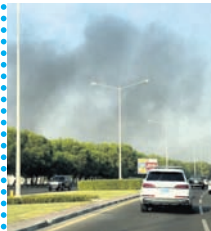




Shruti's choice

Shruti Haasan reveals how she embraced her individuality by trusting her instincts instead of following societal norms

LEISURE | P2



Israel expands ops

Israel launches airstrike targeting Hamas leaders in Qatar, expanding its operations to include the group's Gulf base

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Rupee slides

The Rupee falls 6 paise to revisit its record low of 88.15 against the US dollar Tuesday, amid global trade uncertainties

BUSINESS | P11



Nikhat in quarters

Two-time champion Nikhat Zareen edges past Japan's Yuna Nishinaka to reach quarterfinals of World Boxing Championships

SPORTS | P12

Nepal: Prez, PM resign; Parl afire



GEN Z OUTRAGE: Flames rise from the burning Singha Durbar, office complex that houses the Nepali prime minister's office and other ministries, Tuesday amid a protest against Monday's killing of 19 people during a curfew in Kathmandu

PIC: REUTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Sept 9: Nepal reeled under a serious political crisis Tuesday as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and President Prithvi Subba Gurung, former home minister Ramesh Lekhak and former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. The intensity of the protests that began Monday against the government's ban on social media sites grew Tuesday with demonstrators taking out anti-government marches in all leading cities and towns. Flight services at Tribhuvan International airport in Kathmandu have been partially suspended in view of the protests. With the situation deteriorating rapidly, the top brass of Nepali Army and other security agencies issued a joint appeal calling for restraint and resolution of the crisis through dialogue.

The statement was signed by Nepal Army chief Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief Secretary Ek Narayan Aryal, Home Secretary Gokarna Dawadi, Chief of Armed Police Force (APF) Raju Aryal, Inspector General of Police Chandra Kuber Khapung and Chief of National Investigation Department Htraj Thapa. Oli, known to be close to China, had become the prime minister in July 2024 for the fourth

time with the support from the Nepali Congress Party. He was scheduled to visit India this month. Though the Nepal government last night revoked its ban on social media websites following the protests led by Gen Z youths, the agitators continued their demonstration against corruption and demanding accountability for deaths of 19 people.

The agitators under the banner of Gen Z, shouted slogans such as "KP Chor, Desh Chhod" (KP thief, leave the country) and "Take Action Against Corrupt Leaders."

Demonstrations were reported from Kalanki, Kalimati, Tahachal, and Baneshwor in Kathmandu, as well as Chyasal, Chapagau, and Thecho areas of Lalitpur district. Protesters, mostly students, chanted slogans such as "Don't kill students", defying the restrictions on public gatherings. They also vandalised former PM Sher Bahadur Deuba's house at Budhanilkantha in Kathmandu. **MORE P9 & 10**

EX- PM'S WIFE BURNT ALIVE

Kathmandu: Rajyalaxmi Chitrakar, the wife of Nepal's ex-prime minister Jhala Nath Khanal, died Tuesday, say media reports, after protesters, led by Gen Z, trapped her in their home and set the house on fire. The incident took place at their home in Dullu area in the state capital Kathmandu. Ms Chitrakar was rushed to Kirtipur Burn Hospital but died during the treatment, say family sources.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Horrifying news, sir—the Hindu is awakening

Ex-MP, minister quit BJD, float new outfit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Former MP N Bhaskar Rao and ex-minister Lal Bihari Himirika quit the BJD on Tuesday and floated a new outfit, Biju Swabhimani Manch (BSM).

Several local BJD members, including former Rayagada Zilla Parishad chairman Gangadhar Puala, joined the new outfit named after veteran leader Biju Patnaik, whose son Naveen leads the principal



opposition party of the state. Rao's faction was annoyed after the BJD appointed Jagannath Saraka as the new district president of Rayagada. "BJD has appointed a de-

feated leader as the district president, ignoring capable ones. This has hurt the sentiments of party workers. We are not against Naveen Patnaik and have been loyal soldiers of the party all along," Rao said.

"We have no intention of joining either the Congress or the BJD. BSM is a social platform, and it will work for the development of Rayagada. Leaders from all parties are welcome here," he added.

CP Radhakrishnan elected 15th VP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: NDA candidate CP Radhakrishnan was elected the next vice president of India Tuesday as he bagged 452 votes against the opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy's 300, winning the contest with a bigger than expected margin, indicating cross-voting from the rival camp.

Announcing the result of the vice presidential election this evening, Rajya Sabha Secretary General and Returning Officer P C Mody said 767 MPs cast their votes out of the total valid electors of 781 in a turnout of 98.2 per cent.

He said 752 ballots were valid and 15 were invalid, bringing down the required majority of first preference votes to 377.

Though the victory of Radhakrishnan (67), currently the Maharashtra governor and a seasoned leader with an RSS background and decades-long stint first in the Jana Sangh and then the BJP in Tamil Nadu, was a foregone conclusion due to the ruling alliance's numerical edge but the extent of his victory margin is a setback to the opposition. BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal claimed that "nearly 40 opposition MPs" listened to the voice

of their conscience and voted in "some manner" in support of the NDA candidate, showing a wider acceptance for him.

"Congratulations to Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji on winning the 2025 Vice Presidential election. His life has always been devoted to serving society and empowering the poor and marginalised," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X.

"I am confident that he will be an outstanding VP, who will strengthen our Constitutional values and enhance Parliamentary discourse," he said.

Radhakrishnan would be India's 15th vice president when he is sworn in to the post.

Reddy said he humbly accepts the result and wished vice president-elect Radhakrishnan the very best as he embarks upon his tenure.

The poll was necessitated due to the sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar July 21, almost two years before his term was to end. **MORE P8 & 9**

CM congratulates Vice-Prez elect

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday congratulated C P Radhakrishnan on his victory in the vice presidential election, and said that his rich administrative experience will strengthen the functioning of Parliament. Taking to X, Majhi said: "Congratulations to Shri @CPRGuv Ji on being elected as the Vice President of Bharat. Your vast public life, rich administrative experience and deep commitment to democratic values will strengthen the dignity and functioning of our Parliament. Wishing you success in serving the nation in this esteemed office."

Air quality deteriorates in Rourkela & Kalinga Nagar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district slipped seven places to rank 19th among 39 cities with population less than three lakh (Category-III), while Rourkela ranked 17th, a drop in five places, in the list of 39 cities with population between three lakh and 10 lakh (Category-II) , according to Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2025 rankings published Tuesday that assessed efforts to improve the air quality.

In Category II, Bhubaneswar ranked 4th, an improvement of three places while Cuttack dropped to 10th, a drop in one place.

Similarly, in Category-III Balasore was placed at 11th rank, falling four places while Angul saw an improvement in air quality as it secured third place against last year's fourth. The

air quality remained unchanged in Talcher as it continued to rank 4th on both occasions in this category. Meanwhile, at national level, Delhi slipped 25 places to rank 32nd among 48 cities in Category I having a population above 10 lakh.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan is an annual ranking initiative launched by the environment ministry under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). It evaluates cities and urban agglomerations based on their implementation of clean-air action plans and actual air-quality improvements, using a structured framework.

Meanwhile, the Implementation Committee (IC) under the NCAP has directed authorities in Delhi and Noida to take immediate steps to improve utilisation of pollution control funds. **MORE P8**

Gold surges ₹5K to hit fresh peak of ₹1.12 L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Gold prices skyrocketed by ₹5,080 to hit an all-time high of ₹1,12,750 per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday in line with strong global trends.

The precious metal prices have added ₹33,800 per 10 grams or nearly 43 per cent in the current calendar year, climbing from ₹78,950 per 10 grams on December 31, 2024.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹1,07,670 per 10 grams Monday.

In global markets, gold reached an all-time high of USD 3,659.27 per ounce on Tuesday. The precious metal later traded at USD 3,652.72 per ounce, up by USD 16.81, or 0.46 per cent.

New kangaroo-like species discovered in Australia

AGENCIES

Melbourne, Sept 9: A new marsupial species closely related to the kangaroo was discovered in Australia, but it might already have gone extinct.

Scientists, including those from the Curtin University, found the new species based on fossils collected from caves of Nullarbor in south and south-western Australia.

Researchers have described the new Nullarbor cave species as Bettongia haoucharae. However, they hope to work further to identify an appropriate collaborative name along with indigenous Australians, including the Noongar people from whom the word "woylie" came to be used.

The woylie species are ecosystem engineers, capable of

turning over several tonnes of earth each year, searching for their favourite mushrooms and are native to Western Australia, according to the new study.

Researchers hope the findings will unravel further clues about the diversity of woylies.

The study, published in the journal Zootaxa, assessed the skull and teeth fossils to discover a previously unknown woylie – also known as brush-tailed bettong – and two other living subspecies.

This could prove "very important" for conservation when considering breeding and translocation initiatives to increase the size and fitness of populations, they say.

"Woylies are critically endangered marsupials that have been the focus of conservation



efforts for decades," study lead author and PhD candidate Jake Newman-Martin added.

"In this new research, we've named a completely new species based on fossil material, and two new subspecies of woylies for the first time. Sadly, many of them have become extinct

before we've even been aware of them," Newman-Martin said.

Until now, scientists have typically used bone measurements to assess the diversity of woylies and the number of species.

In the new study, researchers examined specimens from the Western Australian Museum,

South Australia Museum, Australian Museum, Queensland Museum, Museums Victoria, Flinders University research collection, Natural History Museum London, and Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

"This research confirmed several distinct species expanded the known diversity of woylies by measuring skull and body fossil material that had previously not been looked at in detail," said Kenny Travouillon, Curator of Terrestrial Zoology at the Western Australian Museum.

"What we've found through this research tells us that examining fossils alongside genetic tools could offer significant insights that may help conservation efforts of this critically endangered native species," Dr Travouillon said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You are currently high on life. Today is a good day to complete all those tasks you put on the back burner. It's also a great day to do the things you hate doing (read: cleaning up your closet). If you were looking to bring in a new business strategy, Ganesha gives the thumbs up!

TAURUS
In all probability, you will challenge all conventions and traditions with innovation in a successful manner, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may manage to step on the toes of your boss, so beware. The evening promises an ambiance that will change your weaknesses into your strengths.

GEMINI
You will feel joy and happiness today, says Ganesha. However you need to be careful not to lack in co-operating with and supporting others in their endeavours. You need to look beyond fulfilling your own needs and wants and help others achieve their goals.

CANCER
You will decide to expose certain unreasonable conventions and traditions, and you will be able to do so successfully, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may incur the displeasure of your bosses. In the evening, you will be able to draw pleasure from whatever you do.

LEO
Being by oneself is perhaps the best company one can ever keep. So, indulge in your own companionship today, says Ganesha. After all, you know yourself the best. Take forward this introspective experience into the evening, and sit back and listen to your inner voice. Silence speaks volumes if only one would listen.

VIRGO
Ganesha predicts that partnership agreements and monetary matters will take up most of your day because business and work are on the top of your priority list. You will have to encounter competition and jealousy at different levels today. In the extremely competitive business matters, you have bright chances of success in the evening.

LIBRA
Ganesha sure hopes that you packed your kit right and are ready to take on anything, as today promises to be an action-packed day. Most of this action might concentrate around your family members. Towards the afternoon, you may begin to feel weighed down by household responsibilities.

SCORPIO
Today, Ganesha anticipates you to be a media mogul in your own unique way. Your flock will laud your skills and talents. But you may shell out an extra buck to get what you want today. Ganesha sees an extraordinary bond soldering you and your spouse closer than before.

SAGITTARIUS
You shall push your limits to make sure your authority goes unquestioned. Colleagues and seniors will give you a round of applause for your commitment. Expect your bank accounts to soar as unexpected monetary gains is on the cards, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Your spouse would have complained innumerable times, accusing you of being unconcerned and giving priority to work. Today, he/she will be all smiles, for Ganesha says there are chances you will take your sweetheart out on a pleasure trip.

AQUARIUS
You will understand the importance of friends in your life, and you will go an extra mile to get back in touch with them. Your communication skills will help you get through the door at work, and everybody, even your competitors will be appreciate your talents.

PISCES
A day of hectic socialising awaits you, not that you mind it. But you may also catch yourself wishing for some time alone for yourself, says Ganesha. The evening will probably see you deck up and head for a happening party, with lots of members of the opposite sex to woo.



ANGELINA JOLIE GETS EMOTIONAL AT TIFF

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie broke down in tears during the world premiere of her new film *Couture* at the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The 50-year-old actor became emotional when an audience member asked her for advice on coping with the loss of a loved one to cancer.

DEBBY RYAN, JOSH DUN ANNOUNCE PREGNANCY

Actor Debby Ryan, best known for featuring in series such as *Jessie* and *Insatiable*, is expecting her first child with her husband and musician Josh Dun. The couple shared the news with a collaborative post on Instagram.



SHRUTI'S unique identity

Mumbai: Shruti Haasan's social media is a bold testament to her unique identity—dark, moody, and unapologetically expressive.

She's embraced her individuality by following her instincts rather than conforming to norms. "I always felt a little different, not because I tried to be, but because I saw the world differently," she explains. Her fascination with the unusual—heavy metal, horror, and even cartoon villains—stemmed from childhood.

"It started with Batman and Dracula. The idea of turning into a bat made perfect sense to me!" she recalls. By her early teens, she was drawn to metal music and dark fashion. "Listening to Johnny Cash and reading Edgar Allan Poe made me feel like I belonged in black. Once I chose that path, I never looked back."

For Shruti, goth isn't just a style—it's a lens through which she finds beauty in darkness and poetry in overlooked spaces. Her taste in cinema mirrors this outlook. She's a huge fan of Robert Eggers, admiring films like *The Witch* and *The Light-house*. Yet, she jokes about the

lack of diversity: "I wish he'd make a film about brown people! If he ever does, I'll hunt him down and demand to be cast!"



Bhubaneswar: The 31st Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2025, organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, concluded with grandeur at Rabindra Mandap here Tuesday.

The evening commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by MGM Group Chairman and Managing Director Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, former Rajya Sabha MP Prasanta Nanda and Srjan Director Guru Ratikant Mohapatra.

The prestigious Shalimar's Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2025 for lifetime achievement was conferred on eminent Odissi dancer, guru and Padma Shri awardee Madhavi Mudgal



Chairman & MD of MGM Group Pankaj Lochan Mohanty honours Odissi vocalist Alekha Chandra Samal.

(Odissi Dance), and renowned vocalist and music educator



Odia film actor Prashanta Nanda felicitates Odissi dancer Madhavi Mudgal while Ratikanta Mohapatra looks upon.

Alekha Chandra Samal (Odissi Music). Each received a citation and ₹1,00,000.

For the first time, the newly introduced GKCM Kala Samman, honouring established artistes, aged between 40 to 55 for their significant contributions, was awarded to Raghu-nath Das (Odissi Dance) and Arnab Bandyopadhyay (Odissi Dance). The award carried a citation and ₹50,000.

The Yuva Pratibha Samman 2025, recognising young talent, under the age of 40, was awarded to Shatabdi Mallik (Odissi dance) and Muralidhar Swain (Odissi music), each receiving ₹25,000 and a citation.

On the occasion, Srjan Ensemble, choreographed by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra staged

Duryodhana, which enthralled the audience.

Sharing her emotions, Mudgal said, "This award means a lot to me as it carries the blessings of Guruji. It is more precious than any other recognition, even more than Padma shri."

"I dedicate this award to my parents, my gurus, and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, whose blessings have guided me to this milestone," Swain said.

The festival was supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the department of Odia Literature, Language and Culture, Government of Odisha, with **OrissaPOST** and **Dharitri** as media partners.

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Kajal rubbishes death rumours

Mumbai: The rumours of Bollywood and Telugu actress Kajal Aggarwal having passed away shook the nation on the 8th of September. The actress who is all hale and hearty took to her social media account to share a statement on the same and put all the rumours to rest.

The actress wrote, "I have come across some baseless news claiming I was in an accident (and no longer around!) and honestly, it's quite amusing because it's absolutely untrue. By the grace of God, I want to assure you all that I am perfectly fine, safe, and doing very well." She further stated, "I kindly request you not to believe or spread such false news. Let's keep our focus on positivity and truth instead."

The news of her passing away spread like wildfire, and a few even started to pour condolence messages on social media. It was rumoured that Kajal Aggarwal had met with an accident, and even some "fake" videos of her accident were being circulated on social media. But now with the reality coming from the horse's mouth itself, it seems that the rumours would now die a quick death.

IANS



Rakul on balancing life

Mumbai: Rakul Preet Singh is embracing a new phase of life—newly married to actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani—yet remains refreshingly unchanged.

She revealed that while marriage is a significant milestone, it hasn't drastically altered her daily life as many assume. "People keep asking how life has changed after marriage. But the truth is it hasn't. And that's the beauty of it," she shared. Rakul described her relationship as one built on friendship, partnership, and equality, emphasising that neither of them feels their individual dreams are compromised.

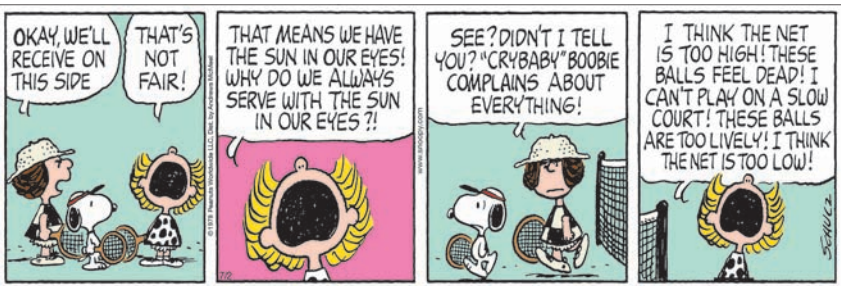
With her trademark humour, she added, "If anything has changed, it's just that I don't need to ask my parents before travelling with my favourite companion."

