monday, officials said and added that an Army Major was also injured in the operation.

The encounter erupted after security forces launched a search operation in the Gudar forest area of Kulgam based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists.

The search turned into an encounter when the terrorists opened fire on the security forces. During the operation, two soldiers, identified as Sub Perbhat Gaur and Lance Naik Narender Sindhu, and an Army Major were injured in the gunfight, the officials said.

Gaur and Sindhu succumbed to their injuries while the officer’s condition is stated to be stable. A tweet by the Army’s Kashmir-based Chinara Corps said that it “honours the supreme sacrifice of the Bravehearts, Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/Nk Narender Sindhu, in line of duty for the Nation. Their

courage and dedication will forever inspire us”.

Earlier, based on an intelligence input from Jammu and Kashmir police, a joint search operation was launched by the Army, CRPF and police in Guddar forest of Kulgam.

Vigilant troops observed suspicious activity and were met with gunfire when they challenged the terrorists. Initial reports indicate one of the neutralised terrorists was a local, while the second is believed to be a foreign militant with the code name ‘Rehman Bhai’.

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat visited the encounter site in Guddar, where he praised the joint operation led by the Army.

Assam pays tribute to Hazarika on his 100th birth anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 8: People from all walks of life gathered at the Bhupen Hazarika Samannay Tirtha in Guwahati Monday to pay homage to the legendary singer on his 100th birth anniversary, ushering in year-long celebrations of the Assam icon.

Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and state Congress president Gourav Gogoi were among the leaders who joined countless school children, college students, office goers and music lovers from across the city to pay tribute to Hazarika at his memorial, the place where he was cremated in November 2011.

Hazarika, hailed as the ‘Bard of Brahmaputra’, created songs that continue to resonate across generations.

His compositions, such as



‘Bistirno Parore’, voiced the struggles and aspirations of the common people, while numbers like ‘Dil Hoom Hoom Kare’ and ‘Ganga Behti Ho Kyun’ brought his evocative music to national audiences. Assamese classics like ‘Manuhe Manuhor Babe’ and ‘Moi Eti Jajabor’ reflected his cultural pride and deep-rooted

connection to the land.

In an article published in all major newspapers of the state, PM Narendra Modi paid tribute to Hazarika, stating that his legacy extends far beyond music as his works embodied emotions that transcended melody.

On September 13, the PM will visit the state to participate in

a special tribute meeting, and a commemorative coin of ₹100 will be unveiled in his honour. The governor described Hazarika as “the soul of Assam and a symbol of India’s cultural consciousness”.

“The centenary celebration is not merely an event of remembrance, but a festival of inspiration, aimed at igniting the imagination of generations to come. This is a tribute to a man whose voice echoed not only across our state but throughout the nation and the world,” he said

The CM said the state government will organise special meetings in memory of the Bharat Ratna recipient in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Delhi.

Biography of the maestro, written by Anuradha Sarma Pujari, will also be translated into all major Indian languages,

he said. President Droupadi Murmu will attend the closing ceremony of the celebrations, to be organised in New Delhi September 8, 2026, the CM said.

The maestro’s son, Tez Hazarika along with his wife and son, has come here from the US to attend the centenary celebrations. Gogoi, the state Congress president, said Hazarika’s music carried the hopes, struggles, and dreams of “our people, becoming a movement in itself”. Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) president Lurinjoyti Gogoi also offered floral tributes to Hazarika at the memorial.

Various cultural programmes were held across the state to mark the occasion.

The Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust, founded by the singer during his lifetime, along with the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra Society, organised a cultural pro-

gramme on the occasion.

The trust’s flag was hosted by 100 prominent personalities, led by nonagenarian Sattriya dancer Jatin Goswami. Musical programmes by various indigenous groups were held, and lamps were lit in front of the museum dedicated to Hazarika on the premises.

The All Assam Students’ Union (AASU) also organised various programmes, with its members offering tributes to the legend at public places in all district headquarter towns.

Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Bora launched two schemes on the occasion -- the introduction of music classes in Adarsha Vidyalayas of the state and the distribution of subsidies to producers of 19 Assamese films.

Hazarika, popularly called ‘Sudhakanta’, was born in Sadiya in Tinsukia district September 8, 1926.

of the day

quote

ASEAN is a platform where both giants (India and China) can connect with the wider region



ALVIN TAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SINGAPORE

Pakistan and Iran have forcibly returned millions of Afghans to their country, and India has also deported groups of Rohingya Muslims by land and sea



VOLKER TÜRK | UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF

We know that all these measures will not be enough to stop the invasion or the war crimes, but we hope that they will serve to add pressure on Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government to alleviate some of the suffering that the Palestinian population is enduring



PEDRO SÁNCHEZ | PRIME MINISTER, SPAIN

SHORT TAKES

Mushroom murderer sentenced to life

Melbourne: An Australian judge Monday sentenced triple-murderer Erin Patterson to life in prison with a non-parole period of 33 years for poisoning four of her estranged husband's relatives with death cap mushrooms. Justice Christopher Beale told the Victoria state Supreme Court that Patterson's crimes involved an enormous betrayal of trust. Patterson was convicted in July of murdering Don and Gail Patterson and Gail's sister, Heather Wilkinson, with a lunch of beef Wellington pastries laced with foraged death cap mushrooms.

