



Saba defines acting

Actor Saba Azad says acting isn't about living a character, it's being able to empathise with them

LEISURE | **P2**



Tariffs on China

US President Donald Trump asks NATO countries to impose 50 to 100 per cent tariffs on China and stop buying oil from Russia

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



FII exodus

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have sold over ₹1L crore in Indian stocks since July, impacting the market sentiments

BUSINESS | **P11**



One step to glory

Indian women's hockey team qualifies for Asia Cup final despite playing out a 1-1 draw against Japan

SPORTS | **P12**

PM Modi likely to visit Odisha September 27

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha September 27 and address a public meeting in Berhampur, Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari said Saturday.

The final itinerary of the PM's visit is yet to be finalised, but preparations are in full swing, he said.

This will be Modi's sixth visit to Odisha in the last 15 months, after the BJP came to power in the state, he added.

"The PM has given his consent to visit Odisha September 27. Our Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena has already started preparations for the visit, and I will be there in Berhampur from September 15," Pujari told reporters.

Modi will attend the BJP's 'Seva Pakshya' programme, which will start on his birthday September 17 and continue till Gandhi Jayanti October 2, the minister said.

Modi last visited the state June 20 to attend the first anniversary celebrations of the BJP government in Odisha.

"Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, during his recent visit to Delhi, had extended an invitation to the PM to come to Odisha September 17, but it could not be possible due to pre-engagement," Pujari said.

He said the state government has sent the tentative programme to the PMO, which will finalise the itinerary for September 27.

Pujari said the BJP and the state government have planned to plant 75 lakh saplings on September 17, marking the 75th birth anniversary of the PM.

During 'Seva Pakshya', state BJP workers are planning to organise blood donation camps, health check-ups, sanitation drives, and community assistance programmes, he said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Revolutions don't happen every day - that's why I'd choose a Rajya Sabha nomination over the PM's post

UNGA votes to back two-state solution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations, Sept 13: The UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Friday to support a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict and urge Israel to commit to a Palestinian state, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vehemently opposes.

The 193-member world body approved a nonbinding resolution endorsing the 'New York Declaration,' which sets out a phased plan to end the nearly 80-year conflict. The vote was 142-10 with 12 abstentions.

Hours before the vote, Netanyahu said, "There will be no Palestinian state." He spoke at the signing of an agreement to expand settlements that will divide the West Bank, which the Palestinians insist must be part of their state, saying, "This place belongs to us."



SALVAGE ACT: Rescue operations underway after a roof collapsed at a shopping complex in Koraput Saturday. The mishap claimed the life of a 62-year-old shopkeeper while three others had a close shave

SSR ahead of Slap tariffs on India: US to G7 Nuapada bypoll

SPECIAL SUMMARY REVISION	VS	SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION
An annual process where a routine, periodic sanitisation of existing voter list is made		An exceptional, comprehensive, and rarely conducted exercise that creates a completely new electoral roll from scratch
Primarily relies on public input for additions, deletions, and corrections to the list		Involves compulsory house-to-house physical surveys by Booth Level Officers to verify every voter
Aims to update the list with newly-eligible voters, such as those who have turned 18, and to remove duplicates and deceased voters		Places a strong emphasis on validating citizenship with documentary proof and strictly targets the removal of illegal immigrants and duplicate entries

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls in Nuapada Assembly constituency in preparation for the upcoming byelection. This comes in the wake of the recent Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in poll-bound Bihar.

According to a press note from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Odisha, this revision will be carried out under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, with July 1, 2025 set as the qualifying date.

As per the schedule, the re-arrangement and modification of polling stations must



be completed by September 14, followed by the release of the integrated draft electoral roll September 15. Citizens can file claims and objections between September 15 and 29 which will be resolved by October 7. The final electoral roll is slated for publication October 9. Typically, the ECI conducts

the SSR during October and November each year. During this process, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) carry out house-to-house verification to identify eligible but unregistered voters, correct discrepancies, and remove duplicate, shifted, or deceased electors. The process also includes standardising addresses and rationalising polling stations.

This byelection to the Nuapada Assembly seat was necessitated by the recent death of the sitting Biju Janata Dal (BJD) legislator Rajendra Dholakia. The upcoming contest is expected to be triangular one, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the BJD, and the Congress all gearing up for a fierce electoral battle.

AGENCIES

New York/Washington, Sept 13: The US has asked G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries such as India and China that purchase oil from Russia, asserting that only "unified efforts" that cut off funding to Moscow's war machine at source can apply sufficient pressure to end "the senseless killing."

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the United States Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer were on a call with G7 Finance Ministers Friday when they reiterated President Donald Trump's call to the bloc's partners about imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia.

François-Philippe Champagne, Canada's Minister of Finance and National Revenue, chaired a meeting of G7 Finance Ministers to discuss further measures to increase pressure on Russia to end its war against Ukraine.

"During today's call with G7 Finance Ministers, Secretary Bessent reiterated President Trump's call to our G7 partners that, if they are truly committed to ending the war in Ukraine, they should join the United States in imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia," a

US Treasury Department statement said after the call.

The statement did not name any country. But the US has often blamed India and China for purchasing Russian oil even when there are no tariffs on Beijing for it. Earlier in the day, a US Treasury spokesperson called on G7 and European Union allies to impose "meaningful tariffs" on goods from China and India to pressure them to halt their purchases of Russian oil.

"Only with a unified effort that cuts off the revenues funding (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's war machine at the source will we be able to apply sufficient economic pressure to end the senseless killing," said Secretary Bessent and Ambassador Greer. "Thanks to President Trump's bold leadership, the United States has already taken dramatic action against the purchasers of Russian oil. We are encouraged by the assurances of our fellow G7 nations that they are committed to ending this war, and we are hopeful that they will join us in taking decisive action at this critical time," the statement added.