For Rakul, travel is more than leisure—it's a way of learning and growing. Raised in Army cantonments across India, frequent relocations taught her adaptability and a sense of belonging everywhere she goes. This upbringing continues to influence her approach to life and work.

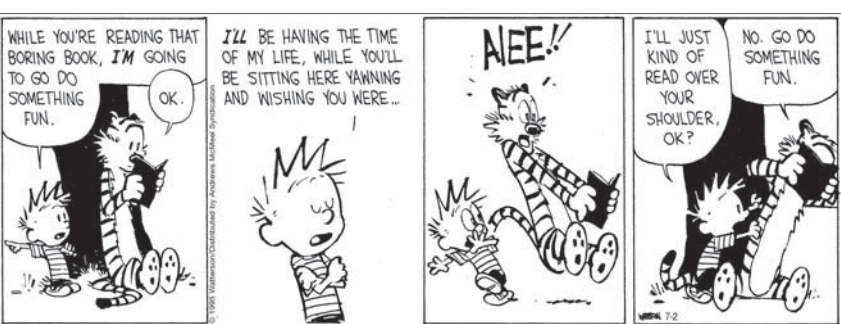
Looking ahead, Rakul has wrapped up *Pati Patni Aur Woh 2* with Ayushmann Khurrana and Sara Ali Khan and will star in *De De Pyaar De 2* with Ajay Devgn and R. Madhavan. As she balances work, marriage, and travel, Rakul remains grounded and open to life's evolving experiences. AGENCIES



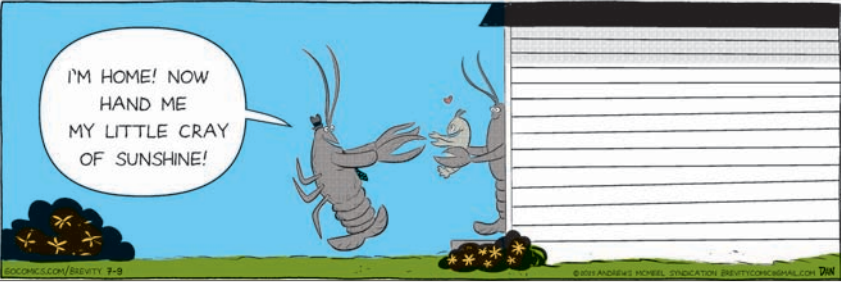
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

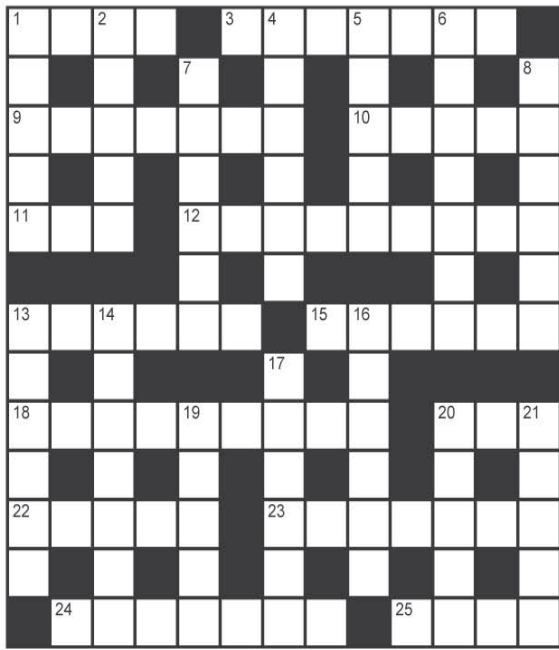


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Alaska city
- 3 Shoreline problem
- 9 Feminine
- 10 Russian drink
- 11 Merino mother
- 12 Showing keen perception
- 13 Sound quality
- 15 Radiance
- 18 Handrails

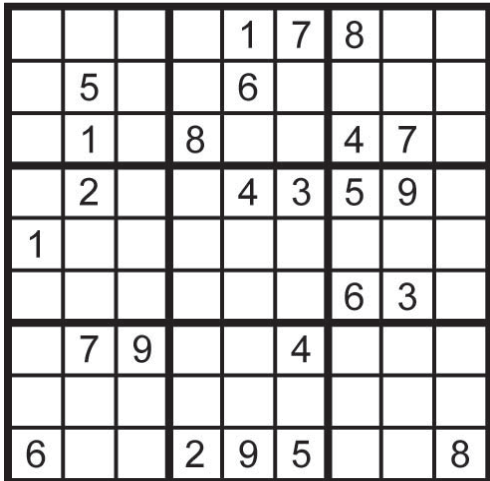
Down

- 20 Cohort
- 22 Guessed wrong
- 23 Warned
- 24 Take a chance
- 25 Tart plum
- 1 Elbow
- 2 Billiards stroke
- 4 Garbage
- 5 Break off

- 6 Seasoned sailor (3,4)
- 7 Steam
- 8 Baby's toy
- 13 Restaurant items
- 14 Slender tower with balconies
- 16 Heavy overcoat
- 17 Freshen up
- 19 Marsh plant
- 20 Corolla part
- 21 Soup scoop

SUDOKU

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

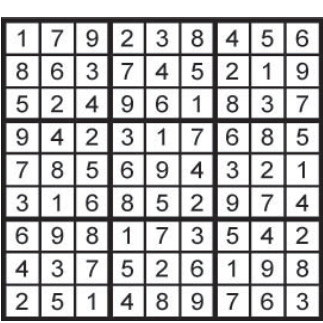


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

‘Reels addiction leads to domestic violence’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida Tuesday asserted that addiction to making reels leads to domestic violence and asked women to restrict their use of mobile phones to keep a balance between family life and chatting on social media.

She also said that women should opt for mobile fasting, the practice of taking periodic breaks from digital devices, for peace in the family.

“It is noticed that reel-making addiction and spending more

time on mobile phones lead to domestic violence. Therefore, I call upon young girls and women to restrict the use of mobile phones. Maintain a balance between family life and social media use,” said Parida, who is also in-charge of the women and child development department.

She was addressing the state-level training camp on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Parida said, “As we women in India observe fast on certain festivals like Durga Puja, one should also vow to take a break

from the use of mobile phones for some hours for the peace in the family.”

Noting that there has been a rise in divorce cases in the state, the deputy chief minister pointed out that the in-laws in most of the families are annoyed over the habit of their daughters-in-law of excessive use of mobile phone, chatting and making reels.

“As women play a vital role in shaping society and nurturing children, it is essential for them to prioritise their family’s well-being,” the BJP MLA from Nimapara said. Excessive use of anything, including social media, can have negative consequences and women become victims, she said.

To reduce domestic violence, plans are made to strengthen the Women and Child Desks at police stations and fill vacant positions, Parida said.

Highlighting the need for awareness and implementation of the laws for the protection of women to curb atrocities against them, Parida called for preventing the misuse of the legislation.

OSPCB inspects Gadakana yard, orders BMC cleanup

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: An Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) team Tuesday inspected the Gadakana dumping yard, where the Alia Gada Hatao Sainik School Banchao alleged that the visit exposed the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation’s (BMC) false claims on waste management.

The inspection was conducted in the presence of BMC officials, members of the Alia Gada Hatao campaign, and local representatives. It was supervised by OSPCB senior scientist Usharani Patnaik and the Regional Officer, along with the BMC Deputy Commissioner and members of the citizens’ campaign.

During the inspection, officials found massive heaps of untreated waste at the site, contradicting BMC’s repeated claims that no such dump existed. Stunned by the hill-like mounds of garbage, the



Pollution Control Board team warned BMC and said a formal notice would be issued, directing immediate removal of the waste.

The BMC had earlier claimed that only three processing units with a daily capacity of 15 tonnes were approved on August 12 this year. However,

OSPCB clarified that these plants have been operational since 2022–23 and were found non-functional during verification. Officials also noted toxic leachate being discharged directly from fruit, vegetable, and MMC waste processing plants into nearby areas, and directed BMC to arrange alternatives to

prevent further contamination.

Concerns were also raised about unprocessed garbage being carried by birds and scattered in nearby areas, following which officials directed BMC to cover the waste with strong nets.

Local activists alleged that BMC has been illegally dumping waste at Gadakana for years without authorisation, polluting vast areas of Bhubaneswar and encroaching on the land of institutions like Sainik School.

Residents have long complained of foul stench and health hazards, leading to repeated protests and demonstrations. After the inspection, Odisha Parents Federation (OPF) president Basudev Bhatia expressed hope that the intervention would bring relief to city residents. He warned that unless concrete steps are taken to remove the waste and restore the area, a large-scale agitation will be launched.

BJD downplays resignation

Bhubaneswar: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday downplayed concerns over the resignation of senior leaders N Bhaskar Rao, Lal Bihari Himirika, and a few district-level functionaries from Rayagada, asserting that the departures would not affect the party’s organisational strength.Speaking at a press conference at Shankha Bhavan, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said the party remains united and strong under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik. Reacting to Bhaskar Rao’s remarks questioning the party’s decision-making, Mohanty called them unfortunate.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

Before the Court of Notary Public, Jajpur Road, I Minakshi Malik, aged about 35 year W/o Manoj Jena of Village -Mundamal, P.O./P.S.- Jajpur Road, Dist. - Jajpur, Odisha, PIN -755019. My Adhaar No.- xxxx xxxx 3578, My daughter namely Manisha Jena. Hereby declare that Minakshi Jena and Minakshi Malik both the name are one and same person.

I Dhaneshwar Biswal, S/o. Late Arakhit Biswal, resident of Ward No. 9, Patharaganja, P.O.: Malud, P.S.: Krushnaprasad, Dist.: Puri, PIN - 752032, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 1038, Dtd.08.09.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Dhaneswar Biswal for all future purposes.

LOST

I Mamata Purohit, W/o. Dr. Ramkrishna Purohit, Resident of Purohit General Hospital & Research Centre, Bargarh to hereby declared that I have lost Original Chaka ROR Khata No. 160 of Mouza: Ambapali, Dist.: Bargarh somewhere, while I was going to R.I. Office, Sarsara on Dt.01.09.2025 and couldn’t trace out the same.

Guv stresses quality edu, grading at CUO



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Koraput, Sept 9: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, during his visit to CUO, Koraput Tuesday, stressed the need for qualitative education and higher grading standards. “Students have the right to choose a university based on the quality of education and faculty,” he said, outlining two key priorities for elevating the university’s stature — strengthening faculty quality and improving institutional ranking and grading points.

Governor reviewed the institution’s development and interacted with the faculty and students. CUO’s vice-chancellor (I/c) Narasingha Charan Panda, along with registrar (I/c) Rakesh Kumar Lenka, finance officer Duryodhan Sethy, senior faculty members and university officials were present on the occasion.

At the review meet, Panda presented an overview of the university’s recent progress and future plans. Kambhampati urged the administration to identify and address challenges hindering student enrolment and highlighted the pressing need for recruit permanent teaching and non-teaching staff.

He also expressed his satisfaction with the university’s recent infrastructure development and newly started courses for being futuristic and focusing on the needs of the state and nation.

Odisha to celebrate PM’s 75th birthday with mega plantation drive involving 15 lakh students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: To mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 75th birthday, Odisha will plant a record 75 lakh saplings September 17. The statewide drive will see 15 lakh students from nearly 40,000 schools, guided by two lakh teachers, take part. The initiative is spearheaded by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department in coordination with other departments and education officials. Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, while chairing a high-level meeting Tuesday, underscored the pivotal role of students in the campaign, describing them as “beacons of green consciousness.” He said the drive goes beyond boosting green cover, aiming to build a long-term environmental movement. Students will not only plant saplings but also serve as “green ambassadors” in their communities, inspiring wider participation in environmental protection.

The programme will run from 5am to 5pm at 37,000 designated locations across the state’s panchayats, identified in coordination with the Panchayati Raj department. Banners will be placed at each site, while schools have been asked to coordinate with local Community Development and Block Development officers to finalise responsibilities. Photos of the plantations will be uploaded on the Meri Life portal, with training on the process scheduled for September 11.

The Horticulture department



Described as a ‘green revolution in the making,’ the initiative places students at the heart of Odisha’s conservation efforts

will provide free indigenous fruit saplings for the event. Agriculture and Farmers’ Empowerment department Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee stressed that post-plantation care is crucial. Students are encouraged to nurture their saplings for the next three years and take full ownership of their upkeep. To further engage them, schools will organise competitions on environmental themes, with winners to be felicitated the same day.

Described as a “green revolution in the making,” the initiative places students at the heart of Odisha’s conservation efforts, aiming to create a lasting impact that extends well beyond a single day’s plantation drive.

Enact Chilika fishing bill, OES urges CM

Bhubaneswar: The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) has urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahji to take immediate steps to enact the long-pending ‘Odisha Regulation of Fishing and Fisheries in Chilika’ Bill, 2017, in the upcoming Assembly session. In a letter addressed to the CM, OES working president Jaya Krushna Panigrahi expressed concern over the deteriorating ecological condition of Chilika Lake and the escalating conflicts over its fishery resources. The society highlighted the growing environmental threats to Chilika, and noted that the lake’s unique aquatic and avian biodiversity faces immense threat from human activities, particularly illegal prawn farming. Panigrahi pointed out that gheries and net-enclosures—constructed within the lake waters have severely impacted the marginalised traditional fishing communities, leading to frequent conflicts. OES stated that despite the Odisha High Court’s 1993 directive and longstanding appeals from conservationists and fisherfolk, the 2017 Bill—originally approved by the state Cabinet—has not been enacted. The proposed legislation is designed to regulate fishing practices in Chilika, address the issue of illegal aquaculture, and vest fishing lease authority with the Chilika Development Authority (CDA), thus enabling sustainable management of the lake’s resources. “This will not only bring relief to Chilika’s fragile ecosystem and its dependent communities but also reflect Odisha’s commitment to wetland conservation,” the letter stated.

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Odisha grapples with rising suicide crisis

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: As the world observes World Suicide Prevention Day Wednesday (Sept 10) with the theme “Changing the Narrative”, Odisha faces a sobering mental health crisis. Rising student suicides and recent high-profile tragedies have intensified calls for compassionate action, policy reform, and strengthened mental health support systems.

Between 2020 and February 2025, Odisha recorded 72 student suicides across schools and colleges, according to the government. Reported causes include mental pressure, harassment, denial of mobile phone use, academic stress, and domestic conflicts.

The situation has worsened over the past two years. In 2023 alone, Odisha recorded 189 student suicides—a staggering 58 per cent rise from 119 in 2021. While total suicides across the state slightly fell from 6,140 in 2022 to 5,989 in 2023, Odisha’s suicide rate of 13.3 per 100,000 remains above the national average. Two high-profile tragedies—the death of a Nepalese student at KIIT University and the self-immolation of a girl at



FILE PHOTO

AFTERMATH OF TRAGEDY: Students in Bhubaneswar hold protest following the self-immolation of a girl at FM College, Balasore — a stark call for urgent systemic change

FM College, Balasore—serve as grim reminders of the urgent need for intervention. These incidents sparked widespread grief and outrage, highlighting the emotional burdens many young people silently endure.

Social activist Naba Kishore Pujari said factors such as failed relationships, bullying, or family conflicts can trigger severe emotional distress, particularly among young people.

Women’s activist Matrumayee Priyadarshini said college suicides are a grave concern, with mental health struggles as the main trigger. Academic pressure, low self-worth, identity crises, and relationship issues often push students to the brink.

Mental health expert Amrit Pattojoshi said, “The recent student tragedies in Odisha are not isolated incidents but heartbreaking cries for help from youth who felt unseen and unsupported.”

He added, “Suicide is rarely caused by a single factor—it arises from layers of stress, including academic pressure, harassment, mental health challenges, and a profound sense of hopelessness. We must turn compassion into action by ensuring campuses have 24/7 support systems, trained listeners, and accessible counselling. The media should stop sensationalising deaths and

instead highlight stories of survival.”

Joyeeta Roy, a women entrepreneur and social media expert, said, “In today’s digital age, social media has made public validation feel more important than ever. People often share idealised versions of their lives, unknowingly fuelling anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.”

Student Srusti Mishra highlighted social media influence and lack of open communication as contributing factors. “We need to talk, listen, and love more—judgment-free,” she said, urging greater government accountability.

The crisis extends beyond students. Mental health issues are rising sharply among rural communities, including farmers, with two recent farmer suicides in the state.

Studies show 74 per cent of farmers experience depressive symptoms, and 31 per cent suffer severe depression. In response, the state is expanding Tele-MANAS helplines (14416 / 1800-891-4416), installing CCTV in schools, mandating Internal Complaints Committees, and conducting suicide prevention drives in colleges.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.23 ▼ 0.10	SENSEX	81101.32 ▲ 314.02	GOLD	₹109,189 ▲ ₹671
EURO	103.78 ▲ 0.42	NIFTY	24868.60 ▲ 95.45	SILVER	₹124,721 ▼ ₹850

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.6°	33.6°	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	25.2°	24.4°	
Humidity	66%	84%	
Rainfall	Trace	Nil	

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

Class IX boy ragged by hostel inmates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 9: The scourge of ragging continues unabated, despite being outlawed and having severe consequences, even as a group of six to seven students at Dinarsingh Memorial Government Higher Secondary School, Boida under Phulbani block of Kandhamal district brutally assaulted a Class IX student, accusing him of theft and mocking. The boy sustained grievous injuries all over his body.