ICC postpones hearings for ex-Philippine Prez

The Hague: The International Criminal Court announced Monday it was postponing a pretrial hearing for former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte over concerns about his health. Lawyers for the 80-year-old filed a motion in August for the proceedings to be delayed indefinitely, saying their client is "not fit to stand trial." Prosecutors at the ICC accuse Duterte of crimes against humanity for deadly anti-drugs crackdowns he oversaw while in office.

Indonesian leader fires finance, security ministers

Jakarta(Indonesia): Indonesia's president announced a Cabinet reshuffle Monday, replacing key economic and security ministers after deadly protests erupted across the country over lawmakers' perks. The Cabinet shake-up comes as public dissatisfaction rose with President Prabowo Subianto's administration and the parliament's perceived insensitivity over economic hardships. Five ministers lost their jobs, including Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, a widely respected technocrat and former managing director of the World Bank, and Budi Gunawan, the coordinating minister for politics and security.

Pak signs MoU with US in mineral sector

Islamabad: Pakistan Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a US metals company to deepen ties in the mineral sector. The US Embassy here in a press statement said that Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Zach Harkenrider accompanied a US Strategic Metals-led delegation to sign an MoU with the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) at the Prime Minister House.



Egemonism, unilateralism, and protectionism are getting more and more rampant. Trade wars and tariff wars waged by some country severely disrupt the world economy and undermine international trade rules

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

CHINA'S EXPORT GROWTH SLOWS IN AUGUST

China's exports grew last month but at a slower pace than in recent months, the country's customs agency said Monday. Exports reached \$321.8 billion in August, a 4.4% increase compared to the same month last year



It's 'blood money': Navarro

Using an expletive in his post on X, Navarro said, 'Fact: India didn't buy Russian oil in large quantities before Russia invaded Ukraine. It's blood money and people are dying'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 8: US President Donald Trump's trade advisor Peter Navarro Monday termed India's purchases of Russian oil as "blood money" and said Delhi didn't buy oil from Moscow in large quantities before the Ukraine conflict. Using an expletive in his post on X, Navarro said, "Fact: India didn't buy Russian oil in large quantities before Russia invaded Ukraine. It's blood money and people are dying." Last week, Navarro, White House's Senior Counsellor for Trade and Manufacturing, had said in a post that "India highest tariffs costs US jobs.

Palestinian gunmen kill 6 in Jerusalem bus stop shooting

REUTERS

Jerusalem, Sept 8: Two Palestinian gunmen opened fire at a bus stop on the outskirts of Jerusalem Monday, killing six people in what police described as "a terrorist attack," one of the deadliest in the city in the past few years. Footage from a dashboard camera at the scene in Ramot Junction showed people fleeing from around a bus at the side of a road as shots rang out. Israel Police said the attackers were shot dead at the scene by a soldier and an armed civilian. The ambulance service identified the five of the victims as a 50-year-old man, a woman in her fifties and three men in their thirties. It said six others were in serious condition with gunshot wounds. Police said more than 20 people were injured.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said later a sixth person had died and that the gunmen were Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Spain's foreign ministry said a Spanish citizen was among those killed and condemned the attack. France, the EU and the United Arab Emirates also issued statements of condemnation. The shooting took place against the backdrop of nearly two years of war in Gaza, where Israel's campaign against militant group Hamas has left the territory in devastation. In the West Bank, Palestinians have faced tightened military restrictions and a surge in attacks by Jewish settlers. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a statement which condemned "any targeting of Palestinian and Israeli civilians".



India buys Russian oil purely to profit/Revenues feed Russia war machine. Ukrainians/Russians die. US taxpayers shell out more. India can't handle truth/spins." When a community note was added to Navarro's post by X, he slammed Elon Musk, saying the X billionaire owner is "letting propaganda into people's posts. That crap note below is just that. Crap. India buys Russia oil solely to profiteer. It didn't buy any before Russia invaded Ukraine. Indian govt spin machine moving high tilt. Stop killing Ukrainians. Stop

taking American jobs." X said that "Community Notes on X is a crowd-sourced program where X users can add context, fact-checks to potentially misleading posts. Contributors write notes, which are then rated by other contributors with diverse viewpoints." The community note included links to news reports on Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments, made during his joint press conference with Trump in Alaska last month, that trade between Washington and Moscow grew since the Republican leader's second term

in the White House. In a rant, Navarro said, "Should X put up posts like one below where foreign interests masquerade as objective observers and interfere with domestic US economics and politics?" "On earlier post, you can see Indian special interests trying to interfere with domestic dialogue with lies about India buying Russian oil. Should X present this crap as comments from "diverse viewpoints"? One of the community notes on Navarro's post said that his remark that "Brahmins are profiteering" is not only baseless but also a hypocritical attempt to meddle in India's internal affairs and spread divisive narratives. Navarro had said that "Brahmins" are profiteering at the expense of the Indian people and it needs to stop. The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.