The US has doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

Asia Cup: Boycott calls ahead of India-Pak clash



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 13: The India-Pakistan match in the Asia Cup slated for Sunday has once again ignited political tensions in the country. Scheduled less than five months after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack of April 22, which claimed 26 lives in Jammu and Kashmir, the timing of the match has drawn sharp criticism from various quarters.

With many families still grieving the loss of their loved ones, political leaders across the Opposition spectrum—including the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)—have condemned the decision to compete against Pakistan on an international stage. A renewed call to boycott the fixture gained momentum just a day before the game.

In Delhi, AAP members staged a protest by burning an effigy labelled 'Pakistan' outside their office. Former Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj urged citizens to boycott clubs and restaurants that screen the match live. "The Indian government is making our cricketers play with those who have taken so much from us. We will expose every establishment that chooses to telecast India-Pakistan matches," he said.

Uddhav Thackeray, leader of the Shiv Sena (UBT), invoked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier statement—"water and blood cannot flow together"—regarding the Indus Water Treaty, questioning how "blood and cricket" could coexist. "They've turned patriotism into a business. This is all about profit," he said.

Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi also voiced strong opposition, pointing to alleged social media posts by Pakistani cricketers that mocked India. "We shouldn't play Pakistan until their players stop endorsing or glorifying terrorism," she stated.

Grief-stricken families of the Pahalgam victims also expressed anger and disappointment. Aishwarya Dwivedi, whose husband Shubham was killed in the attack, condemned the decision to go ahead with the match.

Rising longevity in land of the rising sun

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN JAPAN AGED 100 OR OLDER RISES TO RECORD HIGH OF NEARLY 100,000

AGENCIES

Tokyo, Sept 13: The number of people in Japan aged 100 or older has risen to a record high of nearly 100,000, its government has announced.

Setting a new record for the 55th year in a row, the number of centenarians in Japan was 99,763 as of September 1, the health ministry said Friday. Of that total, women accounted for an overwhelming 88 per cent.

Japan has the world's longest life expectancy, and is known for often being home to the world's oldest living person - though some studies contest the actual number of centenarians worldwide. It is also one of the fastest ageing societies, with residents often having a healthier diet but a low birth rate.



The latest data emphasises that compared to 2024, the number of elderly people increased by 4,644. Most notably, among centenarians, women

are the majority — their number reached 87,784. In the list, the oldest person is 114-year-old Shigeko Kagawa. She lives in the city of Yamatokoriyama

in Nara Prefecture. The oldest man is 111-year-old Kiyoshi Mizuno, who lives in the city of Iwata in Shizuoka Prefecture.

According to the statistics,

the regions with the highest number of people over 100 years old are Shimane, Kochi, and Tottori Prefectures.

Interest in the secrets of longevity of the Japanese population is growing year by year. According to the Ministry of Health, the average life expectancy of Japanese women is 87.13 years, and with this indicator, they have renewed the world record for the 40th time. For men, this figure is 81.09 years and has remained unchanged since 2023.

Experts link this phenomenon to a healthy lifestyle, proper nutrition, and effective medical services. Thus, Japan is recognised around the world not only as a country of technology but also as a land of longevity.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
If your work has anything to do with money, today you will be busy counting your riches! If you've applied for a loan, it may get sanctioned today. Look for variety, says Ganesha, and you may find your day filled with smiles and what not.

TAURUS
You will wake up feeling determined and decisive today, says Ganesha. Be careful as your rigid views may make you seem stubborn. You may not be willing to come half way during a conflict and will make a habit of articulating your viewpoint. Tension at the workplace will eat through most of your time today, feels Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today may not be very meaningful and productive for you, though you will get to spend plenty of quality time with yourself in the afternoon, which may not necessarily be to your liking. By evening, you may feel a little extra sensitive. A lonely day, or as an optimist would put it, you've got the whole day to yourself; it could have been worse (For instance, a day alone with your nagging mother-in-law!).

CANCER
With Ganesha's grace, whatever you think or perseue will be successful. Students will excel and finish pending work. You can display your imagination excellently. In short, a day of happiness and variety.

LEO
Chess is a good start, but it is nothing compared to the strategic intrigues of your day today. Arguments will lead to further arguments, and nowhere else, reminds Ganesha. So, it only makes sense to counter a disagreement with an agreement. But then again, total agreement is doubly secretive. At the end of the day, all that matters is to get people to agree with you, even if it means having to eat humble pie in the beginning.

VIRGO
Avoid all kinds of prejudice and do not allow intolerance to enter your mind today, advises Ganesha. In all likelihood, you will look around yourself in search of love and affection. You will do well to keep negativity at bay as otherwise it may cow you down.

LIBRA
Call it your generous side, but today is the perfect day to give back to all those from whom you have received so far. With roots set firmly in community service, it might do you well to extend that helping hand and return something back to them, preferably in the double.

SCORPIO
An upcoming project of a new joint venture will capsize your personal life and keep you on your toes today, says Ganesha. You may not find the results in proportion to the efforts that you put in, but be patient because everything will fall in place only in due time.

SAGITTARIUS
It's time for invitations and grooving all night long. And even eat like a glutton. But, for a change you are not on a mood to party, though it is unlike you. You reject the idea of socialising and hitting the dance floor. And your friends do not like your changed avatar, says Ganesha's.

CAPRICORN
If you are planning to fly to foreign shores for further studies, start documentation and other preparations today, says Ganesha. Whether you are a student or not, on this favourable day, all you need to do is to make a priority list, follow it and finish off your work one by one. If you are associated with Stock Market, expect an advantageous day ahead.

AQUARIUS
You are already overloaded with work. On the top of it, people around you will conveniently put their share of load on your back, and you will take it most of the times. You, however, will not get bogged down by the additional responsibilities.