School authorities reportedly delayed in rescuing the victim and later admitted him to Gumagada hospital. However, instead of following due procedure, the boy was sent home in an apparent attempt to cover up the incident. Locals attributed recurrence of such incidents to the absence of the hostel superintendent on the campus. The school functions under the District Welfare department and hosts both boys and girls from Class I to XI, many of whom stay in the hostels. The victim had gone to his bed after dinner around 10pm Monday. Soon after, six to seven hostel inmates accused him of steal-



ing soap and money, and started assaulting him. Despite his repeated denials, they continued thrashing him until about 11pm.

On being alerted by a teacher, the hostel superintendent reached the spot and pacified the students. However, instead of admitting the victim to a hospital, the superintendent shifted him elsewhere in the hostel. The critically-injured boy remained in the hostel throughout the night. He was shifted to Gumagada hospital Tuesday morning. The school authorities sent him

home after treatment.

When contacted, headmaster and hostel superintendent Jayalal Nayak admitted that the incident had taken place. He said the assault stemmed from allegations of theft. District welfare officer Rabinarayan Mishra confirmed the ragging incident and said an inquiry has begun. "This happened over allegations of stealing soap and money. Parents of the accused students have been summoned to the school Friday. Stringent action will be taken against those found guilty," Mishra said.

School authorities reportedly delayed in rescuing the victim while there was allegation that an apparent attempt was made to cover up the incident, as due procedure was not followed

FM student immolation: CB files chargesheet

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The Crime Branch has submitted a 349-page chargesheet before the Balasore SDJM Court in connection with the heart-rending self-immolation of a student at Fakir Mohan College. The document incorporates statements from 120 witnesses.

Charges have initially been framed against two accused; proceedings against the remaining two will follow shortly. Investigators have arrested four individuals, including two college students, for allegedly harassing and abetting the victim. The students are suspected of conspiring to incite her fatal act.

The probe remains open as officers pursue every lead. On 12 July, the young woman doused herself in petrol and set herself alight, claiming she had been denied justice in a sexual-harassment complaint she had lodged against the Head of the Integrated B.Ed. Department.

She suffered 95 % burns and succumbed to her injuries on the night of 14 July at AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Poacher held; gun, deer horns seized

Bhanjanagar: Police Tuesday morning arrested a poacher and seized a country-made gun and two deer horns from his possession in Tarsingh area of Ganjam district. The accused has been identified as Sania Malik of Budurupali village. Bhanjanagar SDPO Deepak Mishra disclosed the arrest at a press briefing, where Tarasingh IIC Shubha Lakshmi Pujari and SI Sameer Behera were also present. Police said the poacher, Sania, had long been engaged in hunting wild animals using a country-made SBML gun. He used to kill animals and sell their meat, teeth, skin and horns. Investigators described him as having an antisocial background, which had deterred locals from filing complaints against him. Sania was produced in court later in the evening.



UNIQUE STIR: Women of Bhandaripadar in Minia panchayat of Phulbani block in Kandhamal district planting paddy saplings on a muddy road connecting their village as a mark of protest against the bad road condition Tuesday

2 kids die of snakebite as family prefers sorcerer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, Sept 9: Superstition and unreasonable delay in hospitalisation claimed the precious lives of two children, including an infant, due to snakebite at Rajpur village under this block in Nabarangpur district Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Amita, 11, and nine-month-old Ruturaj - daughter and son of Hemabati and Sukuram Harijan of the village. Owing to superstition, the family members took the siblings to a sorcerer after a venomous snake bit them during sleep late Monday night.

Family members had to rush them to Umerkote Sub-Divisional Hospital after the sorcerer failed to cure them. However, by then it was too late as the doctors at the hospital pronounced them dead on arrival.

Sources said Sukuram's family went to sleep after dinner and later in the night a venomous snake slithered inside their room and bit the siblings. The family members woke up to their scream and found them



in critical condition. They tried to ascertain the reason behind their sudden illness when they spotted the snake slithering inside.

They rushed the kids to a sorcerer near their village instead of taking them to the hospital. However, their condition deteriorated following which Sukuram called a 108-ambulance and rushed them to Umerkote Sub-Divisional Hospital where the doctors pronounced them dead.

SDMO Santosh Panda said the children could have survived had they been brought to the hospital in time. Singari outpost police registered a case and handed over the bodies to the police after a postmortem.

Surprise check at fert godowns in Nandapur

NARENDRA RAUT, OP

Koraput, Sept 9: In the wake of complaints from the farming community of Nandapur block in this district about the shortage and black-marketing of urea fertilizer, local administration conducted a surprise inspection at multiple godowns Monday evening. Complaints have emerged that certain traders are allegedly selling urea at inflated prices. Nandapur tehsildar Bedabrata Maharana, accompanied by district agriculture official Linga Raj Choudhury, conducted the check at several

godowns and retail outlets in Nandapur town. During the checks, officials verified stock registers, reviewed availability, and cross-examined pricing practices to curb malpractice. Farmers alleged that due to artificial scarcity, they are being forced to pay beyond the government rates. Taking note of these complaints, the tehsildar issued a warning to shopkeepers against hoarding and black marketing. The tehsildar said, "Farmers should not suffer due to artificial shortage or illegal practices. Strict action will be taken against anyone found hoarding."

Ganjam DM assesses fertilizer stock, supply

Cchhatrapur: Amidst the ongoing outcry over shortage and black-marketing of fertilizers, Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan assessed the availability and supply of fertilizers in the district Tuesday. At a review meeting here, the Collector ordered all the private retailers not to deviate from the government approved pricing. In addition to this, if any PACS has an excess amount of stocks available at the disposal, they may tag and supply other PACS for the convenience of farmers, he said. Vasan informed that more amount of fertilizers may be procured by the government, if need arises.

Docs remove tooth stick from food pipe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 9: Doctors at Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati (MKCG) Medical College and Hospital successfully performed a rare surgery, removing a 22-cm tooth stick lodged in an elderly woman's food pipe. She is now reported to be stable.

According to sources, 70-year-old Kamaraju Nayak of Natanga village in Belaguntha block accidentally swallowed the twig while brushing her teeth a few days ago. Soon after, she began experiencing problems in eating and performing



her daily activities. Although she informed her family, they initially did not believe her.

When her condition worsened and it became almost impossible to take food, Nayak sought treatment at a government hospital in Bhanjanagar. Family members said she lived on only liquids for a week. With no improvement at Bhanjanagar, she consulted both government and private

doctors in the area before being admitted to the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department at MKCG Monday.

Under the supervision of ENT head Sanjit Kumar Mishra, tests confirmed the presence of a 22-cm tooth stick. A team led by Mishra, including Sarita Das, Prabir Keshari Pradhan, Satyaswarup, Sarita Marandi, and anaesthetist Bipin Mallik, conducted a one-hour surgery Tuesday morning, and successfully removed the object. Hospital authorities said the patient is recuperating well following the rare operation.

Bharatmala road set to boost tourism in Koraput



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sunabeda, Sept 9: Under Bharatmala project, the Union government is constructing a highway from Raipur to Visakhapatnam at a cost of about ₹16,000 crore. The project includes the construction of a six-lane road spanning nearly 465 km. Of this, 124 km of road has been built in Koraput district at an expenditure of ₹4,600 crore. In Shunki area under Pottangi block, two state-of-the-

art tunnels are being built, which will become the tallest in Odisha. The tunnels measure 3.42 km in width and 2.8 km in length. Once completed, the project will ease traffic congestion between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Locals say it will save time for travellers heading to Visakhapatnam during emergencies. The tunnels are being built along Eastern Ghats at Shunki valley in Koraput district, at an altitude of nearly 3,000 ft above

the sea level. Locals believe the location will attract tourists. Authorities have indicated the work will be completed by the end of the year. For the road construction, 873 ha private land, 307 ha government land and 363 ha forest land have been acquired in Koraput and Nabarangpur districts. The plan provides for a 35-metre-wide road through forest areas and a 60-metre-wide road in non-forest zones. The tunnel route

from Odisha to Andhra Pradesh begins near Baraj village in Chandaka and ends at Kandili, while the tunnel from Andhra Pradesh to Odisha starts at Kuruli and ends at Amphabali village. The project is expected to strengthen the district's economy and boost tourism potential, according to local sources.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-tender No. CMSSBPLP252701B

DESCRIPTION OF WORK : "RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF (A) MEDICINES, (B) SURGICAL ITEMS & (C) CONSUMABLES, AGAINST DAY TO DAY LOCAL PURCHASE FOR DIVISIONAL RAILWAY HOSPITAL, SAMBALPUR FOR A PERIOD OF 02 (TWO) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE CONTRACT. RATE OF DISCOUNT IN PERCENTAGE OR AGAINST RUPEE 01 TO BE QUOTED FOR EACH GROUP SEPARATELY BY THE BIDDER."

Approximate procurement value during the year 2024-25 (per year) : ₹ 9,60,000/-, EMD : ₹ 19,200/-, Period of Contract : 2 years from the date of commencement of the work.

e-tender Closing Date and Time : 23.09.2025 (Monday) at 1500 hrs.

Note : The prospective vendors / drug stores are advised to register in IREPS and visit the tender section on IREPS for detail information. Website : www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Medical Superintendent / PR-573/Q/25-26 Store / Sambalpur

HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION
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National Olympiad Programme 2025-2026

in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior Science

All students wishing to participate in the prgoramme must appear in corresponding **National Standard Examinations (NSEs)** (for science subjects) on **November 22 and 23, 2025**, conducted by the **Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT)**. Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participation in the corresponding **International Olympiads of 2026**. To enroll: **NSEs:** <https://www.iapt.org.in> (Aug. 21 - Sep. 14, 2025) For more details: <https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in> <https://www.iapt.org.in> cbc 48143/12/0007/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/
E-Tender/69, Dt. 04.09.2025
(1) Tender No. e-tender-BrKUR-184-2025, Dtd.: 29.08.2025

DESCRIPTION : SUPPLY, FABRICATION AND FIXING OF MAN REFUGE SIDE PATHWAY, INSPECTION PLATFORM ON ABUTMENT AND PIERS, CRADLE ON PSC GIRDERS AND CENTRAL INSPECTION WALKWAY ON CG ON DIFFERENT BRIDGES OF JAROLITOMKA SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 255.02 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,77,500/-

(2) Tender No. e-tender-BrKUR-206-2025, Dtd.: 29.08.2025

DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF INSPECTION PLATFORM TO VARIOUS MAJOR BRIDGES AS PER RDSO DRG. NO.-CBS0044 AND PROVISION OF INSPECTION CRADLE TO DIFFERENT PSC GIRDER BRIDGES FOR CAMBER MEASUREMENT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/BRIDGE/SOUTH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 158.54 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,29,300/-

Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months (for both SI. Nos.).

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 22.09.2025 (for both the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer(s) / bidder(s) can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-574/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor)** will be sold on **"As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 26.09.2025 between 12.00 Noon to 5.00 P.M.** for recovery dues as mentioned hereunder to the **Union Bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest money deposit also mentioned hereunder.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Mortgagor/Guarantor	Description of Property to be Auctioned	Pending Litigation Related to property	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/ EMD / Bid increment	Contact Person / Contact No.
1.	Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Jambeswar Haripal, S/o: Guhalu Haripal, At: Jamgaon, P.O.: Jaloe, Via: Birmaharajpur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, PIN-767018 / Guarantor: Mr. Laxmi Prasad Jagadala, S/o: Ganeswar Jagadala, At: Panisiali, PO.: Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, PIN-767017 Ullunda, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha, PIN-767018, belonging to Mr. Jambeswar Haripal, S/o: Guhalu Haripal, Bounded by North: Keshaba Haripal, South: Govt. Land, East: Kishori Ganda, West: Road.	All that part of the property consisting of Land of an Area: Ac.0.270 Dec. with Residential Plot and Building bearing Khata No.: 209/98, Plot No.: 1728, 1729, 1730, situated at Mouza: Jamgaon, P.S.: Birmaharajpur, Tahasil: Ullunda, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha, PIN-767018, belonging to Mr. Jambeswar Haripal, S/o: Guhalu Haripal, Bounded by North: Keshaba Haripal, South: Govt. Land, East: Kishori Ganda, West: Road.	NA	₹6,06,180.99 as on 01.09.2025 + interest, costs and charges thereon	₹14,06,750/- / ₹1,40,675/- / ₹14,067/-	Mr. Abhilash Guru, Mob.: 9751060197


For registration and login and bidding rules please visit : <https://baanknet.com>

Place: Sonepur
Date: 09.09.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Union Bank of India

“

The spiritual path is one of falling on your face, getting up, brushing yourself off, turning and looking sheepishly at God and then taking the next step



SRI AUROBINDO

Reviving 9/11 Spirit

The memories of the deadly al-Qaeda strikes on 9/11 on iconic US building complexes are still alive even after several American administrations virtually wound down what was once called the “global war on terror.” As the attention of the world is now riveted on Israel-Hamas and Russia-Ukraine conflicts, the administration of US President Donald Trump has begun, without much fanfare, its war on drugs with an ulterior motive of regime change in various Caribbean nations. The unprecedented deadly military strike recently on an alleged Venezuelan drug boat in the Caribbean killing 11 persons aboard makes it clear the US plans to use tactics it has long employed against terrorist groups and Latin American criminal organisations to target regimes in countries perceived to be inimical to US interests. The strikes came soon after the US deployed eight warships to the Caribbean and Pacific around South and Central America, regarded as an unusually large surge of military force to the region. Trump administration officials have suggested that there may be more strikes to come.

This is, however, only expected considering the fact that Trump had pledged during his election campaign to use military force against drug cartels. Shortly after his inauguration on 20 January 2025, his administration designated several criminal groups, including the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, as foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) and specially designated global terrorists (SDGTs), putting them in the same legal category as al-Qaeda and ISIS. Last month, the New York Times even reported without being contradicted by the administration that the President had signed a secret directive instructing the Pentagon to start using military force against these designated organizations.

Trump himself announced that the US had carried out a “kinetic strike” against Tren de Aragua narco terrorists. The administration has also accused President Nicolas Maduro’s government in Venezuela of controlling Tren de Aragua. This is a highly contested claim. For his part, Maduro, a longtime US adversary, has levelled charges against the US that it is seeking regime change in Venezuela. US officials have the gumption not to flatly deny it with Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth calling it a “presidential decision.”

The fast developments indicate the Trump administration is set to make major shifts in the more than half a century old history of America’s war on drugs, its relationship with Latin America and increasing militarization. The words of Secretary of State Marco Rubio smack of the arrogance and blatant interference with other country’s affairs that mark the present US administration. Rubio argued merely intercepting boats cannot curb the drugs menace. “What will stop them is when you blow them up,” he insisted.


Experts point out Venezuela does not produce drugs, but acts as a conduit for supplying narcotics produced in Colombia and Peru. Even then the quantity of drugs sent to the US through Venezuela is put at a few hundred kilograms a year which is nothing compared to the quantum of smuggling the commodity through some other Latin American countries that are on the same page with the US. This leads to the suspicion that the strike at the criminal gang operating in Venezuela has motives other than taking on the drug cartels alone.

What is more, even if members of these gangs are rounded up, they would have to serve certain years in jail. Eliminating them without the due process of the law is a war crime. The drug menace cannot be curbed through such patently illegal acts. The US needs to strengthen its border vigil, stop supply of arms the drug syndicates use and make them face the law. This war against drugs is dovetailed with the Trump administration’s war against migrants. Mixing the two up may not be the solution. The US under Trump should understand that might is not always right.

WISDOM CORNER


“

The mind is by nature restless. Begin liberating it from its restlessness; give it peace; make it free from distractions; train it to look inward; make this a habit. This is done by ignoring the external world and removing the obstacles to peace of mind.



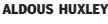
“

A preoccupation with the future not only prevents us from seeing the present as it is but often prompts us to rearrange the past.



“

Throw away your baggage and go forward. There are quicksands all about you, sucking at your feet, trying to suck you down into fear and self-pity and despair. That's why you must walk so lightly. Lightly my darling, on tiptoes and no luggage, not even a sponge bag, completely unencumbered.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1813:** US naval forces under the command of Oliver Hazard Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.
- **1846:** Patent for sewing machine awarded. The United States' Patent Office awarded a patent for the first sewing machine with a lockstitch design to Elias Howe from Spencer, Massachusetts. While he had little success marketing his machine in the US, machines similar to his design became very successful, especially among women. The similarity of the machine sold by Isaac Singer, founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company to Howe's machine prompted Howe to take Singer to court. He won the case.
- **1919:** Austria and the Allied powers signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain, concluding World War I.
- **1960:** Baghdad Conference begins. The 5-day long conference in Iraq's capital city ended with the creation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), an intergovernmental organization of oil-producing countries. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela were the original members of the group. Today, there are 13 members of the organization. OPEC is responsible for coordinating and unifying oil and gas policies in member states and for creating an efficient and fair system of production, sale, and investment in the petroleum industry.
- **1988:** By winning the US Open, Steffi Graf completed the Grand Slam of tennis; she was the first woman to accomplish the feat since Margaret Court in 1970.

LOL

LOST GRANDPA




A police car pulls up in front of a grandma Bessie's house, and grandpa Morris gets out. The polite policeman explained that this elderly gentleman said that he was lost in the park...and couldn't find his way home. “Oy Morris,” said

grandma, “You've been going to over 30 years! So how could you get lost?” Leaning close to grandma, so that the policeman couldn't hear. Morris whispered, “I wasn't lost.....I was just too tired to walk home.”