Russian Orthodox Church believers take part in a religious procession devoted to the All-Moscow Saints Day, in Moscow, Russia

PTI PHOTO

UNHRC urges global trials for Sri Lanka rights abusers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 8: Sri Lanka's alleged human rights violators would be tried under universal jurisdiction, the UNHRC in Geneva reiterated Monday, whereas the island nation opposed international intervention on its human rights situation. Volker Turk, chief of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), called on the member states to cooperate in investigating and prosecuting "alleged perpetrators of international crimes committed in Sri Lanka, under principles of universal jurisdiction". Turk also said that member states should explore further

sanctions against "people credibly accused of gross violations of human rights". "Justice and accountability are essential to forge a future of healing, reconciliation and sustainable peace," he said. Sri Lanka must acknowledge violations and abuses, he added. "Victims and survivors need the state and its security forces to accept responsibility and recognise the lasting impact of violations and crimes committed by them, alongside those committed by non-state armed groups such as the LTTE," Turk said. The UN rights chief added that he welcomed the government initiative to establish an independent public prosecution



office. "My report recommends setting up a dedicated judicial mechanism with an independent special counsel to look into violations of international human rights and humanitarian law over previous decades," he said. In response, Sri Lanka opposed international intervention on its human rights

French parliament votes to oust PM



REUTERS

Paris, Sept 8: France's parliament brought down the government Monday over its plans to tame the ballooning national debt, deepening a political crisis that is weakening the euro zone's second-largest economy at a time of steep global tensions.

President Emmanuel Macron, who is facing calls from the opposition to dissolve parliament and resign, will instead hunt for his fifth prime minister in less than two years. His office said he would appoint one in the next few days. The next government's most pressing task will be to pass a budget, the same challenge Bayrou faced when he took office. Securing the backing of a very divided parliament will be equally hard. "You have the power to bring down the government, but you do not have the power to erase reality," Bayrou told lawmakers before losing the confidence vote, with 364 votes against him and only 194 in his favour. "Reality will remain relentless: expenses will continue to rise, and the burden of debt, already unbearable, will grow heavier and more costly," he said. Francois Bayrou, who took office as prime minister only nine months ago, will tender his resignation Tuesday, his office said. Bayrou had called the confidence vote to try to win parlia-

- Bayrou loses confidence vote in parliament
- His defeat deepens political crisis in France
- Macron faces task of proposing new prime minister
- France is under pressure to fix its finances

mentary support for his strategy to lower a deficit that stands at nearly double the European Union's 3% ceiling and to start tackling a debt pile equivalent to 114% of GDP. But Opposition parties were in little mood to rally behind his planned savings of 44 billion euros (\$51.51 billion) in next year's budget, with an election for Macron's successor looming in 2027. "This moment marks the end of the agony of a phantom government," far-right leader Marine Le Pen said, pushing for a snap parliamentary election, which Macron has so far ruled out. Macron could now nominate a politician from his own centrist minority ruling group or from the ranks of conservatives as the next premier, but that would mean doubling down on a strategy that has failed to yield a stable alliance. Macron may eventually decide the only path out of the crisis lies in calling a snap election, but he has so far resisted calls from Le Pen's National Rally and from France Unbowed to dissolve parliament a second time.

China's deepening civilian, military AI ties pose challenge to US

The analysts warned that the US could also end up being ill-positioned to navigate the challenge of a China equipped with improving technological capabilities and a seemingly more agile defence industrial base

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 8: China's growing civilian defence AI ties, backed by hundreds of civilian companies and universities outside the traditional defence technology network, may pose a major challenge for the US, an American think tank warned. The civilian institutions

are playing an increasingly "consequential" role in the Chinese military's AI-related procurement, the report released last Wednesday by the analysts at Georgetown University's Centre for Security and Emerging Technology in Washington said. The report gave multiple examples of these tie-ups between these institutions and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Monday. The PLA's progress in using AI technology was showcased last week when the Chinese military held its largest military parade September 3 in Beijing, during which it displayed for the first time a range of new weapon systems, including AI-powered drones,



laser weapons and missiles. The parade was held in Beijing to mark the 80 years of China's victory against Japan in WWII. The civilian institutions listed by the US report includ-

ed a Chengdu drone maker that sold a full combat system to the PLA, a top Beijing university commissioned to improve multi-drone coordination and targeting, and a remote-sensing and satellite

navigation firm that won defence contracts for virtual drone training and a marine data visualisation project. The report said blurring boundaries between China's civilian and defence sectors would "pose significant challenges to US policymakers, companies, and universities." It said that was particularly the case "as the United States navigates difficult trade-offs between preserving openness, which is key to promoting innovation, and safeguarding national security." The analysts warned that the US could also end up being "ill-positioned to navigate the challenge of a China equipped with improving technological capabilities and a seemingly more agile defence industrial base". China has been pushing a strategy of "military-civil

fusion" as part of ambitious goals to modernise the PLA by 2035 and have "world-class" armed forces by 2049. According to the report, China's military has moved beyond suppliers like state-owned enterprises and defence-affiliated research institutions - though their contributions remain substantial. It said the PLA was instead increasingly turning to hundreds of non-traditional firms and universities for AI-related military goods and services. "China has, to some degree, succeeded in fostering competition within its historically inefficient defence sector," the report said. The report is based on 2,857 AI-related defence contract award notices published by the PLA between January 2023 and December 2024.