PISCES
Are you fretting over the obstacles you are facing on the business front? Ganesha tackles the root of your problem and advises you to be patient and have faith in your undertakings. Good things will come your way, in good time.



CUMBERBATCH REVEALS WHY HE LOVES HALLOWEEN

English star Benedict Cumberbatch said that he likes to 'disguise' himself when he's out in public with his family as he wants them to maintain their 'privacy'. The Sherlock star, who is married to actress-filmmaker Sophie Hunter, said he loves Halloween because he can wear a mask without looking strange.

TAYLOR SWIFT WON'T BE DEPOSED, JUDGE RULES

A judge has ruled Taylor Swift will not have to sit for a deposition in Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni's ongoing legal case. The *It Ends With Us* filmmaker had called on Swift to sit for a legal meeting as part of his ongoing legal battle with Blake Lively.



Key to perfect acting lies in empathy: Saba

New Delhi: Saba Azad, who stars in *Bandar* (*Monkey in a Cage*), says her role as Khushi required her to step into a morally complex world, but for the actress, the key to a perfect performance lies in empathy. "Acting isn't about having lived the same experiences as the characters we play, it's being able to empathise with them no matter how morally ambiguous a situation they find themselves in. I did my best to empathise with Khushi," Saba told this agency.

Showcased at the Special Presentations section at the 50th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Saba said that one may like or hate Bandar but is sure it cannot be ignored. "Anurag Kashyap's films stay with you long after you leave the cinema and this one is no different, this one will definitely stir up a conversation and bring up contradictory emotions in different individuals, you may like it, you may hate it but you won't be able to ignore it," said Saba. Bandar, which explores power, trauma and memory, revolves around the story of a superstar accused of rape, highlighting the injustices within the legal system. Produced by Nikhil Dwivedi and directed by Anurag Kashyap, *Bandar* also features Bobby Deol, Sanya Malhotra, and Sapna Pabbi in key roles.

Actress has featured in several films such as *Sonali Cable*, *Bank Chor*, *Half Girlfriend*, *Dobaara: See Your Evil*, and *Jalebi*. In 2024, she made a significant impact with her new ventures, including a podcast and her fashion label. She was last seen on the big screen in *Chehre* (2021), a mystery thriller directed by Romy Jafry. The movie also featured Amitabh Bachchan and Emraan Hashmi in pivotal roles. Rhea faced a major setback following the tragic death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. However, last month, the actress was cleared of any involvement in the case after an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).



Rhea finds BTS chaos magical

Mumbai: Actress Rhea Chakraborty shared a sneak-peek into the behind-the-scenes world of shooting and tagged the experience as both chaotic and magical. Taking to Instagram, Rhea shared some BTS moments. In the string of videos and photos, the actress was seen in different outfits and posing for pictures. She wrote: "The chaos behind every shoot is magical. Yet somehow we manage to get the end result. Out of chaos comes order."

On the acting front, the 33-year-old



The untold story of Babita's defiance

Mumbai: Although most people know Babita through marriage into the Kapoor khandaan, fewer people actually know that she herself was born into a film family. Her father, Hari Shivdasani, was a character actor in Hindi cinema, and she is also the first cousin of actress Sadhana Shivdasani, who was one of the biggest style icons of the 1960s.

No to movie post-marriage

At the high point in her career, Babita stepped away from being in front of the camera after she married Randhir Kapoor in 1971. Like

many other women of her generation, she left films after getting married. It has been reported that, at times, she regretted that decision later in her career, especially during the long separation from her husband.

Managing careers of Karishma, Kareena

Babita had a hand in raising Karisma and Kareena after separating (but not officially divorcing) from Randhir Kapoor. She played a big role in their early careers, especially Karisma's, and was known to be a powerful and tactical influence behind the scenes.

Breaking Kapoor tradition

Babita's story is both conformity and implicit resistance. The question of a strict ban on Kapoor women acting is still debated in the family, but

dual vision led her to remove herself from films, and her marriage to Randhir Kapoor. Many years later, she was actively preparing Karisma and Kareena to pursue film careers, directly resisting that tradition.

Low public profile

Babita was definitely a leading lady in the 60s and 70s, but it's been a very long time since we have seen her in public or on camera. She has made the conscious decision to ignore the media and keeps her distance from the spotlight, even at film events for her daughters, as she has always lived privately and with dignity.



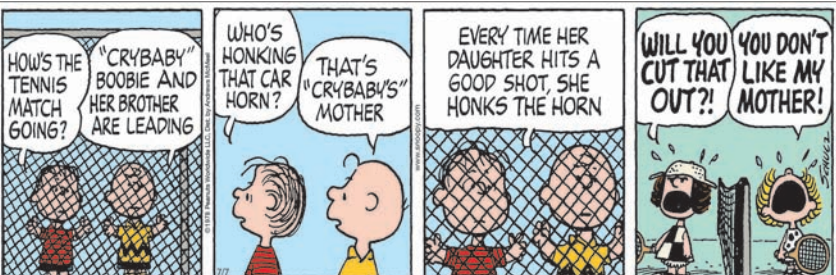
Aneet on wearing her fears

Mumbai: At just 22, Aneet Padda finds herself navigating a kind of scrutiny usually reserved for Bollywood's most established stars. The breakout *Saiyaara* actor admits that confidence doesn't always come easily and her early years in the industry were marked more by anxiety than applause. "I'll be very honest; I started enjoying [acting] with this film," she revealed in a recent interview with *The Hollywood Reporter India*. "For three years before that, I just had terrible anxiety and depression."