FOCUS

SOCIETY

DEMOCRATIC ROLE MODELS



Not so long ago, people around the world could look to Europe and America to see that economic growth, social justice, and political freedom are not only compatible but mutually reinforcing. While authoritarianism is on the rise in both places, one can find democratic role models elsewhere



Dani Rodrik

NEARLY 220 MILLION FEWER PEOPLE LIVE UNDER LIBERAL DEMOCRACY TODAY THAN IN 2012

As a teenager growing up in Istanbul, I was lucky to be part of a generation that had democratic role models nearby. European countries such as Britain, France, Germany, and Sweden fueled our aspirations for prosperity and democracy, giving us hope for the future of our own imperfect polity. These countries' experiences showed us that economic growth, social justice, and political freedom were not only compatible but mutually reinforcing.

Where will today's youth look to find a similarly hopeful message? Liberal democracy once seemed destined to be the wave of the future. But now, democratic backsliding is a global phenomenon, with Donald Trump's America only the most visible and dramatic example. Since the early 2010s, “electoral autocracies” – regimes that hold periodic elections, but under conditions of pervasive repression – have become the dominant form of government around the world. Nearly 220 million fewer people live under liberal democracy today than in 2012.

Moreover, “electoral democracies” – a form of regime that can pave the way for liberal democracy – have also lost ground, governing 1.2 billion fewer people today than in 2012. These regimes have been replaced by electoral or outright autocracies, which now rule over 5.8 billion people (2.4 billion of whom have been added since 2012).

As a beacon of democracy, Europe no longer shines as brightly. The European Union played a major role in anchoring democracy during Eastern Europe's transition from socialism, with Czechia and Estonia becoming some of the highest-ranked liberal democracies in the world. But many others – notably, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia – have regressed significantly, and the EU has been powerless to do anything about it. Slovakia's prime minister,

Robert Fico, recently joined Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un, and two dozen other authoritarian leaders in Beijing to help President Xi Jinping celebrate Chinese military prowess.

Leading European countries can rightly claim that their democracies have not taken as big a hit as America's. But Europe today projects neither economic strength nor political cohesion. Its self-confidence seems to have hit rock bottom, as exemplified by how the EU has caved to Trump's tariff threats. European leaders long hoped that integration would enhance the region's power and influence on the global stage. Instead, the EU seems to have turned into a permanent half-way house that fosters paralysis. Its institutions and processes discourage countries from acting boldly on their own, but lack the capacity to formulate and pursue a common vision.

While democratic Europe fails to project influence beyond its borders, those who do exercise power on the global stage are no longer role models. Few would have expected the United States to have taken such a sharp authoritarian turn, yet Trump has

transformed the country into a rogue actor almost overnight. He has also made it easier for China to pose as the responsible adult in the room, and Xi has gladly donned the mantle of “sovereign equality,” “international rule of law,” and “multilateralism.”

But no one should be fooled about the nature of China's regime. Its economic achievements are not a reason to emulate its politics. China remains a highly authoritarian country where minorities are repressed and political opposition is strictly forbidden.

To find democratic bright spots, we must look in unexpected places. For example, Brazil and South Africa, two middle-income countries, share the rare distinction of having recently come to the brink of authoritarian collapse and then pulled back.

Jacob Zuma's tenure as president of South Africa between 2009 and 2018 was characterized by authoritarian populism and extensive corruption, and former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro refused to accept electoral defeat and plotted a military coup (as well as his opponent's murder) in 2022. Yet both were succeeded by leaders with

solid democratic credentials – Cyril Ramaphosa in South Africa and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Brazil.

What makes these successes extraordinary is that they occurred under circumstances that political scientists consider particularly disadvantageous for democracy. Not only do South Africa and Brazil have deep ethnic divisions, but they are among the most unequal countries in the world. Thinkers since Aristotle have argued that the absence of large gaps between rich and poor is a precondition for sustaining democracy; but the Brazilian and South African experiences paint a more subtle picture – one that is heartening for advocates of democracy.

There is good news elsewhere as well. Late last year, when South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol declared martial law for the first time since 1980, democratic forces and the parliament fought back. In the space of just weeks, Yoon was impeached and removed from office. Chile, too, has managed to remain a stable democracy since the end of General Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship (1973-90).

Some of the most successful democracies outside Europe are small countries that remain under the radar in discussions of democratic decline. Taiwan, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Mauritius, and Botswana all receive high marks in the Economist Intelligence Unit's democracy rankings (the last two are particularly noteworthy as examples of long-enduring democracies in Africa).

Perhaps our hopes for fanning the flames of democracy rest on these unlikely cases. Like everything else, democracy needs role models. Although the usual case studies are no longer relevant, there are still places where democracy advocates can find inspiration.

The writer is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

It's smart to keep your smartphone away

“

If there's one device that has changed our lives dramatically in the 21st century, it's the smartphone. Just think of all the things we can do with our phones: take photos, send texts, watch football, find dates, set alarms, listen to podcasts, watch football, read articles, send cash, play games, and did I mention “watch football”?



Melvin Durai

CELLPHONES CAN KEEP US FROM ACHIEVING OUR GOALS IN A TIMELY MANNER, WHICH IS WHAT OFTEN HAPPENS IN THE BATHROOM

Oh yeah, I almost forgot: our phones are also capable of making calls. But no one really wants to talk to anyone these days. Thankfully our phones have useful features such as “quick decline messages,” allowing us to respond to calls with a text that says: “Can I call you back later?” (Pro tip: it's always better to use the word “later” rather than “soon,” because “later” just means “sometime in the future, while I am still alive.”)

Many people use their phones to scroll through videos and posts on TikTok, Instagram, Reddit and other sites. The cellphone is an incomparably portable entertainment device that can keep you occupied almost anywhere, whether you're waiting in line to enter a famous temple or sitting in church, waiting for the pastor to finish a sermon that doesn't apply to you — something about overcoming addiction.

Having an electronic tool that's immensely portable is both a blessing and a curse. If your phone goes everywhere you go, what do you do with it when you're doing your business? You take it with you, right?

But using a phone while sitting on a toilet can be risky, according to a new study. It can put you at risk for something beginning with ‘H’ — and I don't mean “hilarity.”

The study, published in the journal PLOS One and based on data from 125 adults who underwent colonoscopies at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, US, found that those who used their phones in the loo were 46 per cent more likely to have

hemorrhoids.

Hemorrhoids are swollen veins that can cause a lot of discomfort, even worse than accidentally taking a photo of yourself in the bathroom — and then, while frantically searching for the delete button, hitting “share on Facebook” instead.

Cellphones can keep us from achieving our goals in a timely manner, which is what often happens in the bathroom. Dr. Trisha Pasricha, the study's senior author, a gastroenterologist and director of the Gut-Brain Research Institute at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, blames this partly on social media.

“The entire business model of these social media apps is to distract us, make us lose track of time and addict us to the algorithm,” Pasricha told CNN.

Sitting too long on the toilet is what puts us at risk for hemorrhoids. We enter a public lavatory expecting to be there for just three minutes, but several videos later, there's a loud knock on the door.

“Sorry, I know the door says ‘occupied,’ but I'm just wondering what you're occupied with.”

“It's a cute cat video. Hang on, it's almost over.”

About two-thirds of the 125 study participants said they use their phones in the loo. Among them, 37 per cent spend more than five minutes doing their business, compared with just 7 per cent of non-phone users.

It's important to remember that sitting on a toilet is different from sitting on a chair, because the open seat does not provide enough support for the rectal area.

“When you're sitting on an open toilet bowl, you have no pelvic floor support,” Pasricha said.

Many people around the world use squat toilets, which are actually better for a smooth bowel movement. You probably won't be looking at your phone and sitting longer. You'll be getting down to business and saving yourself a trip to the doctor.

Nepal on boil

Sir, Nepal is facing its worst civil unrest in years after security forces opened fire on the so-called “GenZ Movement,” leaving 19 dead and hundreds injured. The protests erupted against the government's sweeping ban on over two dozen social media platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram. Authorities justified the move as necessary to curb misinformation, scams, and unregulated businesses. However, the youth—already struggling with unemployment and rampant corruption—saw it as an attack on free expression and their livelihoods. Chanting “No Ban, No Lies, No Corruption,” protesters demanded accountability and reforms. The government eventually restored access under public pressure but faces a trust deficit. For stability, it must first address corruption and create jobs before regulating harmful platforms gradually. India, as Nepal's closest neighbour and key partner, has a role in supporting democratic dialogue, offering economic cooperation, and ensuring that unrest does not spill across borders, while encouraging Kathmandu to pursue inclusive governance.

Time to hang boots

Sir, Novak Djokovic's semi-final loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the US Open, which is his fourth in succession in the last-four stage in Grand Slams this year, is a clear message that it will be a mountainous task for him to go past Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz and win his 25th Slam title, which has been eluding him for the last two years. While there is little doubt about Djokovic's extraordinary game skills, it is his aging legs that are unable to match the speed of these two modern day greats, whose exceptionally quick court coverage, coupled with powerful shot-making, leave the Serbian often caught off-balance. Reaching all four semi-finals at the age of 38 is no mean achievement. But at this stage in his career, getting his body into the right condition is becoming increasingly difficult for Djokovic. It is time for the Serbian great to hang his boots and leave the stage with head high and his reputation intact.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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



PETA protest for pigeons

The organisation (PETA) has also written to Maharashtra Chief Minister about a pigeon population control method implemented in several European cities. The approach combines other measures that PETA India has recommended with dove-cotes, allow the replacement of eggs with dummy eggs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 9: Amid the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's ban on feeding pigeons and closing old kabutarshans in the city, PETA India on Tuesday staged a silent protest, donning bird masks.

Five members of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India donned pigeon masks and dressed like quintessential Mumbaikars — an autorickshaw driver, a woman in a traditional navvari (nine-yard sari), an officegoer and a man in a kurta and dhoti, holding the signboard "We Are Mumbaikars Too, Please

Be Kind to Us."

"Pigeons are Mumbaikars! simply trying to survive, just like us, and abruptly stopping their feeding after generations is causing them to suffer," said Utkarsh Garg, PETA India campaigns coordinator.

He said, "Replacing the feeding ban with reasonable feeding timings and cleaning schedules would show Mumbai respects tradition and leads practically and with compassion."

Garg claimed that fears around pigeon-related health risks are exaggerated, and an RTI response from Mumbai's three largest civic hospitals shows that only 0.3 per cent of

respiratory illness cases in 2024 were linked to pigeon exposure.

International research also demonstrates that the risk of disease transmission from pigeons to humans is low, even for those in close and regular contact with them, he claimed.

Garg said PETA India has proposed three practical steps to the government: designating specific feeding times and hubs at kabutarshans, ensuring regular cleaning and sanitation at these sites, and installing multilingual messages educating the public on proper feeding practices and the minimal health risks posed by pigeons.

The organisation has also written to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis about a pigeon population control method implemented in several European cities. The approach apparently combines the other measures that PETA India has recommended with dove-cotes, allow the replacement of eggs with dummy eggs.

It claims that the system can be implemented easily and would allow Mumbai to reduce the number of pigeons gradually and humanely, while maintaining bird welfare, cultural and religious practices.

TN launches Marine Resource Foundation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 9: Aimed at conserving marine biodiversity, the Tamil Nadu government Tuesday launched the Marine Resource Foundation with an outlay of Rs 50 crore, State Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said.

The foundation, set up here, follows an announcement made by Thennarasu while presenting the state budget in March.

Participating in the launch along with his cabinet colleague, Minister for Forests and Khadi R S Rajakannappan, Thennarasu said, "For the first time in the country, such a foundation has been set up in Tamil Nadu."

"We must protect marginalised people in coastal areas because climate change and other factors threaten their livelihoods. This foundation has been established to provide them with the support they need," the minister added.

Thennarasu also unveiled the logo for the Tamil Nadu Maritime Resource Foundation during the event.

According to a press release, the foundation aims to promote marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, eco-tourism, environmental education, research, and innovation.

Tamil Nadu's coastal waters are home to over 450 marine species, 117 coral reefs, and more than 80 species of whales and dolphins. Threats such as



sea erosion, climate change, and plastic pollution endanger these marine species, it added.

The foundation will play a key role in empowering coastal communities, protecting natural resources, restoring mangroves and seagrass, promoting blue tourism and awareness, and supporting climate action through blue carbon initiatives, it further said.

According to a press release, the council integrates the services of multiple departments, including the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Greater Chennai Corporation, Fisheries Department, and Labour

Department.

The council has been established to protect the Manali-Ennore region, a major industrial zone that also features rivers, canals, and mangrove forests, the release said.

"To protect this environmentally sensitive and economically vital zone, the office of MER-RC has been set up in Manali," it added.

A 24x7 emergency centre has been established to respond swiftly to events such as cyclones, sea surges, and industrial accidents. Projects aimed at improving livelihoods in the Manali-Ennore area will con-

tinue to be expanded through the council, the release said.

While presenting the appointment orders, Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Forests, said about 333 recruits, including forest guards and forest watchers, received their orders from the minister.

She added that all critical vacancies in the department have now been filled. "We have a new young energy in this auditorium today. With your support, there will definitely be a brighter future for the climate and all wildlife," she said.

Thane RTO launches digital citizen-friendly services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, Sept 9: The Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Maharashtra's Thane district has launched technology-based initiatives, including a mobile application that integrates helpline numbers, to provide transparent, citizen-friendly and efficient services, an official said Tuesday.

State Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik said that these services are designed to provide convenience to citizens and vehicle owners, help reduce accidents, boost tax revenue and improve overall traffic management in Thane.

If successful, the government plans to implement the same model across the state, he said in a release.

According to officials, the new systems, which became operational from September 8,

are citizen-oriented and technology-driven, offering a wide range of benefits.

The RTO has launched a mobile phone application that uses geo-location technology to alert drivers and passengers about accident-prone "black spots" on the road in advance.

The app also integrates emergency helplines, allowing women to directly connect to a dedicated women's helpline, and enabling access to ambulance, police and fire brigade services, they said. Citizens can also avail vehicle-related services, including registration, tax payments, and licence details, through WhatsApp on 8080129800.

Apart from this, the new Tax Defaulter Vehicle Monitoring System will use artificial intelligence and location tracking to allow authorities to identify and take action against tax-defaulter vehicles.



Israel's Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, right, visits Nariman House to pay homage to the victims of the 26/11 attacks, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

FROM QUESTION TO CANVAS

'Contemporary Now' puts Indian art on display

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 9: "How could that be art"—that was the reaction Chennai-based artist Maanas Udayakumar often encountered in his early years. Now featured among 37 contemporary artists from India at the 'Contemporary Now' exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi here till September 17, the 31-year-old recalls how his work was "not accepted as art" by many.

Art experts say Udayakumar's loose brushwork in varying shades of grey—breaking down traditional forms into quick, rudimentary strokes—can be located within Abstract Expressionism, the mid-20th-century art movement.

In particular, Udayakumar's work recalls Franz Kline, one of the most important yet problematic Abstract Expressionists. During his lifetime, Kline's paintings were often dismissed as "something done in a moment." Only later did art historians reveal that each work was extensively planned before his house painter's brush touched the canvas.

His oeuvre was eventually recognised as "groundbreaking," paving the way for post-minimal practices—and, by extension, for artists like Udayakumar.

"When things were tough, I didn't let it bother me. I just kept making art that excited me, that I thought was relevant to what's happening today," Udayakumar told PTI.

In his "varying shades of grey" series, he allows viewers to see what they want—a curling cat, a human figure, or a flower. But when he wants to make a point, the abstract takes a definite form. About three months ago, his bold strokes teased



out snarling dogs, perhaps reflecting the moral dilemma India faced over its stray dog population, following a case taken up on its own by the Supreme Court.

"Contemporary art is rooted in the issues plaguing society now—from environmental to political," said Ashvin E Rajagopalan, curator of Contemporary Now and Director of Ashvita's in Chennai, one of the five participating galleries along with Chatterjee & Lal and Chemould Prescott Road (Mumbai), Experimenter (Kolkata), and Vadehra Art Gallery (New Delhi).

Rajagopalan said contemporary art is often misunderstood as "totally whacky."

"There's a stereotypical understanding of contemporary art, of artists throwing paint on a canvas and splashing it. So, we put together very mature, well-rendered, and well-thought-out works of 37 artists, showcasing high craftsmanship, to dispel that myth," he told PTI.

That seriousness is reflected in the work of Bengaluru-based artist Archana Hande, who recently moved back from Mumbai and uses multimedia—installation, drawing, and video—to express herself.

Her work at 'Contemporary Now' includes a block-printed storyboard from her video art, All is Fair in Magic White. Measuring 6x4 feet,

it comprises 19 beige textile panels with finely detailed block prints that explore the struggles of migrants moving from small towns to big cities. She has used one of the subcontinent's vanishing crafts, block printing, to highlight two contemporary issues—the struggle of migrants to adapt to big cities and the decline of traditional crafts, as artisans move to urban areas in search of better livelihoods.

Though Hande said she belongs to the category of artists who manage to "connect with people," she acknowledged the challenges contemporary artists face in a society that often rejects what it does not understand.

"I feel the artist community is equally to blame for this stagnation. We have turned art into an elite space by over-intellectualising it. Now, people are terrified of it," Hande said.

The solution, according to her, lies in more initiatives such as Goa's Serendipity Arts Festival, Kochi Biennale, Bengaluru Hubba, and Mumbai's Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, which take art out of elite spaces and make it accessible to the public.

"The success of Bengaluru's annual 'Chitra Santhe' is a perfect example of what the democratisation of art can achieve. I feel people attend because of the subtle wordplay in 'santhe,' which is colloquial for market and puts them at ease," Hande said.