of the day

quote

Working professionals need to view their roles not just by exact job titles, but as a collection of highly adaptable and dynamic skills that they can leverage in the AI era

KUMARESH PATTABIRAMAN | COUNTRY MANAGER, LINKEDIN INDIA

India's dynamic audio landscape is the ideal platform for QCY's growth, and through our exclusive partnership with WooDoo Ventures Private Limited, our official marketing and distribution partner in India

CHEN SHUANG | CEO, QCY

The government is working on a comprehensive package to support Indian exporters impacted by the US tariff and asserted a multi-departmental engagement is underway to assess the impact on Indian shipments

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

NPCI grants TPAP nod

New Delhi: Viyona Fintech, a digital payments platform, Monday said it has been granted approval by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to operate as a third-party application provider (TPAP). This milestone enables Viyona to offer Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in collaboration with partner banks, further strengthening India's expanding digital payments ecosystem, Viyona Fintech said in a statement. With this approval, Viyona is set to deliver secure, scalable UPI solutions that accelerate financial inclusion across rural and urban markets, it added.

TVS price cut

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Monday said it will pass on the full benefit of the GST rate reduction to customers across its internal combustion engine portfolio. With the GST Council reducing GST rates on ICE vehicles from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, there will be significant savings on the company's products, TVS Motor Co said in a statement without divulging details. Electric vehicles remain unaffected and continue to enjoy the concessional rate of 5 per cent GST.

VinFast, Axis Bank sign MoU

New Delhi: VinFast Auto India, a subsidiary of the global EV brand VinFast, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, to provide auto and inventory financing for its exclusive dealer network. The partnership aims to offer a seamless suite of credit solutions ahead of the company's highly anticipated launch. Under the Dealer finance tie-up, Axis Bank will extend up to 200 Crore finance to VinFast Dealers.

Capitalmind's milestone

New Delhi: Capitalmind Mutual Fund Monday announced that its first scheme, Capitalmind Flexi Cap Fund, has crossed ₹100 crore in Assets Under Management (AUM), achieving the milestone in 35 days. In a statement, the company said its scheme had surpassed ₹100 crore in Assets Under Management as of August 22, 2025 after launching the fund July 18. By September 7, the scheme's asset base had crossed ₹120 crore, driven by over 5,100 unique investors.



The government is trying to have all alternatives to protect the interests of farmers. As far as exports are concerned, the concerned ministries are already exploring alternative countries for the export of various commodities

D K YADAVA | DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (CROP SCIENCE), ICAR

BYBIT RESUMES FULL ACCESS FOR INDIAN USERS

Bybit, the world's second-largest cryptocurrency exchange by trading volume, has restored full access to its Bybit app on the App Store and Google Play for Indian users. The company has initiated the process of regulation in the initial months of the year by becoming registered with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) as a reporting entity in January 2025. This ensured that its activities are in full accordance with India's Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)



India, Israel seal trade deal

India and Israel inked a bilateral investment agreement. Also, the nation is actively negotiating bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with over a dozen countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Switzerland, Russia, Australia and the European Union

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: India has cut down the local remedies exhaustion period for Israeli investors to three years from the earlier five years under the Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) signed Monday between the two countries.

A similar provision was included in India's investment pact with the UAE, which came into effect last year. The India-Israel BIA, aimed at providing comfort to investors of both countries, also includes portfolio investments in a deviation from such treaties in the past.

Local remedies exhaustion means that investors must first try to resolve their disputes using the legal system of the host country before they can take the matter to international arbitration. Normally, India keeps a five-year period for this.

An official said that the India-Israel BIA was signed on the lines of the India-UAE bilateral investment treaty.

Israel is the first OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Develop-



DEAL SEAL

ment) member with which India has inked this agreement. At the same time, it carefully balances investor protection with the state's regulatory rights, preserving sufficient policy space for sovereign governance.

"The agreement is expected to boost investments, provide greater certainty and protection for investors, facilitating the growth of trade and mutual investments by ensuring a minimum standard of treatment, and an independent dispute resolution mechanism through arbitration," it said.

It added that the agreement is expected to pave the way for increased bilateral investments between the two countries, which presently stands at a total of \$800 million, thereby benefiting businesses and economies in both countries.

In this regard, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman mentioned that both sides should have more business interaction to explore opportunities of investments, to gain benefit from the pact.

"They agreed to enhance economic and financial co-operation between the two countries and to promote and

Gold, Silver hit record highs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Gold and silver prices rebounded Monday to scale fresh record highs in the domestic futures market, tracking a rally in the global markets fuelled by weak US labour data and rising expectations of an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for October delivery climbed ₹452 or 0.42 per cent to touch a fresh lifetime peak of ₹1,08,180 per 10 grams. Similarly, the December contract advanced ₹370 or 0.34 per cent to breach the ₹1.09 lakh mark per 10 grams.

Silver futures also staged a strong comeback. After slipping in early trade, the December contract rallied ₹1,703 or 1.36 per cent to touch a lifetime peak of ₹1,26,400 per kilogram on the MCX. This week, investors will closely track US macroeconomic data, including Producer Price Index and Core Consumer Price Index reports, which will play a key role in guiding trend and volatility for the bullion prices, Trivedi said. In the spot market, however, profit-booking weighed on the bullion prices. Gold prices of 99.9 per cent purity retreated from a record level to trade at ₹1,07,670 per 10 grams, down by ₹200 in the national capital Monday.