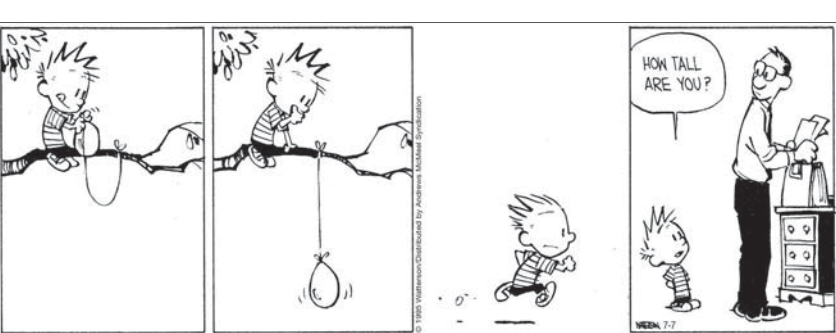
The Gen Z star spoke candidly about the qualities that define her: being vulnerable, loving people too much, and crying easily. She has also opened up about wearing her fears. "The fear and doubt are there, but they don't mean I can't." When asked what drives her, Padda's answer is clear. "Proving myself right, for sure. There's always doubt in my head. All of us are confident, we know what we want, but we're also overexposed and under pressure, even when we don't need to be. I want to prove that even with fear and doubt, I can still do it. Those things will always be there, but they're no reason to stop."

In a space where young actors often feel pressure to present a flawless image, Aneet's honesty cuts through the noise. She embraces contradictions and turns them into her strength; not just learning how to survive the industry, but also what it means to be a Bollywood newcomer.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

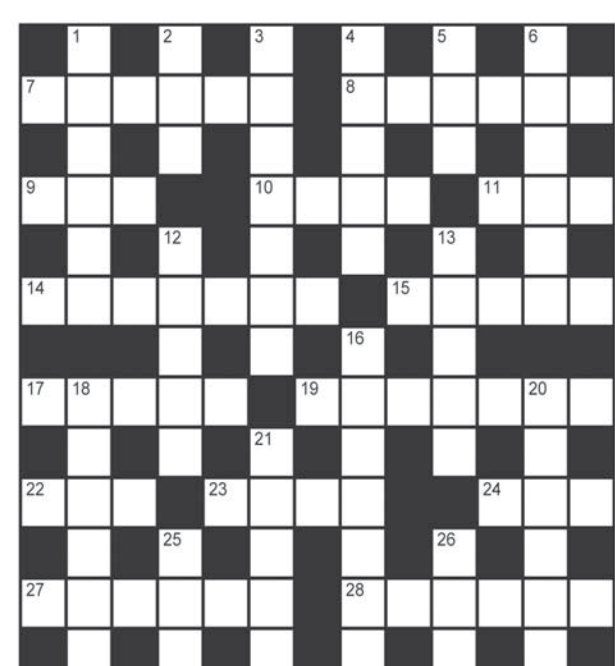


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Reserved
 - 8 Beat
 - 9 Taxi
 - 10 Like a sad sack
 - 11 Subside
 - 14 Hold back
 - 15 Perfect
 - 17 Original
 - 19 Thief
 - 22 Hotel amenity
 - 23 Wolf's sound
 - 24 Gibbon, for one
 - 27 Dangerous situation
 - 28 Inveigle
- Down**
- 1 Stay
 - 2 Car wash option
 - 3 ___ Khan
 - 4 Quarrel
 - 5 Swedish shag rug
 - 6 Anxiety disorder
 - 12 Frogman
 - 13 Maxim
 - 16 Put down, as a riot
 - 18 Primitive wagon
 - 20 Llama kin
 - 21 Beam
 - 25 Consume
 - 26 Greek vowel

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

108 AMBULANCE TRAINS
AIR FORCE ON FIRST AID

Bhubaneswar: On World First Aid Day 2025, the 108 Ambulance team held an Emergency First Responder Training Programme at the Air Force Selection Centre. The event, attended by Group Captain Sanjay Pattnaik and 108 Ambulance State Head Sabyasachi Biswal, highlighted the service's contributions since its Odisha launch March 5, 2013. Certified trainer Pramit Priyadarshan Panda conducted sessions for Air Force personnel on handling emergencies such as heart attacks, fainting, breathing difficulties, bleeding, splinting, bandaging, insect and animal bites, and snakebites, with hands-on practice and live demonstrations. CPR training was a key focus. Officials emphasised expanding such initiatives statewide to enhance emergency readiness.



POST NEWS NETWORK

CLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT

By affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Chandahandi, I, Dilar Majhi father of Minor Mancini Jhankar, permanently residing village-Dhuruapada, Block-Chandahandi, Dist-Nabarangpur declare that I renounce my daughter's former name Mancini Jhankar and assume her name as Nandini Majhi. She shall henceforth be known as Nandini Majhi for all purposes.

I, Gadadhara Pradhan, S/o- Late Magati Pradhan, resident of Village/Post- Ataranga, PS-Aska, Dist.-Ganjam, Odisha, India, PIN- 761116, declare this affidavit No.2179 dated 11.09.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Gadadhar Pradhan for all future purpose.

By this affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Jharsuguda, No.4730 date 8.9.25, I Vikash Yadav, R/o. Dipupada, Po/Ps/Dist. Jharsuguda, Odisha declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Bikash Yadav in my daughter Somya Yadav birth certificate. In order to correct the birth certificate henceforth I shall be known as Vikash Yadav for all purposes.

I Dasarathi Satapathy, S/o- Late Ramachandra Satapathy, At/Po-Bhagabanpur, PS- Brahmagiri, Puri- 752011 declare by this affidavit No.12/33, dated 11/09/2025 that now onwards I shall be known as DASHARATHI SATAPATHY for all future purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar that I, Prajnaparamita Rout, my father's correct name is Sudhansu Sekhar Rout in my Aadhaar Card. But in my HSC Certificate father name mentioned as Sudhanshu Sekhar Rout. So, I declare that above father's both name is same and one person.