Rajagopalan said they did not expect to convert the crowd overnight to fully grasp contemporary practices. But the fact that this is our highest-attended show must mean something," Rajagopalan said.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE: PATTAMUNDAI QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

Notice No.2806 Date:08.09.2025

PATTAMUNDAI MUNICIPALITY
No C-1030: Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality on behalf of Municipal Council, Pattamundai invites sealed quotation call notice from registered firm/ company/supplier/authorized dealer/agency for supplying and installation of Pre-Engineered Building Structure (PEB) for an area of 1600 Sqm as per the specification as maintained detailed below.

The Firm intended to participate to the above quotation call notice must submit filled in quotation alongwith GST Registration Certificate, Company Registration Certificate, PAN Card, GST Clearance Certificate. The quotation must reach on or before the undersigned till 5 PM of 29.09.2025 and same should submitted by Regd. Post/ Speed Post to the undersigned by 1 PM of 03.10.2025 and same will be opened same day at 3.30 PM at Office of the undersigned in presence of the bidder or their authorised representatives. The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to cancel the Short Quotation Call Notice at any point of time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Pattamundai Municipality

OIPR-13220/11/0021/2526

ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY, BHUBANESWAR-3

Letter No.ACD-I-ADM-0013/2022/16305/UAT Dt.8th, September, 2025

UNDER GRADUATE SPOT COUNSELING & ADMISSION NOTICE-2025-26

No.KK-221: Vacant seats in different UG Course programme under different categories are available for spot counseling and admission in OUAT as per clause 7.3.2 of UG prospectus 2025-26. All the seats for spot admission are cost sharing ones. **The seats are likely to increase as the seats vacated by cancellation of admission till 22.09.2025 (5.00 PM) will be included for spot counseling & admission.**

The candidates who have been awarded rank in OUAT UG Admission-2025 are eligible to apply. Candidates interested to participate in spot counseling & admission must register online by logging in using their registered email id and mobile number through OUAT website www.ouat.ac.in (Academic section>admission section)/ <https://ouat-lokaseba-odisha.in/> paying a registration fees of Rs.500/- (mandatory). The spot counseling and admission programme is given below.

Sl. No.	Programme	Date
1	Online Registration	08.09.2025 to 15.09.2025
2	Availability of Intimation-cum-Rank Card	17.09.2025
3	Spot Counselling and Admission	23.09.2025 & 24.09.2025

Candidates must visit OUAT website: www.ouat.ac.in for
i) Vacant seat position available for UG spot counseling and admission-2025.
ii) Guideline for UG spot counseling and admission -2025.

OIPR-01533/11/0017/2526

Sd./- REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH

E-mail: eemisundargarh@yahoo.co.in

'e' Procurement Notice

Bid Reference No. SE MID SNG 05/2025-26

No. A-606: Bid documents consisting Name of Works, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

1	Name of the Work	: Civil Construction Work
2	No. of Work	: 01 (One) No.
3	Estimated Cost	: Rs.39.85 lakh (Approximately)
4	Period of Completion	: 04 (Four) Calendar Months
5	Date and time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From Dt.11.09.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to Dt.20.09.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.
6	Last date/time of receipt of bids in the Portal	: Dt.20.09.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.
7	Date of Opening of Bid	: Dt.22.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M. onwards
8	Name and address of the OIT	: Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Sundargarh

**Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- 08.09.2025
Superintending Engineer
M.I. Division, Sundargarh

OIPR-32124/11/0035/2526

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHALIKOTE

Letter No.1493/NAC Khallikote, Date:09.09.2025

'e' Procurement Notice

TENDER REFERENCE NO:KIT-NAC-01/2025-26

No.C-1031: Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

1.	Name of the Work	: Providing Consultancy services for preparation of comprehensive drainage master plan and DPR for storm water drainage system of Khallikote NAC.
2.	No. of Works	: 1 No.
3.	Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document	: From 10.00 AM of 10.09.2025 to 26.09.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
5.	Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 26.09.2025 upto 5.00 PM
6.	Last date/time of receiving of documents relating of tender Off-line	: 03.10.2025 at 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM
7.	Technical proposals received online shall be opened on	: 04.10.2025 at 11.00 AM
8.	Financial proposals received online shall be opened on	: 04.10.2025 at 11.00 AM
9.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, NAC, Khallikote

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Officer,
NAC, Khallikote

OIPR-13110/11/0009/2526

of the day

quote

If education were a priority, the BJP would not have shut down 27,000 primary schools. This government wants to keep poor children away from education



AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

India was looted, India was torn up and symbols of India's heritage were broken and insulted



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

The maintenance work of Munak canal was earlier with the Haryana government. Now, the Delhi government has taken over maintenance of this canal



REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

SHORT TAKES

Debt pushes family of four to suicide

Bidar (Karnataka): Four members of a family died, allegedly by suicide, after jumping into the left bank canal of Karanja near Bhalki Taluk Tuesday, police said. The deceased include a man and his three children, while his wife and another son were rescued by locals. The family, originally from Mailur in Bidar city, is believed to have taken the extreme step due to financial debts, police added. The bodies have been shifted to the Bhalki Taluk Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination.

Four-storey building collapses; 22 rescued

New Delhi: A four-storey building collapsed in north Delhi's Subzi Mandi area in the early hours of Tuesday, bringing down portions of two adjoining buildings and trapping several people under the debris. A multi-agency rescue team safely rescued all 22 people, officials said. The building was in a congested lane in Punjabi Basti and had been unoccupied after the municipal corporation declared it unsafe.

Five injured in AC compressor blast

New Delhi: Five people, including three employees of a pizza parlour, sustained minor injuries after an air-conditioner compressor exploded in northeast Delhi's Yamuna Vihar, officials said Tuesday. The incident took place Monday at a Pizza Hut outlet, where a fire broke out following the compressor blast, police said.

Indore school gets bomb threat email

Indore: A private school in Indore city of Madhya Pradesh received a bomb threat email Tuesday, prompting the police and other authorities to scour the premises but it turned out to be a hoax as no suspicious object was found in a three-hour-long search operation, an official said.

RPF rescues 11 children from railway stations

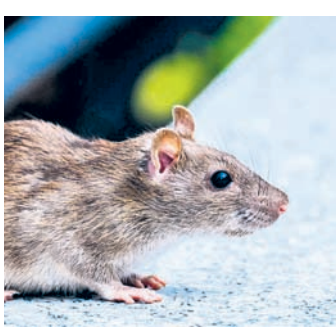
Kolkata: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) Tuesday said it has rescued 11 children, including six girls, from railway stations in the Eastern Railway jurisdiction. Acting under the countrywide 'Operation Nanhey Faristey' initiative of the RPF to safeguard vulnerable children found at railway premises, the force handed over the rescued children to the childline authorities concerned.



Punjab Chief Minister
Bhagwant Mann, who was here recently, appreciated the Chief Minister's Breakfast scheme and said he would introduce it in his state
UDHAYANIDHI STALIN | TN DEPUTY CM

MP: HEALTH MINISTER ACTS ON RAT MENACE

Facing flak over the death of two newborn girls purportedly linked to rat bites, the Madhya Pradesh government has cracked the whip on authorities at the state-run MY Hospital here and directed the implementation of effective preventive measures



Karisma's kids in HC over Sunjay Kapur's fortune

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The two children of Bollywood actor Karisma Kapoor Tuesday moved the Delhi High Court seeking share in their late father Sunjay Kapur's assets reportedly worth ₹30,000 crore.

The plaintiff, which is likely to come up September

10, challenges Sunjay's March 21 will, which purportedly leaves his entire personal estate to their step-mother, Priya Kapur.

The plaintiff claims neither Sunjay mentioned about the will, nor Priya, or any other person, ever spoke of its existence.

While the daughter, Samaira Kapur, has filed the plaint through her mother, Karisma, authorising her as her general power of attorney, the son, a minor, is also represented by the mother as the legal guardian.

Karisma and Sunjay married in 2003 but divorced in 2016.

The plaint alleges Priya's conduct demonstrates "without a doubt, that the alleged will has been fabricated" by her.

"The purported will allegedly executed by the plaintiffs' father is not a legal and valid document, is forged and fabricated and in any event surrounded by suspicious circumstances. It is for this reason that neither the original of the alleged purported will has been shown to the plaintiffs nor a copy of the alleged purported will has been provided," the suit claimed.

The plaint has sought partition, rendition of accounts and a permanent injunction with respect to their late father's estate.

Man kills girlfriend, murders witness; dies in police custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Giridih (Jharkhand), Sept 9: A 25-year-old man in Jharkhand's Giridih district allegedly killed his girlfriend, suspecting her of having an affair with someone else, and also murdered another woman who witnessed it, police said Tuesday.

A few hours after the accused was arrested, he was found lying in a pool of blood inside the police lockup. Apparently, he died by suicide.

The two women, who were found murdered, had gone missing Friday, following which a complaint was lodged with the police, an officer said.

While investigating the missing persons' complaint, police detained one Srikant Choudhary, a resident of Mahatpur in Gawan police station area Monday, SDPO of Khori Mahua Rajendra Prasad told PTI.

"During interrogation, Choudhary confessed to having murdered both the women and also showed the police the site where the bodies were hidden," he said.

The bodies were recovered from Charkhi Nimadih forest late in the night, he said, adding that the accused was arrested later.

PM announces ₹1,600cr aid for flood-hit Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a financial assistance of ₹1,600 crore for flood-hit Punjab as he reviewed the situation and damage in the state, which was battling its worst deluge since 1988.

Modi announced the assistance for the border state in addition to the ₹12,000 crore already in the state's kitty.

He also announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 to the seriously injured in the floods and natural calamity.

Modi acknowledged the gravity of the situation and assured that the central government will make all efforts to address the situation.

Earlier, he took stock of the flood situation and also conducted an aerial survey of the flood-ravaged areas in Punjab. In a post on X, Modi said, "Conducted an aerial review of the floods in Punjab. Authorities are working round-the-clock, assisting those impacted. Our thoughts are with the people in this challenging time."

The PM, in another post, said the central government was committed to extending all possible help to everyone, including farmers, whose well-being is of paramount importance.

Modi, who was on a day-long visit to Punjab and its neighbouring Himachal Pradesh to review the flood situation in the two states, landed in Gurdaspur -- one of the worst affected districts in the state -- after conducting the aerial survey.

Prior to this, the PM visited Himachal Pradesh and took stock of the flood and landslides situation in the state.

Modi reviewed the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken as well as assessed the damage that has occurred in the border state. Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Punjab Agriculture minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducts aerial survey of flood and landslide-affected areas in Himachal Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

₹1,500cr for Himachal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday announced an immediate relief of ₹1,500 crore for rain-affected Himachal Pradesh. He took stock of the situation in both the states in the wake of floods and landslides and also conducted aerial surveys of the affected areas. Modi first went to Himachal Pradesh and after an aerial survey, held a meeting in Kangra to review the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken as well as assess the damage.

Punjab Revenue Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian were also present in the official meeting. In the meeting, Punjab Chief Secretary K A P Sinha shared details about extensive damage caused by floods in the state.

Recognising the critical need to support the agricultural community, additional assistance will be provided specifically targeted at farmers who currently lack power connections. For bores which have been silted over or swept away, support for refurbishing would be extended under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana on project mode, as per specific proposal from the state government.

For bore pumps that are running on diesel, convergence with MNRE (Ministry of new and renewable energy) for solar panels and support will be

facilitated for micro irrigation under 'per drop more crop' guidelines. The PM expressed condolences to the family members of those who lost their lives in the natural calamity and stated that the union government will work closely with the state governments in this difficult time and extend all possible assistance.

He also met families from Punjab who were affected by the calamities and floods, expressing his complete solidarity with all those who had suffered and expressed deep sorrow who had lost their close ones.

The PM stated that all assistance under disaster management rules are being made including advance disbursements to the states. The central government will further review the assessment based on the memorandum of the state as well as the report of the central teams.

The union government has also sent inter-ministerial teams to Punjab to assess the extent of damage, and based on their detailed report, further assistance will be considered.

During the meeting with the flood-affected farmers, Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar showed a bunch of damaged paddy due to foods to the PM to emphasise the extensive damage caused to crops.

Protests in Doda, other places against detention of AAP MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Doda/Jammu, Sept 9: At least eight police personnel, including two officers, were injured in clashes between protesters and security forces in Doda as demonstrations were held in the district and other places in Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday against the detention of Aam Aadmi Party MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA), officials said.

Police and paramilitary forces had been deployed in strength in Doda, where supporters of Malik, the president of the J&K unit of AAP, took to the streets a day after he was detained for allegedly disturbing public order and in Kathua district jail.

At least eight police personnel,

including a deputy superintendent of police and a station house officer, were injured in a clash with stone-pelting protesters at Dunadi after the police tried to stop a march from Bhatyas towards Doda town, the officials said, adding that police fired teargas shells and chased the protesters who regrouped repeatedly and tried to move towards Doda. Some protesters, including a woman, were also injured in the clash, the officials said. In a related development, the legal advisor of Malik and AAP spokesperson, Appu Singh Slathia, said she was denied a meeting with him in jail despite repeated requests, while a dossier against Malik running in hundreds of pages was handed over to her after 24 hours.



Gurmeet Singh checks the damaged crops at a flooded agricultural field, at Kot Gurbaksh village of Ajnala, in Amritsar, Punjab

PTI PHOTO

NCAP panel tells Delhi, Noida to boost pollution fund utilisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: A central panel monitoring the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has directed authorities in Delhi and Noida, which are lagging in pollution control fund utilisation, to take immediate corrective measures.

The decision was taken at the 18th meeting of the Implementation Committee (IC) under NCAP, held August 21 and chaired by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) chairman, to review and oversee the programme's implementation.

The committee said that "all implementing agencies must accelerate fund utilisation, ensuring that it is not below 75 per cent in any city", according to the minutes of the meeting

published recently.

Launched in 2019, NCAP is India's first national initiative to set clean air targets, aiming for a 40 per cent reduction in particulate pollution by 2026, using 2019-20 as the base year.

Of the cities covered under NCAP, 82 receive direct funding from the Union environment ministry, while 48 cities and urban agglomerations with populations of more than a million are funded through the 15th Finance Commission.

Data from the Union environment ministry showed that only ₹9,585 crore (72.4 per cent) of the total ₹13,236.77 crore allocated to 130 cities since the programme's inception had been utilised as of August 18.

According to the data, Noida (Uttar Pradesh) utilised just 11.14 per cent of its alloca-



tion, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) 30.51 per cent and Delhi 32.65 per cent.

Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) spent 41.09 per cent, Jalandhar (Punjab) 43.51 per cent, Gulbarga (Karnataka) 43.7 per cent, Srinagar (Jammu

2008 MALEGAON BLAST

Victims move HC against acquittal of Pragya, six others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 9: Six family members of people who died in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast have moved the Bombay High Court, challenging a special court judgment acquitting the seven accused in the case, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit.

The appeal claimed faulty investigation or some defects in the probe cannot be the ground for acquitting the accused. It also contended that a conspiracy is hatched in secrecy and hence there cannot be a direct evidence of it.

The petitioners claimed the order passed by the special NIA court July 31 acquitting the seven accused was wrong and bad in law and hence deserves to be quashed.

The appeal, filed Monday by Nisar Ahmed Sayyed Bilal and five others through their advocate Mateen Shaikh, sought the HC to quash the special court judgment.

As per the HC website, the appeal is likely to come up for hearing before a division bench headed by Justice A S Gadkari September 15.

An explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon town, located about 200 km from Mumbai in Maharashtra's Nashik district, September 29, 2008, killing six persons and injuring 101 others.

The claim said the trial court judge should not act as a "post-man or mute spectator" in a criminal trial. When the prosecution failed to elicit facts, the trial court can ask questions and/or summon witnesses, it added.

It also pointed out that the previous special public prosecutor, Rohini Salian, had alleged pressure from the NIA to go slow in the case against the accused after which a new



prosecutor was appointed.

The appeal also raised concerns over the manner in which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted the probe and trial in the case and sought for the accused to be convicted.

The state Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), by arresting the seven persons, unearthed a large conspiracy and since then there has been no blast in areas populated by the minority community, the appeal said.

It claimed the NIA, after taking over the case, diluted the allegations against the accused persons.

The appeal further claimed the special court had erred in coming to the conclusion that the motorcycle used in the blast was not owned by Thakur and the RDX used was not procured by Purohit.

There was enough evidence to show the accused persons had hatched the conspiracy to carry out the blast and the special court had erred in holding that there was only strong suspicion against the accused but not sufficient evidence to convict them, it said.

The appeal said a conspiracy is hatched in secrecy and hence there cannot be any direct evidence of the same.

The special court had in its judgment said mere suspicion cannot replace real proof and there was no cogent or reliable evidence to warrant conviction.

Special judge A K Lahoti, presiding over the NIA court, had said there was no "reliable and cogent evidence" against the accused that proved the case beyond reasonable doubt.

Launched in 2019, NCAP is India's first national initiative to set clean air targets, aiming for a 40 per cent reduction in particulate pollution by 2026, using 2019-20 as the base year

(West Bengal), Kalinga Nagar (Odisha), Nalbari (Assam), Jalgaon (Maharashtra), Faridabad (Haryana), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Hyderabad (Telangana) and Bengaluru (Karnataka), remained below 75 per cent.

In the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan rankings published on

Tuesday, Delhi ranked 32nd among 48 cities and urban agglomerations assessed for their clean air efforts.

Indore ranked first among cities with more than 10 lakh population, followed by Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh). Agra (Uttar Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) shared the third spot.