Deeksharambh 2025: MITS organises SIP



Bhubaneswar: Majhighariani Institute of Technology & Science (MITS) Industrial Training Centre organised its ITC first year Students Orientation Program or Induction program (SIP) – Deeksharambh 2025, Monday in its campus. The program was inaugurated by Santosh Swain, In-charge, CTTC Bhubaneswar Extension Centre, Rayagada, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. CV Gopinath, Director, MITS and Promod Kumar Sahu, Principal, MITS ITC were also present. In his welcome address, Gopinath encouraged trainees to focus on communication skills, skill certifications, and career readiness, advising them to prepare for opportunities in every sector. Santosh Swain, motivated the students to set clear goals, stay disciplined, and avoid distractions to succeed in their chosen fields. Promod Kumar Sahu also welcomed the students, inspiring them to utilize the resources of MITS ITC effectively and build strong foundations for future.

Vehicle retail sales in August grow 2.84%: FADA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Total vehicle retail sales in India grew by a modest 2.84 per cent at 19,64,547 units in August as against 19,10,312 units in the same month last year, as customers postponed purchases expecting a price cut ahead of Goods and Service Tax (GST) reforms, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations said Monday.

Passenger vehicle sales were marginally up at 3,23,256 units last month as compared to 3,20,291 units in August 2024, FADA said.

PV retails in August recorded a modest growth of 0.93 per cent YoY. The month began on a positive note with healthy enquiries and festive bookings, but momentum slowed in the latter half as the announcement of GST 2.0 reforms led many customers to postpone purchases,



es, anticipating a price reduction, the dealer's body said.

Two-wheeler retail sales in August this year were at 13,73,675 units as against 13,44,380 units in the year-ago month, up 2.18 per cent, it added.

FADA said in the two-wheeler segment enquiries remained strong, fuelled by the onset of festivals such as Onam and Ganesh Chaturthi, with many customers keen on auspicious-day deliveries. However, excessive

rains and localised floods in North India disrupted rural mobility, while erratic supply of popular scooter models constrained conversions.

"The landmark GST 2.0 announcement also led to buyers deferring purchases to September in anticipation of lower rates," it noted.

Despite these factors, overall sentiment is steady, and dealers remain confident that the festive season ahead will unlock

SPICEJET SETTLES OUTSTANDING DUES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Aviation Company SpiceJet, Monday said it has completed the full payment of \$24 million to Credit Suisse, fulfilling the terms of the settlement reached more than three years ago.

On the date of the execution of the settlement agreement in May 2022, the total claim of Credit Suisse/SR Technics was \$41.77 million, which the parties agreed to settle for \$24 million in a structured payment plan, according to a release.

Credit Suisse is a leading investment bank and financial services provider.



The release said the settlement marks the closure of a long-standing liability that pre-dates the tenure of the airline's current promoter and added that the liability arose before the current promoter took over the airline and was linked to legacy commercial arrangements.

"The completion of this payment is another important step

and Uzbekistan.

Unlike a chapter related to investment promotion or facilitation in free trade agreements recently concluded, the investment protection element under a BIT provides a wide range of obligations and commitments bestowed upon foreign investors, which are expansive in nature.

In a BIT, the provision of mandatory exhaustion of local legal remedies for a period of five years before resorting to international arbitration is beneficial for both the investor and the state involved in a dispute.

India's approach of requiring local remedies aligns with its stance to protect taxpayer money and avoid prolonged and costly legal battles, while simultaneously providing arbitration as an alternate dispute resolution mechanism to investors.

FDI inflows into India crossed the \$1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-June 2025 period, firmly establishing the country's reputation as a safe and key investment destination globally.

Last fiscal year, it stood at \$80.61 billion.

in our continued efforts to put legacy issues firmly behind us. This settlement not only brings closure to an old liability but also demonstrates our resolve and ability to meet commitments despite a challenging operating environment," the airline's Chief Business Officer Debojo Maharshi said.

September 5, the carrier reported a net loss of ₹238 crore for the three months ended June, saying expenses related to grounded aircraft and subdued leisure travel demand impacted the financials.

Shares of SpiceJet fell 2.90 per cent to ₹33.45 apiece in late afternoon trade on the BSE.

Markets end higher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed with gains in a volatile session Monday, powered by buying in auto and consumer discretionary shares and a firm trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged higher by 76.54 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 80,787.30 despite profit-booking by investors in the last hour of the session.

The barometer opened higher and later jumped 460.62 points or 0.57 per cent to a high of 81,171.38 as auto, oil and private bank shares advanced. However, selling in IT and FMCG shares trimmed gains at the fag-end.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 32.15 points or 0.13 per cent at 24,773.15.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors rose the most by 3.97 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra jumped by 3.96 per cent. Maruti, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance and UltraTech Cement were also among the gainers.

However, Trent declined 3.81 per cent. Asian Paints, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, , L&T, TCS, Power Grid and Sun Pharma were also among the laggards.