Ama Bus services
hit by wage protest

passengers. Protesters alleged delayed salaries, which affect their livelihood. Normally paid on the 7th and 11th of each month, they have not received wages for 42 days, prompting the demonstration.

“We have repeatedly demanded timely payment of our salaries, but even after assurances, this month's wages are delayed. We won't resume duty until pending and future salaries are assured,” said an agitated driver. Another protester added, “We are constantly monitored while on duty, but the authorities must also ensure our salaries are paid on time, as we have families to support.”

The drivers also accused private contractor Chakra Transport of withholding their payments despite repeated assurances, saying the company has failed to address the ‘Ama Bus’ drivers' grievances.



FARM TRANSPORT: A farmer carries cattle feed on his bike on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Saturday

PIG: BIKASH NAYAK

City AIIMS ranks 14th in NIRF 2025

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar has secured the 14th rank among medical colleges in India, according to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, released by the Union Education Ministry.

This performance marks a significant leap from 31st position in 2021 and 15th position in 2024, underlining the institute's continued commitment to excellence in medical education, healthcare, and research, said officials.

Further adding to its laurels, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has also been placed in the top 100 institutions in the country in the ‘Overall’ category, making it one of the few medical institutions to achieve such a distinction.

“AIIMS Bhubaneswar has made notable progress across key domains such as infrastructure development, patient care, education, research, and institutional perception—all of which have contributed to its impressive ranking,” said institute's executive director and CEO Ashutosh Biswas.

Biswas lauded the faculty,



- Institute rose from 31st in 2021 and 15th in 2024 to 14th in 2025, highlighting its progress in medical education, healthcare, and research
- AIIMS Bhubaneswar also ranked among the top 100 institutions in the country in the ‘Overall’ category, a rare feat for a medical institute
- It scored 64.31 out of 100, reflecting its strong performance and rising national reputation

staff, and students, stating that “This recognition is the result of the collective hard work and dedication of our entire AIIMS Bhubaneswar family. We re-

main committed to our mission of delivering excellence in healthcare, fostering world-class research, and nurturing the next generation of medical professionals.”

The NIRF rankings evaluate institutions based on five core parameters- Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practice (RP), Graduation Outcomes (GO), Outreach and Inclusivity (OI), Peer Perception (PP).

AIIMS Bhubaneswar achieved a commendable score of 64.31 out of 100, a reflection of its all-round performance and growing national reputation.

This year, AIIMS Bhubaneswar was ranked 12th in the India Today-MDRA Survey of Best Medical Colleges in

‘Never Alone’ app
to tackle suicides

Bhubaneswar: AIIMS Bhubaneswar will soon roll out the AI-based ‘Never Alone’ app to strengthen student mental health support and prevent suicides. Launched nationally on World Suicide Prevention Day at AIIMS Delhi, the app offers 24x7 secure access through WhatsApp for screening, intervention, and follow-up care. Students can connect virtually or offline with psychiatrists, counsellors, and trained volunteers. Using AI, the app generates diagnostic summaries and treatment links, routed to experts as per student preference. Implemented by the department of Psychiatry, the initiative builds an integrated support network, aiming to reduce stigma, ensure confidentiality, and foster a healthier academic environment.

India and 2nd among emerging medical colleges. As Odisha's top-ranked medical institution, it continues to set benchmarks in medical education and healthcare at both regional and national levels.

Report on Cuttack air
pollution: HC to SPCB

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Orissa High Court has directed the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to furnish a compliance report on the measures initiated by it to curb rising air pollution in Cuttack.

A division bench of Justice SK Sahoo and Justice V Narasingh took cognizance of a newspaper report and asked the regional officer of pollution board to file a detailed report on the measures taken by it since January to ensure compliance of environmental regulations.

“Let an affidavit be filed by the Regional Officer, Odisha State Pollution Control Board, indicating specific steps taken from January 2025 onwards against individuals/authorities/industries responsible for creating air pollution in Cuttack City, the monitoring activities of the Regional Office to ensure compliance of environmental regulations and number of cases instituted, if any, during such period in connection with violation of environmental norms”, the division bench ordered.

It posted the matter for further hearing September 25.

Guv urges youth to be
responsible citizens



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/ Sambalpur Sept 13: Highlighting the crucial role of youth in shaping India's future, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Saturday urged graduating students of Sambalpur University to be ethical, socially responsible, and globally competent citizens. He made the remarks while addressing the University's 35th Convocation.

“Each of you carries the torch to drive India forward and realise the dream of a Viksit Bharat,” the Governor said, acknowledging that today's achievements reflect years of hard work, teacher guidance, and family support. He added that convocation day is not just a ceremony but a milestone marking the start of a new journey of responsibility and service.

Reflecting on Sambalpur University's legacy since 1967, Kambhampati lauded its role in nurturing generations of young minds and driving social and

economic change in Western Odisha and beyond. “From its serene Jyoti Vihar campus, the University has blended academic excellence with character-building and a spirit of service,” he said, adding that it has recently strengthened academics, research, and innovation while upholding excellence and social responsibility. He emphasised that education must extend beyond academics, noting, “Knowledge without character cannot build a just and prosperous nation.”

The Governor welcomed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the ceremony's chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Pradhan said, “Universities should enhance the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of Odisha's people and prioritise teaching in the mother tongue.” He added that ₹157 crore has been sanctioned for infrastructure and research at Sambalpur University, underscoring the commitment to strengthening higher education in the state.

₹25K reward for info
on missing constable

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha Police Saturday announced a cash reward of ₹25,000 to anyone providing information on missing woman traffic constable of Bhubaneswar.

Subhamitra Sahoo, 25, a resident of Paradip area in Jagatsinghpur district, was posted in Bhubaneswar and missing since September 6. Sharing details of the missing constable, the DCP Bhubaneswar, in a post on X, said, “Have you seen her? Name: Subhamitra Sahoo Missing since: 06.09.25 Reward: ₹25,000/- Call: 7008264419 | WhatsApp: 8280338302.”