In the 3-10 lakh population category, Amravati (Maharashtra) stood first, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) and Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) were joint second, while Alwar (Rajasthan) took the third position. Noida ranked 9th in this category.

The panel also directed state pollution control boards and committees to complete source apportionment and emission inventory studies by October 15. So far, 79 cities have completed these studies.

We are against the SIR. Our party's stand is that of the INDIA alliance. It cannot be done in two or three months

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Vice President of India-elect Shri. C P Radhakrishnan avaru. I am sure he'll work towards strengthening our democratic traditions and institutions. May God bless him

H D DEVE GOWDA | FORMER PM

I am working with the shipping ministry to see what policy changes can help us attract vessels to flag in India... we are working with the mining industry to see how we can reduce our dependence on coal from other countries and bring down the cost of raw material so that we can be more competitive with rest of the world

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

XPOST

OF THE DAY

BREAKING : Massive protest against BJP government in Bihar

Students are hitting streets in Patna regarding the teachers vacancy Will Godi media channels who covered Nepal protest telecast it?

@Amockx2022

SHORT TAKES

Preparation in full swing in Mizoram for PM's visit

Aizawl: Preparations are in full swing in Mizoram ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit September 13, during which he is scheduled to unveil several developmental projects, including a railway line. Chief Minister Lalduhoma Tuesday convened a meeting of senior officials to review preparedness for the PM's visit, an official statement said. Chief Secretary Khilli Ram Meena gave a detailed account of the preparative meeting held September 6 and the arrangements made so far, after which various departments and stakeholders discussed their responsibilities and plans, it said.

Woman found hanging from tree

New Delhi: A 23-year-old woman was found hanging from a roadside tree in Delhi's Begumpur area, an official said Tuesday. A PCR call was received around 5.30 pm Monday informing that a woman was found hanging from a tree near Kali Mata Chowk, Sector 37, Bhagwan Mahavir Road, he said.

Five suspected drug peddlers arrested

Srinagar: Police in Jammu and Kashmir arrested five suspected drug peddlers, including a woman, from different parts of the region Tuesday, officials said. In the Kupwara district of north Kashmir, a woman drug peddler was arrested at Sadhna Top in the Karnah area during a routine security check. The arrested woman, identified as Alaf Noor from Khawarpara, Karnah, was stopped at a checkpoint and subjected to a search, following which a substantial quantity of contraband was recovered from her possession, a police spokesperson said.

True empowerment is shaped by the recognition of the rights of the people. It is strengthened by respect for those rights and sustained by the representation of tribal communities. She urged members of tribal communities to take active responsibility for their development journey

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

MAURITIUS PM ARRIVES IN MUMBAI

Prime Minister of Mauritius Navinchandra Ramgoolam reached Mumbai Tuesday at the start of his eight-day visit to India. Ramgoolam landed at Mumbai airport in the morning by a commercial flight from Port Louis, an official said

PREZ REFERENCE

Guv expected to act on Bills within reasonable time: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Supreme Court Tuesday said governors were expected to act within “reasonable time” even if the term “as soon as possible” were not there in Article 200 that governs powers to assent to Bills passed by the state legislature.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai, hearing arguments on the eighth day on the presidential reference, whether the court could impose timelines for governors and President to deal with bills passed by assemblies, reiterated it would only interpret the Constitution and not examine facts of individual cases.

Article 200 governs powers of Governor regarding bills passed by the state legislature, allowing them to either assent to the Bill, withhold assent, return the Bill for reconsideration or reserve the bill for the consideration of President.

The first proviso of Article 200 says Governor may, as soon as possible, after the presentation to him of the bill for assent, return the Bill, if it is not a money bill, to the house for reconsideration and shall not withhold the consent after

the assembly reconsiders and sends it back to him.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar, was urged by senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the Punjab government, that the framers of the Constitution put “as soon as possible” in Article 200 and there was no fetters for the court in setting the timeline of three months for grant of assent to bills.

“Even if the term ‘as soon as possible’ were not there, the Governor was expected to act within reasonable time,” the bench said.

Senior advocate K K Venugopal, appearing for Kerala, said former state Governor Arif Mohammad Khan had followed a practice of sending bills to the ministries concerned for briefing him whenever he received them. “We will not be deciding individual matters,” the CJI said.

Indian airlines cancel flights to Kathmandu

NEW DELHI: Air India and IndiGo are among the airlines that cancelled their flights connecting Kathmandu Tuesday as the airport in Nepal's capital has been temporarily closed amid massive anti-government protests in the neighbouring nation. Nepal Airlines also cancelled its flight from Delhi to Kathmandu Tuesday. A source said one of the flights of Air India returned to the national capital Tuesday as smoke was noticed at the Kathmandu airport during final approach of the aircraft.

the Gasdi area adjoining the border. In Maharajganj, Superintendent of Police Somendra Meena said a high alert has been issued at the Sonauli border with additional checks of travellers and vehicles.

Transporters reported a sharp decline in bus passengers headed to Nepal, while local tour operators said several trips had been cancelled.

The Ministry of External Affairs Tuesday issued an advisory asking Indian nationals to defer travel to Nepal until the situation stabilises.

The officials said Shrivasti and Bahraich districts have also intensified joint patrolling.

Border Force Commander Gan-ga Singh Udawat said move-ment across the border has halved.

Reports from Bahraich's Rupaidiha border and Nepal-gunj town suggested simmering anger among locals after the death of youths during protests.

Schools in Nepalgunj re-mained shut Tuesday and four-wheelers from India were restricted for safety reasons.

In Lakhimpur Kheri, SP Sankalp Sharma said cross-border trade had been temporarily halted and additional forces de-ployed along checkpoints. Mar-kets in the Gaurifanta border area wore a deserted look as

SNIPPETS

Siachen: 3 soldiers killed as avalanche hits Army camp

Leh: Three soldiers lost their lives when an avalanche struck Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, in the Union territory of Ladakh, officials said Tuesday. The avalanche occurred in the 12,000-feet-high Siachen base camp area, trapping three soldiers, including two Agniveers, the officials said. They said a rescue operation was immediately launched, and the bodies of the trapped soldiers were retrieved Tuesday. Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps identified the deceased as Sepoy Mohit Kumar, Agniveers Niraj Kumar Choudhary and Dabhi Rakesh Devabhai.

Aishwarya Rai urges Delhi HC to restrain illegal use of name

New Delhi: Bollywood actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan Tuesday urged the Delhi High Court to protect her personality rights and restrain online platforms from illegally using her name, images and AI-generated pornographic content. Justice Tejas Karia orally hinted that he would pass an ad-interim order cautioning the defendants. The suit related to misappropriation of various aspects of her personality, including her name, image, likeness, persona and voice, and the defendants are using them for their own commercial gain without obtaining her consent.

India repatriates 48 Pak fishermen, 19 civilians

New Delhi: India Tuesday repatriated 67 Pakistani nationals including 48 fishermen as they completed jail terms. New Delhi also urged Pakistan to expedite the release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners, including fishermen who remained in its custody. “Forty-eight Pakistani fishermen and 19 Pakistani civilian prisoners, who had completed their sentences, were repatriated today via Attari/Wagah border,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Mumbai EOW summons businessman Raj Kundra

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty's husband and businessman Raj Kundra has been summoned by the Economic Offenses Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police in connection with an alleged Rs 60 crore cheating case, an official said Tuesday. Kundra, accused of diverting a loan amount, has been asked to appear before EOW officials September 15.

CP Radhakrishnan: Rooted in RSS, soft-spoken

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Strongly rooted in the RSS and the BJP, Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan, who was Tuesday elected as the 15th Vice President of India, brings along a rich political and administrative experience which will prove handy in his role as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Seen as a soft-spoken and non-confrontational leader, the 67-year-old Radhakrishnan succeeds Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned as vice president July 21, taking everyone by surprise. He is the third leader from Tamil Nadu to occupy the coveted post.

Described as a ‘Pachai Tam-izhan’ (true-blue Tamil) by well-wishers, Radhakrishnan was serving as the Governor of Maharashtra when he was named as the vice presidential nominee of the BJP-led NDA.

A two-term member of the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore during the tenure of prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpay-ee, Radhakrishnan came close

to becoming a Union minister, but had to lose out to fellow Tamilan Pon Radhakrishnan in 1998 after some confusion over his name by the then floor managers of the BJP.

Radhakrishnan joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as a teenager and rose through the ranks in the organisation and later in the BJP, gaining acceptability in the party and the state.

A member of the socially dominant and economically

prosperous Kongu Vellalar Gounder community, he be-came the secretary of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit in 1996 and served as the party's state unit president between 2003 and 2006.

An avid sportsperson, Rad-hakrishnan was a college champion in table tennis and a long-distance runner. He also enjoys cricket and volleyball.

Radhakrishnan is considered an untainted leader with rich political and administrative ex-

perience for the vice president's office and this would also prove useful as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The Tamil Nadu leader is said to be held in high esteem across party lines in his state, resulting in the BJP giving him multiple gubernatorial assignments in Jharkhand, Telangana, Maharashtra and Puducherry.

Radhakrishnan's candi-date also seeks to disarm the Opposition of a key political narrative, as he is the first OBC leader from South India to be named for the vice-pres-ident's office.

An official profile circulat-ed by the NDA projects Rad-hakrishnan as a leader who is eminent, knowledgeable and untainted by any legal accusations.

Radhakrishnan's political innings started with his asso-ciation with organisations such as the RSS and the Jan Sangh.

He took up student politics and has since used politics as a medium to serve the people.

Radhakrishnan's track re-cord of holding electoral, or-

ganisational and constitutional responsibilities shows that he is set to create history as the vice president of India.

He was sworn in as the gov-ernor of Maharashtra on July 31, 2024. Before this, he served as the governor of Jharkhand for nearly one-and-a-half years.

Born October 20, 1957, at Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, Rad-hakrishnan has a Bachelor's degree in Business Adminis-tration.

Starting as an RSS swayam-sevak at the age of 16, he be-came a state executive com-mittee member of the Bharatiya Janasangh in 1974.

Between 2004 and 2007, Radhakrishnan served as the Tamil Nadu BJP president. In this role, he undertook a 19,000-km 'Rath Yatra' that lasted for 93 days.

The Yatra was organised to highlight his demands for the linking of all Indian rivers, eradicating terrorism, im-plementing a uniform civil code, removing untouchability and combating the menace of nar-cotic drugs, some of the key planks of the BJP and the RSS.

Ideological battle continues with ever greater vigour: Reddy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Opposi-tion's vice presidential candi-date B Sudershan Reddy Tues-day said he humbly accepts the defeat in the vice presidential polls and asserted that democ-racy is strengthened not by victory alone, but by the spirit of dia-logue, dissent, and participation.

In a statement issued soon after NDA nominee CP Rad-hakrishnan was declared elect-ed to the post of vice president, Reddy said that though the result was not in his favour, the larger cause “we have col-lectively sought to advance, remains undiminished”.

“The ideological battle contin-ues with ever greater vigour,” Reddy said. “I humbly accept this outcome with an abiding faith in the democratic process-es of our great republic. This journey has been a profound honour, offering me the oppor-tunity to stand for the values that have guided my life – con-stitutional morality, justice, and the dignity of every individual.”

of the day

quote

In an attempt to appease the lobby that opposes the current government in Afghanistan, Asim Munir, in his short-sightedness, is destroying the peace that was established in the region during our tenure. Where there should have been a strong relationship, things are being made worse



IMRAN KHAN | JAILED EX-PM, PAKISTAN

Our relationship with Russia is deep and has witnessed periods of friendship and cooperation, but there has never been a balance. Any foreign presence on our soil must be aimed at helping the Syrian people build their future



ASAAD AL-SHIBANI | FOREIGN MINISTER, SYRIA

We really count on your contribution and the close relationship that China maintains with the Russian Federation in order for us to build, as fast as possible, a just and lasting peace in Ukraine



LUIS MONTENEGRO | PRIME MINISTER, PORTUGAL

SHORT TAKES

ICC opens war crimes case against Kony

The Hague: International Criminal Court prosecutors will begin presenting evidence Tuesday to support their charges against fugitive Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony at the global court's first-ever in absentia hearing. Kony, the founder and leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, faces accusations of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The court's so-called confirmation of charges hearing comes two decades after it issued an arrest warrant for Kony over his alleged leadership of the brutal rebel group, which became notorious for atrocities, including kidnapping children and mutilating captives. The ICC hearing is not a trial, but allows prosecutors to outline their case in court.

Pakistan, China to fund \$7bn CPEC rail

Islamabad: Pakistan and China have agreed to form a consortium of bilateral and multilateral partners to finance a \$7 billion railway project, along with a four-year action plan (2025-29) for the second phase of the CPEC initiative. Pakistan and China recently launched the second phase of the controversial China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Speaking at a news conference, Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China, the two sides had agreed to constitute a consortium of financiers, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), China and Pakistan, for the 1,700-km Karachi-Peshawar railway line, the Dawn newspaper reported Tuesday.

Lankan Parl to strip ex-Prezs' privileges

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Supreme Court has ruled that the bill to withdraw presidential privileges extended to former presidents and their widows can be approved in Parliament by a simple majority. The court's ruling was read out in Parliament Tuesday by Speaker Jagath Wickremaratna. "The Supreme Court has determined that no provision of the bill is inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution and can be enacted by Parliament with a simple majority," he said.



Sweden will lower the age of criminal responsibility from the current 15

ULF KRISTERSSON | PRIME MINISTER, SWEDEN

THAILAND EX-PM JAILED FOR A YEAR

Thailand's influential former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was sent to prison Tuesday after the Supreme Court ruled his hospital detention was a ploy to avoid jail, a major blow for a powerful family that has dominated politics for two decades



REBEL-TURNED-LEADER FAILS TO STABILISE NEPAL

Oli's resignation following violent anti-corruption protests that left 19 people dead was the latest twist in a roller-coaster political career that has mirrored the volatility of modern Nepalese politics

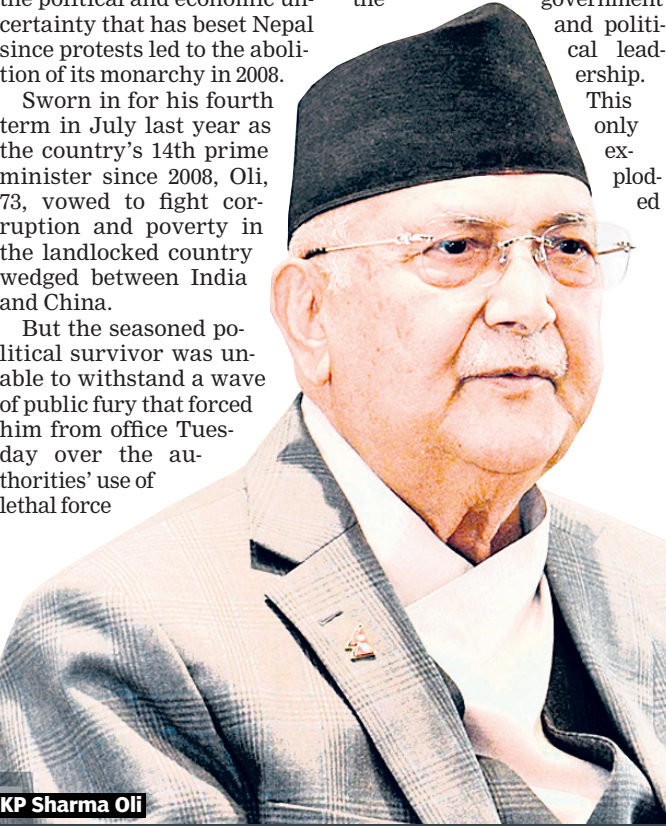
REUTERS

Kathmandu, Sept 9: Nepalese communist leader KP Sharma Oli was sworn in as prime minister a year ago promising stability and jobs but resigned abruptly Tuesday after the worst unrest in decades amid accusations of corruption and authoritarian rule. His resignation following violent anti-corruption protests that left 19 people dead was the latest twist in a roller-coaster political career that has mirrored the volatility of modern Nepalese politics. From a teenage revolutionary imprisoned for 14 years to a four-time prime minister, Oli has been a central player in the political and economic uncertainty that has beset Nepal since protests led to the abolition of its monarchy in 2008. Sworn in for his fourth term in July last year as the country's 14th prime minister since 2008, Oli, 73, vowed to fight corruption and poverty in the landlocked country wedged between India and China. But the seasoned political survivor was unable to withstand a wave of public fury that forced him from office Tuesday over the authorities' use of lethal force

against demonstrators the previous day.

An aide to Oli said the outgoing prime minister's private residence had been set on fire by demonstrators celebrating his ousting. Television images showed protesters barging into the compound and ransacking the property - shattering windows, and breaking pots, chairs and other furniture - before setting the structure on fire. Security forces, appearing to be outnumbered, watched from a few metres away. "There was a lot of dissatisfaction among the people with the government and political leadership. This only exploded

Social media ban backfired, sparking deadly unrest
Critics say Oli failed to fix economy, end graft
Seen by some as close to China, Oli vowed neutrality



KP Sharma Oli

yesterday. The carnage has made people sensitive," Bipin Adhikari, a prominent constitutional expert told Reuters, hours before Oli resigned.

His decision last week to block access to several social media platforms, including Meta Platforms' META.O Facebook, sparked nationwide protests, led by Gen Z activists who accused him of silencing dissent and protecting a corrupt elite.

The government denied trying to throttle free speech, and cited misuse of social media to spread disinformation and commit fraud, among other concerns.

Protesters also blamed Oli for many of the Himalayan nation's ills, saying his latest tenure as prime minister was marked by entrenched corruption, economic stagnation and authoritarianism.

Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries and political instability has discouraged investment and hobbled its economic development, forcing millions of young people to seek work mainly in Malaysia, South Korea and the Middle East.

Born in 1952 in eastern Nepal, Oli's early life was marked by hardship. His mother died of smallpox when he was four, and his family was displaced by floods, forcing him to live with his grandparents.

He entered politics as a young activist aligned with communist ideology, and was imprisoned for 14 years during the 1970s and 1980s for opposing the monarchy, an experience that shaped his political outlook and public image.

He was a founding member of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), or CPN-UML, and became prominent nationally, developing an ability to forge political alliances.

He held key ministerial roles including as interior and foreign minister, and served four times as prime minister.

Oli first assumed the premiership in 2015, at a time when a blockade of its border crossings with India left the

Nepal internet crackdown part of global trend toward suppressing online freedom



Nepal's recent social media blackout, which led to nationwide protests and at least 19 deaths, highlights a growing global trend of governments tightening control over the internet. The ban, imposed after major platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and X failed to register with the government, was lifted Tuesday following public outcry and violent unrest. Experts say Nepal's actions reflect a broader pattern across South Asia and beyond, where governments increasingly crack down on digital platforms under the guise of regulation. "This is taken from a now well-established playbook of trying to control social media narratives," said Aditya Vashistha, assistant professor at Cornell University, pointing to similar actions in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Authorities in Nepal argue the move is about

accountability, demanding tech companies appoint local liaisons and comply with new laws aimed at content regulation. While these laws include valid aims like tackling child trafficking and cybercrime, critics argue they are also being used to suppress dissent. One clause, for instance, restricts anonymous posting — a common protection for activists and whistleblowers. Kian Vesteinsson, a senior analyst at Freedom House, warns such blanket bans do more harm than good. "These measures cut tens of millions off from platforms they use for work, communication, and education," he said. "They're wildly disproportionate." The Committee to Protect Journalists condemned the social media ban, calling it a blow to free expression and a hindrance to the press. In response to the censorship, the use of VPNs

in Nepal has surged by 8,000% since September 3, according to encryption service provider Proton. But VPNs remain an imperfect solution—often costly, slow, and inaccessible to many. Globally, internet freedom has declined for the 14th consecutive year, according to Freedom House. While China and Myanmar remain the most repressive, democratic nations like Nepal are increasingly adopting restrictive policies. These often come under the banner of cybersecurity or misinformation control, but carry severe consequences for free speech and access to information. As Vesteinsson noted, internet freedom is a "pillar of modern democracy," and efforts to regulate tech platforms must be balanced with the rights of users. "Governments have a valid role in setting rules," he said, "but not at the cost of silencing voices."

country short of fuel and medicine for several months.

His government responded by signing a transit agreement with Beijing, ending India's monopoly over Nepal's trade route.

Both Asian giants have been locked in a high stakes battle for influence in Nepal, and Oli's fall will be closely watched by India and China.

Considered by some political watchers to be closer to Chi-

na, Oli adopted a tougher line with India in his first term as he whipped up nationalist sentiment while altering Nepal's map over disputed land by including territories controlled by India.

Macron names Lecornu as France's new PM

REUTERS

Paris, Sept 9: French President Emmanuel Macron named loyalist Sebastien Lecornu, a one-time conservative protege who rallied behind his 2017 presidential run, as prime minister Tuesday, defying expectations he might tack towards the left.

The choice of Lecornu, 39, indicates Macron's determination to press on with a minority government that stands firmly behind his pro-business economic reform agenda, under which taxes on business and the wealthy have been cut and the retirement age raised.

Macron was forced to appoint a fifth prime minister in less than two years after parliament ousted Francois Bayrou nine months into the role over his plans for taming the country's



ballooning debt.

In handing the job to Lecornu, Macron risks alienating the centre-left Socialist Party and leaves the president and his government depending on Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally for support in parliament.

Lecornu's immediate priority will be to forge consensus on a budget for 2026, a task that proved the undoing of Bayrou who had pushed for aggressive spending cuts to rein in a deficit standing at nearly double the EU ceiling of 3% of GDP.

Israel targets Hamas leaders in Doha

REUTERS

Doha, Sept 9: Israel launched an airstrike against the leaders of arch foe Hamas in Qatar Tuesday, expanding its wide-ranging military actions in the Middle East to include the Gulf Arab state where the Palestinian Islamit group has long had its political base.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said hitting Hamas was a worthy goal, but the United States felt badly about the location of the attack.

Qatar is a key security partner of the United States and host to al-Udeid Air Base, the largest US military facility in the Middle East. It has acted as a mediator alongside Egypt in talks on a ceasefire in the al-most two-year-old war in Gaza.



Leavitt told a briefing that the Trump administration was notified by the Pentagon that Israel was attacking Hamas in Qatar "just before" and President Donald Trump spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after it. Leavitt also said the US military was notified "just before the attack", but did not respond when asked by whom.

"The Trump administration was notified by the United States military that Israel was

attacking Hamas, which very unfortunately, was located in a section of Doha, the capital of Qatar," Leavitt told the White House briefing.

"Unilaterally bombing inside Qatar - a sovereign nation and close ally of the United States that is working very hard in bravely taking risks with us to broker peace - does not advance Israel or America's goals. However, eliminating Hamas, who have profited off the misery of those living in Gaza, is a worthy goal."

Qatar condemned Tuesday's attack as "cowardly" and called it a flagrant violation of international law. The assault is likely to deal a serious, if not fatal, blow to the ceasefire efforts, especially since negotiations have often taken place in Qatar.

Hamas said five of its mem-

bers had been killed in the attack in Doha, including the son of Hamas's exiled Gaza chief and top negotiator Khalil al-Hayya. It said Israel had failed in what Hamas called an attempt to assassinate the group's ceasefire negotiation team.

The Israeli military, meanwhile, issued evacuation orders for residents of Gaza City, causing panic and confusion, after Israel said it was about to obliterate the area in an assault to wipe out Hamas.

Residents of Gaza's biggest urban area, home to a million Palestinians before the war, have been expecting an onslaught for weeks, since the Israeli government devised a plan to deal Hamas a fatal blow in what it says are the group's last strongholds.

Pak spying on millions through phone-tapping, firewall: Amnesty

REUTERS

Karachi, Sept 9: Pakistan is spying on millions of its citizens using a phone-tapping system and a Chinese-built internet firewall that censors social media, in one of the most comprehensive examples of state surveillance outside China, Amnesty International said.

The rights watchdog said in a report released Tuesday that Pakistan's growing monitoring network was built using both Chinese and Western technology and powered a sweeping crackdown on dissent and free speech.

Already restricted political and media freedoms in Pakistan have tightened in recent years, particularly after the military broke with then-Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2022, who was later jailed and thou-

Amnesty: Pakistan runs vast surveillance, firewall
Four million people monitored via phone-tapping system
Firewall handles 2 million sessions, blocks sites
650,000 sites blocked, Amnesty says

sands of his party activists were detained.

Pakistan's spy agencies can monitor at least 4 million mobile phones at a time through its Lawful Intercept Management System (LIMS), while a firewall known as WMS 2.0 that inspects internet traffic can block 2 million active sessions at a time, Amnesty said.

The two monitoring systems function in tandem: one lets in-



telligence agencies tap calls and texts while the other slows or blocks websites and social media across the country, it said.

The number of phones under surveillance could be higher as all four major mobile op-

erators have been ordered to connect to LIMS, Amnesty technologist Jurre van Berge told Reuters.

"Mass surveillance creates a chilling effect in society, whereby people are deterred

from exercising their rights, both online and offline," the report said.

Amnesty said its findings draw on a 2024 Islamabad High Court case filed by Bushra Bibi, the wife of former premier Khan, after her private calls were leaked online.

In court, Pakistan's defence ministries and intelligence agencies denied running or even having the capacity for phone tapping. But under questioning, the telecom regulator acknowledged it had already ordered phone companies to install LIMS for use by "designated agencies."

Pakistan's technology, interior, and information ministries, as well as the telecom regulator, did not respond to questions from Reuters about the Amnesty report.

FOREIGN SUPPLIERS

Pakistan is currently blocking about 650,000 web links and restricting platforms such as YouTube, Facebook and X, Amnesty said.

The controls have hit hardest in the insurgency-hit Balochistan province, where districts have faced years-long internet blackouts, and rights groups accuse the military of disappearances and killings of Baloch and Pashtun activists, charges it denies. Amnesty said it also reviewed licensing agreements, trade data, leaked technical files and Chinese records tying the firewall supplier to state-owned firms in Beijing.

It added that the firewall is supplied by the Chinese company Geedge Networks. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

business

Quote of the day

We see technology not just as an enabler, but as a catalyst for reinvention. Navigate Tax Hub exemplifies this shift



SANJEEV KRISHAN | CHAIRPERSON, PWC

The situation in Nepal is slightly similar situation had happened in Bangladesh but we did not see any major long-term impact on Marico but Emami, etc, did see an impact



ABHINESH ROY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RESEARCH), NUVAMA INSTITUTIONAL EQUITIES

Trade talks with the European Union are progressing fast and both sides would be in a position to "substantially conclude" the agreement by the time EU Trade and Agriculture commissioners visit India.



PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Flipkart expands

New Delhi: E-commerce major Flipkart Tuesday announced expansion of its supply chain footprint across the Northeast region, to support surging demand in what it calls one of its fastest-growing markets. Flipkart has established over 6 lakh sq. ft. of warehousing capacity in Guwahati, encompassing facilities for non-large, large, and grocery items. In Agartala (Tripura), a new grocery fulfilment centre is now operational, capable of dispatching 5,000 orders daily, according to a company statement. The Northeast has an active network of over 2,000 distributors and retailers on the Flipkart Reset for Business platform, contributing to approximately 30 per cent of the overall business, it added. The company is also scaling its quick commerce offering, Flipkart Minutes, with nine Micro Fulfilment Centres (MFCs) already live in Guwahati and more in progress.

SEBI amends InvITs rules

New Delhi: Markets regulator SEBI has notified rules to reduce the minimum allotment lot in the primary market for privately placed infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to ₹25 lakh, aligning it with the trading lot size in the secondary market. Prior to this, the minimum allotment lot in the primary market for privately placed InvITs was ₹1 crore or ₹25 crore, depending on the asset mix. However, in an earlier round of reforms, the trading lot size in the secondary market had already been reduced to ₹25 lakh, irrespective of the asset mix. Accordingly, this amendment introduces a uniform minimum allotment size of ₹25 lakh in the primary market for all privately placed InvITs, harmonizing it with the secondary market norms.

Zupee unveils Studio

New Delhi: Gaming platform Zupee Tuesday announced its expansion beyond online gaming with the launch of Zupee Studio, a short-format content platform. The move comes shortly after the company had to suspend its core real-money gaming operations last month following new central legislation. Zupee Studio will offer 1-3 minute "mini-episodes" across genres like romance, drama, thriller, and comedy, designed for mobile-first viewing, the company said in a statement.



India is eyeing markets of 40 countries for pushing its textile exports following the imposition of 50 per cent tariffs by the US, which is the biggest market for the country's apparel shipments

GIRIRAJ SINGH | UNION MINISTER

Govt for revised MRP on unsold stock

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The government Tuesday directed manufacturers and importers to declare revised maximum retail prices (MRP) on unsold stock to reflect changes in goods and services tax (GST) rates, with the deadline set for December 31 or until stocks are exhausted, whichever is earlier.

The directive comes as the government has reduced GST on various products and services, which will come into effect from September 22.

"As per the new GST rates, manufacturers, packers, and importers can revise the MRP on unsold stock until 31st December 2025 (or until stock lasts)," Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a social media post on X.

The minister emphasised that the revised prices must reflect GST changes only. "Any increase or decrease in price can only match the tax change," Joshi said.

According to the directive,



the new MRP should be declared with a sticker, stamp or online print, while ensuring the original MRP remains visible.

The government has also mandated that manufacturers, packers or importers make at least two advertisements in one or more newspapers regarding the price revision.

They must also inform dealers and state/central government officials about the change in prices of such packages.

Companies are required to

inform consumers through advertisements and public notices. "This measure ensures transparency and protects consumer interests," Joshi added.

The government has clarified that packaging material or wrappers that could not be exhausted prior to the GST revision may be used for packing until December 31 or until such stock is exhausted, whichever is earlier, after making corrections in MRP on account of GST changes.

Revised rules for delisting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Markets regulator Security Exchange Board of India has introduced special measures for voluntary delisting of PSUs, where the government owns 90 per cent or more stakes, in a move aimed at streamlining the exit process.

Such measures include relaxations from the requirement of a two-thirds threshold for approving delisting by public shareholders and in the mode of computation of the floor price. Also, such delisting can happen at a fixed price – at least 15 per cent premium over the floor price– regardless of trading frequency.

In its notification dated September 1, Sebi said the rule is applicable for PSUs– excluding banks, Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and insurance companies– where the state owns 90 per cent or more stakes.

The floor price for delisting will be calculated using the highest of three options– volume weighted average price paid during the 52 weeks immediately preceding the reference date; highest price paid during

the 26 weeks immediately preceding the reference date; and the price determined by the joint valuation report obtained by two independent registered valuers.

Under the current earlier delisting rules, delisting is successful if promoter shareholding reaches 90 per cent. Moreover, the floor price for delisting is calculated using several pricing metrics such as the 60-day average price and the highest price in the last 26 weeks.

PSUs, delisted under this special provisions, undertaking voluntary strike-off which if, effected after the date of delisting but not later than 30 days from the expiry of the one-year period subsequent to delisting, then the amount which is due to the public shareholders who have not tendered their shares during the period of one year from the date of delisting would be transferred to an appropriate account of designated stock exchange.

This would be held for a period of 7 years, during which time the investors can claim such amount from the stock exchange.

JANE STREET CASE SAT seeks SEBI explanation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 9: The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) Tuesday asked Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to explain the reasons for not sharing documents with Jane Street in the next three weeks and kept the hedge fund's appeal against the markets regulator for hearing November 18.

At the maiden hearing of the Jane Street appeal, SEBI counsel told the tribunal that the regulator has already given 10 GB of data to the hedge fund, and added that the July order barring the hedge fund is only an interim one, with the final one pending.

The regulator alleged that Jane Street is not sharing the trading strategy adopted by it, but is demanding internal circulars. It can be noted that July 3, SEBI had come out with an order asking Jane Street to pay ill-gotten gains of over ₹4,800 crore through alleged market manipulation and had also barred the entity from the capital markets.

Jane Street last week filed an appeal against the interim order.

In the appeal, Jane Street alleges that sufficient information and access to documents imperative for putting up a defence have been denied by SEBI and claims that a recent inspection by the board department had concluded that there was no manipulation. As per the Jane Street lawyer, a total of 61 documents have been sought from SEBI, which was countered as a very large list by the regulator. The counsel for Jane Street informed the SAT that even though paying off the amount has helped lift the ban on the hedge fund, it has yet to start trading on Indian markets.

Sensex rises 314 pts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 9: Benchmark Sensex rose by 314 points and Nifty closed above 24,850 Tuesday following a rebound in IT and FMCG shares and hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve later this month.

Rising for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 314.02 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 81,101.32. During the day, it surged 394.07 points or 0.48 per cent to 81,181.37.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 95.45 points or 0.39 per cent to 24,868.60.

Among Sensex firms, Infosys jumped 5.03 per cent after India's second-largest IT services company said its board will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares on September 11.

Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Sun Pharma, HUL, ITC and Bajaj Finserv were also among the gainers.

However, Trent, Eternal, UltraTech Cement and NTPC were among the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge edged higher by 0.22 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.20 per cent.

Deeksharambh: MITS organises orientation prog



Rayagada: The Majhighariani Institute of Technology & Science (MITS), Rayagada, successfully organised the Deeksharambh Orientation Program for the fresh batch of BBA, BCA, MCA, B.Sc. Biotechnology, B.Sc. Food Technology, and M.Sc. Biotechnology students today at 11AM in Basant Auditorium. The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest Arabinda Swamy, AGM, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Sunabeda and Guest of Honour, Sunil Kumar Pradhan, Assistant Director, JK Paper Mills Ltd. The dignitaries inaugurated the event in the august presence of Chairman Balakrishna Panda, Director C V Gopinath, Dean Santanu Mohanty, and Principal Ramanuja Nayak. In his address, Balakrishna Panda congratulated the students for choosing MITS as the destination for their higher education. C V Gopinath, Santanu Mohanty, and Ramanuja Nayak extended a warm welcome to the freshers, assuring them of the institute's continuous support in shaping their professional careers.

JCB India welcomes GST reforms

Bhubaneswar: Deepak Shetty, CEO and Managing Director of JCB India Ltd said, "We welcome the forward looking GST reforms. The move to a simplified two rate GST structure and resolution of inverted duty issues will improve ease of doing business. Ahead of the festive season, lower GST on agricultural inputs like tractors, farm machinery, and irrigation systems will benefit rural customers by reducing costs and energize the rural economy. These reforms align with the Govt of India's focus on infrastructure development and growth in the rural economy. Both are sectors to which JCB machines contribute immensely."

TVS Motor launches NTORQ 150

Bhubaneswar: TVS Motor Company has unveiled the NTORQ 150, positioning it as India's quickest and first Hyper Sport Scooter in Bhubaneswar here Tuesday. Priced at ₹1,19,000 (ex-showroom, all India), the new model is powered by a 149.7cc race-tuned O3CTech engine delivering 13.2 PS and 14.2 Nm torque. Inspired by stealth aircraft, the NTORQ 150 features a forward-biased stance, aerodynamic winglets, jet-inspired vents, MULTIPoint® projector headlamps, a signature 'T' tail lamp, and coloured alloy wheels. On the safety front, it comes equipped with ABS and traction control (segment-first), hazard lamps, crash and theft alerts, emergency brake warning, and follow-me headlamps. Speaking on the launch Raj Biswas, Group Brand Manager, TVS NTORQ, TVS Motor Company said, "The NTORQ 150 is designed to meet the evolving high-performance aspirations of Gen Z." The scooter will be available in two variants—Standard (Stealth Silver, Racing Red, Turbo Blue) and TFT Cluster (Nitro Green, Racing).