Among BSE sectoral indices, auto jumped 3.12 per cent. Consumer discretionary (1.13 per cent), services (0.85 per cent), telecommunication (0.71 per cent), realty (0.44 per cent), capital goods (0.37 per cent), metal (0.36 per cent) and commodities (0.33 per cent) also advanced.

BSE Focused IT declined 0.91 per cent, followed by IT dropped 0.80 per cent, teck (0.71 per cent), consumer durables (0.71 per cent) and FMCG (0.34 per cent).

As many as 2,286 stocks advanced while 1,940 declined and 181 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory.

Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended lower Friday.

SEBI revises settlement dates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 8: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Monday announced revised settlement schedules for the equity and derivatives segments in view of settlement holidays declared September 5 and 8, 2025, by clearing corporations.

The holidays, observed on the occasion of Id-E-Milad, mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

While trading on stock exchanges will remain open, no clearing or settlement will take place on these dates as depositories NSDL and CDSL will remain shut. Consequently, fund and securities transfers will be processed on the subsequent working days.

According to SEBI, the settlement for the cash and Securities Lending and Borrowing Mechanism (SLBM) segment for the trade days of September 4 (Thursday) and September 5 (Friday) will be undertaken September 9 (Tuesday).

The settlement for trades September 8 (Monday) and September 9 (Tuesday) will be completed September 10 (Wednesday).

For the derivatives segment, the settlement for trades September 4, 5 and 8 will be carried out September 9 (Tuesday).

SEBI said the clarification aims to ensure smooth processing of trades and timely communication to market participants during the festive break.

Earlier, in order to lower the risks associated with excessive exposures and preserve market liquidity and order, SEBI has implemented a framework to track intraday positions in equity index derivatives.

ALCARAZ outshines Sinner

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 8: So maybe the first US Open final between young, elite rivals Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner wasn't as long, riveting and dramatic as their matchup to decide the championship at the French Open. Perhaps it wasn't as seemingly meaningful and plot-driven as their showdown for the Wimbledon trophy.

Still, what the No. 2-seeded Alcaraz's 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over No. 1 Sinner Sunday did do was significant. Alcaraz reasserted his superiority over the defending champion, wrestled away the top spot in the ATP rankings and left tennis fans eager for whenever their next clash will come.

They are the first two men in the sport's history to face each other in three consecutive

Grand Slam finals within a single season.

"I'm seeing you more than my family," Alcaraz joked during the trophy ceremony,

eliciting a grin from Sinner. "It's great to share the court, to share the locker rooms, everything."

This 2-hour, 42-minute win gave

caraz was stronger, faster, more well-equipped for the occasion.

"You were better than me," Sinner said. "I tried my best today. I couldn't do more."

Alcaraz finished with twice as many winners, 42-21, and his coach, 2003 French Open champ Juan Carlos Ferrero, called the performance "perfect."

Alcaraz's view of that assessment? "He's right. I think I played perfect. ... If I want to beat Jannik, I have to play perfect."

This hard-court matchup followed Alcaraz's victory over Sinner across 5 1/2 hours after erasing a trio of match points on the red clay at Roland-Garros in June, and Sinner's victory over two-time reigning champ Alcaraz

'I'm seeing you more than my family' - Carlos on epic rivalry with Jannik



TRUMP VISIT SPARKS BOOS, LONG QUEUES

New York: President Donald Trump attended the US Open Sunday where he was booed by the crowd at the men's final clash, which was delayed due to the extra security associated with his visit. The final still featured long lines of attendees waiting to get in when play began. Wearing a suit and long, red tie, Trump briefly emerged from his suite about 45 minutes before the match started and heard a mix of boos and cheers from an Arthur Ashe stadium, which was still mostly empty. No announcement proceeded his appearance, and it was brief enough that some in the crowd who were there missed it. Trump appeared again to more boos before the National Anthem. Standing in salute, the president was shown briefly on the arena's big screens during the song, and offered a smirk that briefly made the boos louder.



Alcaraz, a 22-year-old from Spain, leads over Sinner, a 24-year-old from Italy, of 10-5 in their head-to-head series, 6-4 in total Grand Slam trophies, and 2-1 in US Open championships.

"I give lots of credit to him, because he handled the situation better than I did," said Sinner, who lamented that his own play was too predictable. "He raised his level when he had to."

The match's start was delayed for about a half-hour while thousands of fans were stuck outside Arthur Ashe Stadium going through extra security because President Donald Trump sat in a sponsor's suite. Under a closed roof because of rain earlier in the day, Al-

on the grass at the All England Club in July.

"The things ... I did well in London," Sinner said, "he did better today."

Alcaraz took a week off after Wimbledon and then immediately got to work, spending 15 days with Ferrero focusing on one thing and one thing only: beating Sinner.

"I studied that match," Alcaraz said.

During his defeat at Wimbledon, Alcaraz was caught by a camera telling his team in Spanish: "From the back of the court, he's much better than me."

Perhaps that's why Alcaraz was so aggressive Sunday with his sledgehammer of a forehand. Whenever the smallest opening presented itself, Alcaraz barged through with that shot.

Sinner had dropped a total of one service game in his preceding three matches, but Alcaraz broke right away Sunday and five times in all.