The photograph of the missing constable was also attached in the social media post.

Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena said that a reward of ₹25,000 will be given to anyone providing credible information about her whereabouts, and the identity of the informer will not be revealed. The police social media post said she had left for duty from Surya Nagar in Bhubaneswar at around 10am September 6. Though her duty ended by 7pm, she did not return home.

Meanwhile, Sahoo's family members have met the Commissioner of Police here and sought his help to trace her.

Special drive: ₹1.69cr
contraband seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: On the 12th day of its ongoing special drive, the Excise department seized contraband worth about ₹1.69 crore across several districts.

In the crackdown on illicit liquor and narcotics, enforcement teams registered 292 cases and arrested 168 people under the Excise Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The operations resulted in the seizure of 13,988 bulk litres (BL) of illicit liquor, 785 BL of duty-paid liquor, and the destruction of over 1.43 lakh litres of fermented wash. Officials also confiscated 524 kg of mahua flowers and seized 23 vehicles used for transporting contraband.

A key highlight of the drive was action under the NDPS Act, with 10 cases booked and seizures of 132 kg of ganja and 332 grams of heroin, underscoring the department's zero-tolerance policy on narcotics.

The Excise department said the coordinated campaign is part of its sustained effort to break the illegal alcohol and



13,988 BL of illicit liquor, 785 BL of duty-paid liquor, and 1.43 lakh litres of fermented wash destroyed

524 kg of mahua flowers were confiscated, and 23 vehicles allegedly used for transporting contraband were seized

10 NDPS cases registered with seizures of 132 kg ganja and 332 grams of heroin

drug trade. “The 12th day's results reflect our firm resolve to curb illicit activities and safeguard public health and safety,” it stated.

Since the start of the month, the Excise department has carried out the special drive through heightened surveillance, field raids, and intelligence-based operations, and said it will continue with the same momentum in the coming days.


FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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 Sagor**-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.

“

By your stumbling, the world is perfected.

SRI AUROBINDO



Majoritarian Momentum

An American scholar has written a book in which he tries to explain China’s recent rise. Dan Wang’s thesis is that China is a society of engineers and its government is the rule of engineers, as compared to the US, which he classifies as a society of lawyers. China is good at manufacturing and building things, he says, while the US is not. So why is this the case?

The answer is regarding the choices that the Chinese state has made, especially in 2015 when it laid out the ‘Made in China 2025’ plan. Sometimes these choices do not work, as Wang points out. An engineering-led mindset produced China’s brutal lockdown in Shanghai or unacceptable things like the one-child policy. But it is also why China has succeeded in industrial policy at the highest level: high speed rail, renewable energy, electric vehicles, ship-building and has caught up in aviation, semi-conductors, rocketry and artificial intelligence.

In all these areas, what the state has intended to achieve, it has delivered. This is an interesting theme and we will keep returning to it in this column. Today I wanted to ask ourselves the same question: What has the Indian state intended to achieve and has it been successful in doing this?

On the side of the economy, jobs and, especially, foreign policy, the answer is now clear and on both sides of the argument the debate is only about who is to blame. That does not concern us here today. Let us look at an area where the Indian state has succeeded in the choices it has made.

This month was passed the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025. It is aimed at two things: criminalising interfaith marriage between Hindus and Muslims and preventing people, particularly the marginalised communities from becoming Christians.

Like with other laws of this type, the Rajasthan law punishes conversions but not all of them. It says: ‘If any person re-converts to original religion i.e. ancestral religion, the same shall not be deemed to be a conversion’ and explains ancestral religion as ‘the religion in which forefathers/ancestors of the person had faith, belief or was practiced’.

Readers will not need to be told what this means because it is clear. This phrasing was introduced to us in the first law of our era on this subject. This was the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018. It was followed by laws in Himachal Pradesh (2019), Uttar Pradesh (2020), Madhya Pradesh (2021), Gujarat (2021), Haryana (2022) and Karnataka (2022).

All of these laws were passed by the BJP. The Rajasthan law adds something new. It also has criminalised all forms of propagation. It says that the dissemination of information, ideas, or beliefs through media, social media and messaging applications is unlawful if this is interpreted as propagation of religion intended for conversion.

It also increases punishment, now being at up to 14 years in jail and 20 years, if the person changing faith is Dalit or Adivasi. All of these BJP laws are in violation of pretty much the entire panel of fundamental rights, but they have become acceptable in our society. It will be the rare reader, even of this column, who knew about the Rajasthan law cleared on 9 September because this is no longer news as our TV debates understand that word.

To tie the argument up, it is important to accept that the state has succeeded in achieving what is set out to do. Politically it is difficult to reverse the laws because socially they have been made acceptable. The number of people either in favour of these laws or disinterested in them outnumbers those who are in favour of their repeal.

The Karnataka law came into effect on 17 May 2022. Like the others, it requires people wanting to convert to give 30 days’ notice to the district magistrate. The bureaucrat will then put the application up on a notice board in his office and in the office of the tehsildar, calling for objections.

After it won the Assembly elections in May 2023, the Congress said it would undo this law. The following month, 15 June, news under this headline was published: ‘Siddaramaiah-led Karnataka government withdraws anti-conversion law.’

That did not happen. A few days ago, on 8 September, it was reported that the government ‘will seek legal opinion on the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, popularly known as the anti-conversion law, and decide on further action.’

Meaning that the law is still intact. The state under the BJP made some choices on behalf of Indians beginning in 2014 and resulting in laws on beef that began in 2015, on freedom of religion which began in 2018, on citizenship which began in 2019 and on other things linked at ending pluralism and at targeting minorities.