14th Cottonfab: Exhibition of Silks & Cotton

Bhubaneswar: An exhibition cum sale of quality hand crafted & handlooms fabrics organised by Samiti society for promoting exclusive cotton fabrics from different state of India. The society Samiti was working with a mission to revive & save traditional art of the rural artisans, with an objective to provide market to artisans and give platform to sale their artifacts products from rural belts of the country. The Samiti has been organised exhibition cum sale 14th (Fourteen times) in Bhubaneswar. Considering huge response in exhibition organised at different parts of country so far, the Samiti choose Bhubneswar for Manson season & Great Puja festival market for the artisans. Total 122 artisans from 12 states are here displayed their product which Lucknowi Chikankari dress material, Sarees, Kurta Payjama, Tops, Gujarat ethnic Print Kurtis, Dress Material, Rajasthani block printed, Kota Doria dress material, ladies kurta, lehnga-choli, Malmal, Bandhej suits, skirts-top, salwar & dupatta's, Punjab Phulkari dress material from Patiala, Madhya Pradesh Chanderi, Maheshwari, Baagprint, Batik print dress material, West Bengal Shantiniketan Tant, Khandai, Dhakai Jamdani sarees, dress material in Tussar, Clifton & Crepe, Odisha Sambhalpuri Ikkat Sarees, dress material, Andhra Pradesh Kalamkari Vegetable dyed, Mangalgiri, Gadwal Zari Border Dress material, Tamil Nadu Madurai Sarees, Dressmaterial, Parda & Bedcovers, Himachal Pradesh cotton Kurties & Tops, Uttar Pradesh's famous Banaras silk & cotton sarees, suit materials Chattisgarh silk & cotton and Khadi dress materials, Jharkhand Tussar Silk Dress and Sarees, Delhi chikankari embroidery dress material & Sarees, Sitapuri export quality darl(satranji), mats, runner and rugs, Jewellery, and many more textiles items of varied designs from various parts of country.



BoB organises financial saturation camp



event was graced by the MD and CEO Debadutta Chand with Zonal Head & GM Swapna Bandopadhyaya, Regional Head & DGM Satya Ranjan Mahapatra. Amongst other dignitaries present were VMNS Saibabu, DGM (Compliance & Assurance), Shiba Pada Nayak, DGM (Business Development), Rajeev Kumar Sinha, AGM & Deputy Regional Head and Sarpanch of Kaduanuagaon, Krushna Chandra Jena. In their respective addresses all the dignitaries emphasized on Bank's mission to extend formal banking services to the last mile and empower rural communities with easy access to financial products and subjects like PMJJBY, PMSBY, PMJDY, APY, Re-KYC and financial literacy and digital fraud awareness.

Kaduanuagaon: As part of the Government of India ongoing three-month financial inclusion saturation campaign, Bank of Baroda conducted impactful financial outreach camp September 8 at Kaduanuagaon village (Puri). The initiative witnessed the participation of more than 700 villagers, underlining the strong public interest in financial awareness and inclusion. This

UBI Cuttack settles staff death claim

Cuttack: Union Bank of India, under the dynamic leadership of General Manager HK Das, Zonal Head Bhubaneswar successfully organised a Cheque Presentation Ceremony at the OSAP 6 Battalion Campus, Odisha for the settlement of a staff accidental death claim. The settlement included ₹40 lakhs under the Union Super Salary Account for Government Employees along with ₹12.5 lakhs towards a Personal Loan, making the total claim settlement ₹52.5 lakhs. The cheque was handed over to Malati Hembram, wife of the deceased staff member Late Budharam Hembram. Speaking on the occasion, GM HK Das, Zonal Head Bhubaneswar elaborated on the exclusive benefits of the Customised Salary Account under Union Bank's tie-up with OSAP and highlighted the wide range of retail loan products available for government employees. The Commandant of OSAP, SN Mallick, expressed his appreciation for the Bank's prompt services and lauded the initiative. Senior OSAP officials including Assistant Commandant M Sai were also present. The programme was held under the guidance of Regional Head, Union bank of India, Regional Office Cuttack–Bibekananda Sarangi, and Leap Head Mrityunjay Kumar, and was meticulously arranged by BM Chauhagani, and Navanita Sen.



RARE EARTH

REUTERS

Faridabad, Sept 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping have discussed ways to improve trade, and Beijing has agreed to lift curbs on magnet exports but has not given a timeline.

Against this backdrop, Sterling and several other firms are expediting work on alternate technologies that eliminate magnets or use ferrite or "light" rare earths, materials for which there is no dependence on China.

China controls more than 90 per cent of the world's rare-earth processing capacity, giving it diplomatic clout and dominance over the supply chain, as the global pivot to EVs intensifies demand for the group of 17 elements vital to consumer electronics, EV batteries, and motor magnets.

India has the world's fifth-largest rare earth reserves, but lacks the ability to process them into magnets.

To address this, the government plans to offer incentives for mining and processing, while also seeking to collaborate with Japanese and South Korean companies to produce magnets.

CUT RARE EARTH DEPENDENCE

BMW and Nissan are already building EV motors that do not rely on rare earths.

However, the technology is yet to see widespread adoption as matching the compact size, light weight and performance of magnet-based motors remains a challenge. Rigorous testing requirements have further deterred many automakers.

But that appears to be changing amid concerns about China using rare earths as a political



tool. In 2010, Beijing briefly stopped shipments to Japan after a diplomatic dispute.

In Faridabad, Sterling has hooked up one motor to the back wheel of a stationary motorcycle in its lab and mounted another on a dynamometer to measure torque and power output, while various screens capture performance data.

These high-density reluctance motors use tightly wound metal coils, instead of rare-earth magnets, to generate magnetic force and power.

The technology belongs to Britain's Advanced Electric Machines, which in June signed a licensing deal with Sterling, enabling the Indian company to build the motors domestically.

- India races to cut reliance on Chinese rare earth magnets
- China resumes some rare earth exports to US, Europe, not India
- Part maker Sterling fast-tracks magnet-free motor production
- India's Sona Comstar has plans to make magnets domestically

'SCRAMBLING FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS'

In Japan, scientist Masato Sagawa, who invented a magnet using rare earth element neodymium in the 1980s, is advocating for rare-earth free alternatives, saying they would be cheaper.

In India, start-up Chara Technologies has spent five years refining its magnet-free motor technology to match and exceed the performance of existing

motors, CEO Bhaktha Kesha-vachar said.

While its motors are about 10 per cent to 15 per cent heavier, the company is seeing demand from customers in India and Europe, he said.

Chara, which has built motors for two and three-wheelers, will soon start production for small cars under a metric tonne.

US based Conifer is returning to long-used ferrite magnets in motors which Indian founder Ankit Somani says can deliver 10 per cent-30 per cent better range than incumbent designs with some innovation, and are much cheaper.

The company's Pune factory in western India is producing hundreds of motors and will hit its annual capacity of 70,000 units within two quarters, Somani said.

"Everybody's scrambling for local solutions," he added.

INDO-PAK ASIA CUP CLASH

Surya, Salman ‘won’t stop’ on-field aggression



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 9: India skipper Suryakumar Yadav Tuesday said his side will not hold back on aggression in the high-voltage Asia Cup clash against Pakistan September 14 as it is an important aspect of playing international sport.

His Pakistani counterpart Salman Ali Agha had identical views – no instructions but no shying away from it either. Before the Pakistan game, India will open their campaign against the UAE Wednesday.

“Temper? Sir, aggression is always there on the field when we take the field. And without aggression, I don’t think you can play this sport. And I’m sure, I’m very excited to take the field on the front foot,” Suryakumar replied when asked whether players will be told to dial down the intensity in the much-awaited Sunday clash of the T20 event.

The Asia Cup match is being held in the backdrop of border

tensions between India and Pakistan after 26 tourists were killed by terrorists in Pahalagam earlier this year leading to military action by India under Operation Sindoor.

Salman held a similar view on aggression but added that he wouldn’t be issuing any specific instructions to his players.

“Well, you don’t need to say anything to any player. Because everyone is individually very different. If someone wants to be aggressive on the field, they are more than welcome to do that.

“When it comes to fast bowlers, they are always aggressive,” Salman said.

The captains’ press conference and the trophy unveiling ceremony was followed by a question and answer session. The emcee requested the media to ask only apolitical questions.

In fact, Suryakumar and Salman weren’t even seated together as Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan took the place between them.

The Indian skipper was also asked if he would like to see a change in his team’s approach and philosophy.

“Why are you needling me?” he cheekily retorted.

“When you play a format you need to know how good is your preparation. Why mend something that isn’t broken? If something has given us results why would we need to change that aspect separately?” he said.

There was the inevitable question about who among Sanju Samson and Jitesh Sharma will make the cut in the playing XI on Wednesday.

Like all other skippers, Suryakumar also kept cards close to his chest but did not let go of his trademark cheeky humour while responding to the query on Samson as the scribe who threw the question at him also hailed from the keeper-batter’s native state Kerala.

“I will message you the whole team sir,” he laughed and then in a slightly serious tone added: “We are taking good care of

him. Don’t worry, we will take the right decision tomorrow.”

When quizzed on the pressure of being title favourites, he admitted that there is pressure of coming good.

“Who said that? (favourites) I haven’t heard it. But you have played in this format and you know how your preparations are. If your preparations are good, then you will be very confident when you take the field. We are playing T20 as a team after a long time.”

For Salman, the challenge is to prove that the team has moved beyond Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan – the two senior players who were dropped.

“We are playing very good cricket. I think for almost four months, we have won three series out of four. So we are doing very well as a team and at the same time, we are very excited.

“A lot of the boys will play Asia Cup for the first time but they are ready for the challenge,” he added.

Nikhat, Minakshi punch their way to quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Liverpool, Sept 9: Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen survived a gritty contest, while debutant Minakshi impressed on her maiden appearance as both Indian boxers stormed into the quarterfinals of the World Boxing Championships Tuesday.

Competing in her first international tournament since the Paris Olympics, Nikhat endured a scrappy women’s 51kg round of 16 contest to secure a unanimous decision against Japan’s Yuna Nishinaka.

Minakshi, who received a first-round bye, began her campaign with a commanding 5-0 win against China’s Wang Qiuping in the 48kg event, which is a non-Olympic category.

Indian men’s challenge, however, continued to falter. Lakshya Chahar (80kg) be-



came the seventh male pugilist to exit the competition, losing his round-of-16 bout 0-3 to France’s Yoerlin Cesar.

This followed Monday’s triple blow when Sumit Kundu (75kg), Sachin Siwach (60kg) and Asian Games bronze medalist Narendra Berwal (90+kg) all bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals.

Nishinaka troubled Nikhat with constant clinching and was docked two points for excessive holding. Both boxers started aggressively, surging forward with intent. Nikhat did just enough to hold her advantage, grinding out the victory to stay on course for a third World championships medal.

ASIA CUP 2025

Afghanistan kickstart campaign with 94-run win over Hong Kong

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi, Sept 9: Afghanistan beat Hong Kong by 94 runs in the Asia Cup opener in Abu Dhabi, Tuesday.

Afghanistan were superb across departments in their opening match of the Asia Cup 2025. Chasing 189 runs to win, Hong Kong managed 94/9 runs in 20 overs. Fazalhaq Farooqi, Noor Ahmad and Gulbadin Naib bowled well for Rashid

Khan’s team.

Earlier, the Afghans showed their might in the batting department despite losing some early wickets. Azmatullah Omarzai was the best of the lot, scoring 53 runs off 21 balls, with the help of 5 sixes and 3 fours.

Sediqullah Atal, the opening batter, remained unbeaten on a score of 73 runs off 52 deliveries. He smashed 6 fours and 3 sixes as Afghanistan posted 188/6 in 20 overs.



SHORT TAKES

Postecoglou new Nottingham coach

Nottingham: Ange Postecoglou is back in management after taking over as coach of Nottingham Forest Tuesday. The Australian was fired by Tottenham in June, but has made swift return to the Premier League – replacing Nuno Espirito Santo at Forest. “We are bringing a coach to the Club who has a proven and consistent record of winning trophies. His experience of coaching teams at the highest level, along with his desire to build something special with us at Forest, makes him a fantastic person to help us on our journey and achieve consistently all our ambitions,” said Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis. Postecoglou’s appointment concluded a frantic 24 hours at Forest, with Nuno’s departure confirmed shortly past midnight Tuesday, UK time. Within hours Postecoglou emerged as the favourite to take over and he was confirmed in his new role that afternoon.

Pakistan pacer Shinwari retires

Karachi: Pakistan left-arm pacer Usman Shinwari Tuesday announced retirement from international cricket, six years after he last played for the national team. The 31-year-old Shinwari, who has played just 34 matches for Pakistan across formats between 2013 and 2019, will, however, continue to play “league cricket”. He has played in one Test, 17 ODIs and 16 T20Is. “I have decided to retire from international cricket. As it has been an honor to represent Pakistan, but now it’s time to make way for the next generation,” Shinwari said on Instagram while announcing retirement. “I will continue playing league cricket to stay connected with the game and my fans, whose love and support have meant everything to me.” “Thank you Usman Shinwari,” read a caption on PCB website.

HONG KONG OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hong Kong, Sept 9: India’s top men’s doubles pair Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty began their Hong Kong Open Super 500 campaign on a winning note Tuesday, while Kiran George fought his way through qualifying to make the main draw of men’s singles competition here.

Satwik and Chirag, who recently bagged their second bronze medal at the World Championships in Paris, overcame Taiwan’s Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Wang Chi-Lin 21-13, 18-21, 21-10 in their opening round.

The former world No.1 combination looked sharp in the opener, allowed their rivals to force a decider, but reasserted control in the third with their

SATWIK-CHIRAG, KIRAN ADVANCE



trademark net domination and powerful smashes.

The eighth seeds will meet

the winners of the match between Japan’s Kenya Mitsuhashi/Hiroki Okamura and

Thailand’s Peeratchai Sukphum/Pakkapon Teeraratsakul. In men’s singles, Kiran

earned his main draw berth with back-to-back wins in the qualifiers.

He first dispatched Malaysia’s Cheam June Wei 21-14, 21-13 and then beat compatriot S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian 21-18, 21-14. Sankar had earlier outplayed England’s Wang Yue Hang 21-10, 21-5 in the opening round.

World No. 38 Kiran will face Singapore’s Jia Heng Jason Teh next. Tharun Mannepalli produced the biggest shock of the day, sending former world No.1 Kidambi Srikanth packing 28-26, 21-13 in the first round of qualifying.

The 20-year-old, however, could not sustain the momentum and went down 21-23, 13-21, 18-21 to Malaysia’s fourth seed Justin Hoh in his next match.

Extreme heat a rising threat to 2026 FIFA WC venues

The upcoming FIFA World Cup could be North America's last without urgent climate adaptation

REUTERS

London, Sept 9: The 2026 World Cup could be North America’s last without urgent climate adaptation, according to a new study highlighting extreme weather threats.

The “Pitches in Peril” report found that 10 of the 16 venues are at very high risk of experiencing extreme heat stress conditions.

By 2050, nearly 90% of North America’s host stadiums will require adaptation to extreme heat while one third will face water demand equalling or ex-

ceeding supply.

The report also highlighted risks to 2030 and 2034 World Cup venues and examined the impact of a warming climate on grassroots soccer pitches once used by 18 iconic players.

“As someone from Spain, I can’t ignore the climate crisis,” said Spain’s World Cup winner Juan Mata, referencing last year’s devastating Valencia floods.

“Football has always brought people together, but now it’s also a reminder of what we stand to lose.”

This year’s Club World Cup in the US, offered a troubling preview, with conditions described as impossible for players.

The tournament saw extreme heat and thunderstorms force world soccer’s governing body FIFA to adapt protocols – adding cooling and water breaks,

shaded benches and air fans.

According to the report, 14 of the 16 World Cup stadiums in the U.S., Canada and Mexico exceeded safe-play thresholds in 2025 for at least three major climate hazards - extreme heat, unplayable rainfall and flooding.

Thirteen already experience at least one day each summer exceeding FIFA’s threshold for drinks breaks of 32°C Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) - an internationally recognised index used to measure human heat stress in direct sunlight.

Temperatures in Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Miami and Monterrey exceeded that mark for two months or more.

Ten experience at least one day each summer with a WBGT of 35 degrees - identified by climate scientists as the limit of human adaptability to extreme



heat, with Dallas (31 days) and Houston (51) worst hit.

While Dallas and Houston

stadiums will mitigate heat with roofs, climate risks extend beyond elite venues.

The report says forward Mo Salah’s Egyptian home ground could face more than a month of unplayable heat annually, while Nigeria captain William Troost-Ekong’s childhood pitch could see 338 days of extreme heat by 2050.

“As we move further into the decade, risks will continue growing unless we take drastic measures, such as moving competitions to winter months or cooler regions,” said Piers Forster, director of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures in Leeds.

The 96-page report urges the soccer industry to commit to net-zero by 2040 and publish credible decarbonisation plans and calls on tournament organisers to create adaptation funds.

It also said 91% of 3,600 fans polled across the three hosts want the 2026 World Cup to be a sustainability role model.