These guys have combined to collect the past eight Slam trophies — four each — and 10 of 13. Novak Djokovic, the 24-time major champ eliminated by Alcaraz on Friday, took the other three.

SHORT TAKES

Tottenham says club 'not for sale'

London: Tottenham has insisted the club is not for sale after rejecting two preliminary expressions of interest for a possible takeover. In a statement released late Sunday, Tottenham said one of the expressions of interest came from PCP International Finance Limited, the investment vehicle led by Amanda Staveley — who brokered the 2021 buyout of Newcastle that was largely funded by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. Tottenham's future is under scrutiny following the sudden departure of long-time chairman Daniel Levy last week. ENIC Sports & Developments Holdings Ltd is the club's majority shareholder with a reported 87% stake and has been run since 2022 by the family trust of British billionaire Joe Lewis, who pleaded guilty last year to insider trading and conspiracy charges. Levy and his family reportedly hold about a 30% stake in ENIC. Tottenham's board said it had "received, and unequivocally rejected, separate preliminary expressions of interest in relation to proposals to acquire" ENIC. The second expression of interest, the board said, came from a consortium of investors led by Roger Kennedy and Wing-Fai Ng through Firehawk Holdings Limited.

Alvarez gets 10-month ban

Nyon (Switzerland): Athletic Bilbao player Yeray Alvarez was handed a 10-month ban by UEFA Monday for failing a banned substance test due to taking a medicine to prevent hair loss caused by cancer treatment. The Spanish defender failed a drug test after Athletic lost to Manchester United in the Europa League semifinals in May and accepted a voluntary provisional suspension in early June, UEFA said. Following an investigation by two inspectors from UEFA's ethics and disciplinary department, the governing body has suspended Alvarez for a period of 10 months. The ban will end on April 2 next year and applies to all competitions. Alvarez, a 30-year-old center back, had to step away from soccer in 2017 for several months to treat testicular cancer. After his return to playing, he took medication to fight alopecia. UEFA confirmed that substance to be Canrenone.

Ananya, Divyanshi strike gold in WTT U-15 doubles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Skopje (Macedonia), Sept 8: Ananya Muralidharan and Divyanshi Bhowmick produced a spirited performance to clinch the under-15 girls' doubles gold at the WTT Youth Star Contender here, edging past China's Zhao Wangqi and Liu Ziling 3-2 in a pulsating final.

The Indian pair showed remarkable grit in a see-saw battle that tested both nerves and stamina. After trading games with the Chinese, Ananya and Divyanshi kept their composure in the tense decider, saving crucial match points before sealing the contest 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 6-11, 14-12.

Their ability to soak up pressure and respond with attacking strokes in tense moments proved decisive in landing India the top podium finish.

Earlier in the semifinals, the duo had overcome compatriots Riana Bhoota and Ankolika Chakravarty 3-1 (11-2, 10-12, 11-3, 11-6), with Riana and Ankolika eventually settling for bronze.



India's medal tally was further bolstered by P.B. Abhinand and Ritvik Gupta, who bagged silver medals in the under-19 and under-15 boys' singles, respectively.

Abhinand fell to Japan's Iwaida Shunto in straight games (6-11, 7-11, 8-11), while Ritvik went down fighting against Korea's Lee Seungsoo 8-11, 5-11, 8-11 in his title clash.

There was more cheer in doubles as well, with bronze medals coming India's way through P.B. Abhinand and Syndrela Das in the under-19 mixed doubles, and the pair of Ritvik Gupta and Sahil Rawat in the under-15 boys' doubles.

The Indians won six medals in all from the North Macedonia outing.

Archery World C'ships India bow out in individual quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gwangju (South Korea), Sept 8: India's dream run in the men's compound events of the World Archery Championships ended on a disappointing note Monday as the gold-winning team of Rishabh Yadav, Aman Saini and Prathamesh Fuge crashed out of the individual quarterfinals here.

The trio, which won a path-breaking gold in the team competition, was placed in different quarters of the draw and the country had a realistic shot at a clean sweep but it ended in heartbreak. This also meant India failed to defend the individual gold medal in men's compound section at World Championship. Ojas Deotale had become world champion at Berlin in 2023, but this time he could not make it to the Indian team due to stiff competition in the trials.



India finish third in CAFA Nations Cup



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hisor (Tajikistan), Sep 8: India marked their debut appearance in the CAFA Nations Cup with a third-place finish, defeating higher-ranked Oman 3-2 on penalties for their first-ever victory against the West Asian side here Monday. The match went into shootout after the proceedings ended 1-1 post extra time at the Hisor Central Stadium.

After Udanta Singh Kumam's 80th-minute goal cancelled out Jameel Al Yahmadi's 55th-minute opener, the 30 minutes of extra time did not yield any result. Oman defender Ali Al Busaidi

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP HOCKEY

India crush Singapore 12-0 to enter Super 4s

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou (China), Sept 8: Navneet Kaur and Mumtaz Khan dazzled with a hat-trick each as India stormed into the Super 4s with a commanding 12-0 victory over Singapore in the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament, here Monday.

While Navneet (14', 20', 28') and Mumtaz (2', 32', 39') dominated the proceedings, a brace from Neha (11', 38') along with a goal each from Lalremsiami (13'), Udita (29'), Sharmila (45') and Rutuja Pisal (53') ensured another dominant victory for India.