It has achieved what it has intended to achieve here. We may not have had a ‘Made in China 2025’ policy and whatever unserious efforts we have made on this and other fronts have flopped. But it is hard not to accept the total victory of the ‘Remake India 2025’ policy, whose fruits we can see in the laws, the media and indeed in the society all around us.

WISDOM CORNER

“

The mind is everything. What you think you become

LORD BUDDHA

“

Talk to yourself once in a day, otherwise you may miss meeting an intelligent person in this world

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

“

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible

DALAI LAMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1752:** Great Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar; the date was moved ahead 11 days (the day after September 2 became September 14).
- **1829:** Russia and the Ottoman Empire signed the Treaty of Edirne, concluding the Russo-Turkish War of 1828–29.
- **1847:** U.S. General Winfield Scott’s advance on Mexico City was marked by an unbroken series of victories that culminated this day, when he entered Mexico City and ended the military phase of the Mexican-American War.
- **1901:** U.S. President William McKinley died eight days after being shot in Buffalo, New York.
- **1927:** Isadora Duncan, a pioneer of modern expressive dance, died in France when her long scarf became entangled in the rear wheel of the car in which she was riding.

power post

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

RESOURCE RIVALRY

Critical raw materials are a hot topic in global economics and geopolitics. They are essential to produce advanced technologies, energy transition, and national security. Access to them has become a priority for key global players: the United States, China, and the European Union.

China has consistently established itself as a dominant player in the extraction, processing, and supply of critical minerals for years. Meanwhile, Europe and the US increasingly view Chinese control over supply chains as a strategic threat, seeking to diversify their raw material sources and reduce their dependence on Beijing.

China’s domination currently controls approximately 60% of global rare earth production and processes over 85% of these raw materials. These materials are essential to produce magnets for electric motors, wind turbines, solar panels, mobile phones, and various military systems. Beyond rare earths, China has the largest processing capacity for critical minerals such as lithium (58% of global market), cobalt (70%), and graphite (90%), making Chinese production and exports crucial for the electric vehicle sector, including in the EU.

In recent years, China has also invested in developing mineral extraction in Chile and Argentina, entering into lithium supply agreements. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China controls approximately 70 % of cobalt mining. In Indonesia they are expanding nickel smelters, controlling approximately 75% of production, and supporting local projects to more effectively control supply chains.

China pursues an aggressive trade policy, using its position in the raw materials market as a tool for political



Last December, Beijing blocked the export of rare earth metals such as gallium, antimony, and germanium, which are crucial for semiconductors. This was in response to US sanctions against the Chinese technology sector

pressure. Last December, Beijing blocked the export of rare earth metals such as gallium, antimony, and germanium, which are crucial for semiconductors. This was in response to US sanctions against the Chinese technology sector. Europe and the US fear that similar restrictions will be imposed on lithium and cobalt in the future, which could seriously impact battery production and the renewable energy sector.

The EU is pursuing an energy and digital transformation and is planning major investments in the European arms industry in response to the war in Ukraine and tensions in transatlantic relations. The success of all these projects depends on a stable supply of critical raw materials. In March 2024, the EU Council finally approved the Critical Raw Materials Act, which aims to strengthen Europe’s strategic autonomy. This document defines a list of 34 critical raw materials and 17 strategic raw materials, crucial for the defense and space industries.

It also introduces benchmarks, according to which 10% of raw materials must come from domestic extraction, a maximum

of 65% from a single external source, 40% must be processed within the EU, and 25% must be recycled.

Of particular concern is Europe’s dependence on external supplies of rare earth elements, 98% of which come from China. To minimize strategic risk, the EU is intensifying cooperation with other countries rich in these resources. Under a framework agreement (MoU), the EU established cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in 2023, which aims to ensure stable access to cobalt and tantalite. Currently, it sources approx.68% of its cobalt from this region, which is rife with political chaos and ethnic conflict.

At same time, the EU is developing partnership with Chile and Argentina, world leaders in lithium production, and with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in the field of rare earth elements. It is particularly important to strengthen the European value chain so that most processing takes place within the EU rather than in Asia.

In the US, President Joe Biden’s Inflation Reduction

Act (IRA) provided tax breaks for domestic production of critical raw materials. Since the inception of Trump’s new administration, Washington has pursued aggressive policies with goals like those in Europe: diversifying raw material supplies and limiting China’s influence. A key element is a new raw materials agreement, including negotiations with Ukraine regarding controversial joint development of its mineral resources.

The Trump administration argues that American economic involvement would constitute a kind of security “guarantee” for Ukraine following a ceasefire and a potential peace agreement with Moscow. However, such an agreement could not only end the devastating hostilities but also force Kyiv to accept the current territorial line and lose approximately 20% of its territory.

In this global puzzle, Poland, thanks to its copper resources, can turn out to be a key element of Europe’s raw materials strategy. Both EU and Poland must not only diversify sources of raw materials but also build long-term risk reduction mechanisms, like strategic raw material reserves. The EU could become a global leader in developing innovative methods for recovery and reuse of rare earth elements, allowing for greater resilience to global resource shocks.

Of course, it’s also necessary to monitor the dynamically evolving strategies of the US and China and respond to new export control mechanisms, subsidies, and market regulations. Adapting policy to these challenges requires active collaboration with the private sector and research institutes that can provide real-time analyses and recommendations.

The writer is expert, Center for International Relations, Poland
INFA

SPECTRUM COMMERCE

Trump tariffs will widen North-South divide

While US President Donald Trump’s “reciprocal” tariffs have been the subject of much discussion and analysis, their impact on developing economies has not received nearly as much attention as it deserves. In fact, Trump’s tariffs – which reflect the view that economic interconnectedness is a strategic weapon to wield, rather than a shared opportunity to cultivate – are likely to entrench, and even widen, the divide between rich and poor countries.