The world No 10 India, who had earlier thrashed Thailand 11-0 in their tournament-opener, got off to a strong start when they broke the deadlock within the first two minutes. Mumtaz surged forward and unleashed a thunderous reverse stick shot from the top of the circle to open the scoring.

The early pressure kept Singapore on the back foot and although they managed to fend off India's first penalty corner in the eighth minute, Neha doubled the advantage, pouncing on a rebound in the 11th minute to slot it home with a deft touch.

Just two minutes later, Lalremsiami added another from close range to stretch the lead to 3-0.

Before the first quarter ended, Navneet converted from a

penalty corner in the 14th minute to make it 4-0.

While Singapore showed more resistance in the second quarter by holding India at bay for longer periods, Navneet struck again with a powerful effort to make it 5-0 in the 20th minute.

India continued to pile on the pressure by winning a series of penalty corners and the third of those saw Navneet blasting it past the goalkeeper to complete her hat-trick.

Soon after, Udita added another from a penalty corner with a composed finish, giving India a commanding 7-0 lead at the half-time hooter.

In the 32nd minute, Lalremsiami set up Mumtaz with a sharp pass to make it 8-0.

Two consecutive penalty corners unfolded for India as Neha stepped up to find the back of the net again in the 38th minute.

A few minutes later, Mumtaz sounded the boards for a third time, marking India's second hat-trick of the match.

At the end of the quarter, India won their 12th penalty corner of the encounter. Neha's fiery strike was saved but Sharmila pounced on the rebound to extend the lead to 11-0.

In the final quarter, India kept up the pressure and Rutuja Pisal etched her name on the scoresheet with a slick deflection in the 53rd minute.



FIDE Grand Swiss Praggn shocked by Bluebaum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Sept 8: Top seed Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa suffered a shock defeat against Germany's Matthias Bluebaum, while World Champion D Gukesh went down to world's youngest ever Grandmaster Abhimanyu Mishra of USA in the fifth round of the FIDE Grand Swiss here Monday. On a day when Arjun Erigaisi scored a prolific victory over Russian-turned-Swiss Nikita Vituigov, Parham Maghsoodloo continued with his great form to outwit Richard Rapport of Hungary.

The victory with the black pieces kept Maghsoodloo in the sole lead on 4.5 points out of a possible five, signalling a strong return to form after previously scaling a peak rating of 2740. Maghsoodloo is now followed by Arjun, Bluebaum and Mishra on four points each with the possibility of Nodirbek Abdusattorov joining them.

The event carries \$825000 in the open and \$230000 in the women's section apart from two top finishers in both sections assured of a berth in the next Candidates tournament.

From desk jobs to Asia Cup: Oman cricket's inspiring story

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: From long days at office desks to late evenings on cement pitches, Oman's cricketers have fought a battle few noticed beyond their own dressing room.

That constant hustle now takes them to the Asia Cup, where captain Jatinder Singh and all-rounder Sufyan Mehmood carry not just their team's hopes but also the story of a nation determined to carve its place in world cricket.

"When we started, our primary job was to get a job; cricket was secondary for us," Jatinder told PTI Videos.

"Most boys worked in offices and then managed cricket on the side. But will say now that it's a dream come true to represent Oman in the Asia Cup. Our camp is really excited and



looking forward to the tournament," he added. Jatinder spoke more on his early struggles of playing cricket in Oman.

"Initially, we never had turf grounds. We started on cement wickets, then moved to Astro Turfs in 2008, and only in 2011

got a proper turf ground. There were times I thought, why am I putting in so much without results? But the hunger and passion kept us going," said the skipper.

That harsh reality meant many talented players walked

away. But those who stayed on like Jatinder and Sufyan, carried the torch.

Jatinder, 36, has scored 1,704 runs in 36 ODIs with four centuries and a best of 118*, alongside 1,120 T20I runs at a strike rate above 115. Sufyan, 34, has

featured in eight ODIs, scoring 107 runs with a top score of 72 and taking six wickets at 24.50.

For Sufyan, the resistance came from home.

"When I joined the national team, my parents told me Oman cricket had no future and I should focus on studies and work. But the self-belief was always there. The hunger to play kept me going. When we made it to the 2016 World Cup, I felt all our hard work had paid off," he said.

In 2015, Oman gained T20I status by defeating Namibia in the World T20 Qualifier, paving the way for their maiden global appearance the following year. In the 2016 World T20, they stunned Ireland in their opening match before rain spoiled their game against the Netherlands and a defeat to Bangladesh ended their run.

That World Cup debut proved to be the turning point.

"After our 2016 T20 World Cup campaign the journey truly started. Discipline, professionalism, coaching, everything changed. Players started enjoying the game more. Fast forward to 2025, now the team is hungrier than ever," Jatinder said.

Now the challenge is bigger than ever, with Oman drawn alongside India, Pakistan and UAE in group A.

"We want to play fearless cricket. At least we will know where we stand because we hardly get chances against top teams. It is a golden opportunity," Jatinder explained.

For Oman, the highlight of the Asia Cup will be standing across from world champions India. A chance to measure themselves against the very best.