We analyzed 88 economies affected by the US tariffs announced on July 31 and which took effect last month, including the European Union’s 27 economies (disaggregated), but excluding eight statistical outliers (the four richest and four poorest economies). We found a statistically significant negative correlation, -0.34 (p<0.0012), between those tariffs and countries’ per capita GDP. Put simply: the lower a country’s income, the higher the tariff burden it is likely to bear.

For the 42 economies with per capita GDP below \$10,000,

the average tariff rate is 20.3%. For the 19 economies with per capita GDP above \$35,000, that rate falls to just 14.5%. This flies in the face of the World Trade Organization’s Generalized System of Preferences, which has historically granted developing economies, especially least-developed countries, preferential treatment.

Low-income economies typically depend on exports, often to advanced-economy markets, of a narrow range of primary commodities or low-end manufactured goods with narrow profit margins (often less than 5%). Textiles account for about 44% of Sri Lanka’s exports (25.5% of which went to the US in 2022) and provide a third of its manufacturing jobs. In Bangladesh, garments make up 83% of exports, with nearly one-fifth going to the US in 2025. Because such countries wield little pricing power in global markets, higher US tariffs leave their exporters with two options: slash prices or surrender market share. Either way, a decline in foreign-exchange earnings is all but inevitable.

Many developing countries rely on foreign exchange to service their external debts and pay for essential imports (such as fuel and food). As the squeeze in dollar revenues undermines their ability to repay their debts, depreciation pressures on local currencies will grow, further exacerbating the debt burden. Whatever fiscal space countries might have had for investment in critical needs like infrastructure, education, and health care will vanish.

In 2022-23, this vicious cycle of lagging exports, foreign-exchange shortfalls, and mounting debts forced Ghana to suspend debt payments, drove Sri Lanka into sovereign default, and caused Argentina’s currency to collapse.

With investment and technology inflows drying up and access to foreign markets constrained, the prevailing development strategy – export-oriented industrialization – will become inaccessible to a growing number of lower-income countries, which will remain trapped in dependence on activities like primary-com-

modity extraction and low-end manufacturing. In this sense, Trump’s tariffs, by impeding development in the countries that need it most, almost seem to be deliberately designed to exacerbate global inequalities. At the same time, the US will also pay a high price, as global demand declines, debt risks proliferate, and geopolitical instability grows.

There is a chance that the world will avoid this fate: a US federal appeals court has ruled that Trump’s reciprocal tariffs are illegal, setting the stage for a legal showdown. But rather than fight to preserve the illusion of “reciprocity” in tariff schedules, the Trump administration would do well to embrace inclusive rules that narrow disparities and enable developing economies to thrive.

Qiyuan Xu is a senior fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Yutao Huang is a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.
©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Qiyuan Xu & Yutao Huang

MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RELY ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO SERVICE THEIR EXTERNAL DEBTS AND PAY FOR ESSENTIAL IMPORTS

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Lesson from history

Sir, The Vice-Presidential elections have once again revealed the fragile loyalties within political alliances. While the BJD, BRS, and SAD abstained, it was the defection of 14 MPs from the INDI bloc in favour of the NDA nominee that caused much heartburn within the opposition ranks. Leaders of the alliance rushed to call it a ‘betrayal.’ Yet, history offers a telling parallel. In 1969, when the Congress was still undivided under S. Nijalingappa, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi defied the official nominee and pitched VV Giri as her choice. By calling upon her party MPs to vote by ‘conscience,’ she ensured his victory—ironically by encouraging cross-voting against her own party’s candidate. Thus, ‘conscience voting’ or strategic cross-voting is hardly new to Indian politics. What was once used by the Congress as a weapon of political assertion is now returning to challenge its own leadership under the INDI banner. History, it seems, has a long memory.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Welcome move

Sir, This refers to the front-page lead story “SC for pan-India firecracker ban” (Orissa POST, September 13). The Supreme Court’s decision to impose a nationwide ban on firecrackers is a commendable step towards addressing the pressing issue of air pollution in India. Given the detrimental impact of firecrackers on air quality, it is essential to implement a uniform policy across the country. Every citizen has the fundamental right to breathe clean air, and with varying levels of air pollution across states, a pan-India ban is necessary to protect public health. Firecrackers release harmful pollutants, including particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and toxic gases, which contribute to global warming and exacerbate respiratory problems. By banning firecrackers across India, we can significantly reduce the emission of these pollutants and mitigate the effects of climate change. A nationwide ban would not only improve air quality but also promote a healthier environment for future generations.

Subhalaxmi Lenka, BANGALORE

of the day
Quote

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis should come forward and hold a press conference to address the concerns of people related to the issue of reservation. Then be it Maratha, OBC or any other community, he should give straightforward answers on behalf of the government, with proof

SANJAY RAUT | SENA (UBT) LEADER

The Congress and Rajiv Gandhi committed the sin of doing injustice to Muslim sisters, who were fighting for their legitimate rights

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

Goa is entering a new chapter with the resumption of iron ore mining. The first 12 leases have already been auctioned under a reformed regime

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

SHORT TAKES

Leopard mauls girl to death

Kotdwar: A four-year-old girl was mauled to death by a leopard in the Chaubattakhal area of Pauri district in Uttarakhand, a forest official said Saturday. Riya was playing on the balcony of her house Friday evening when the leopard pounced upon her and dragged her away, the official said. Her mother raised an alarm and ran after the leopard, which left the child in a field about 50 metres from the house and ran away.

Man thrashed for molesting minor

Thane: A 54-year-old man was arrested for allegedly molesting a minor girl inside a shop in Kalyan East in Thane district, a police official said Saturday. On Friday, a video of the incident, which showed the accused misbehaving with the girl, went viral, following which the victim was contacted in order to register a case, the Kolsewadi police station official said.

Arunachal unveils new agri policies

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein Saturday unveiled the Agriculture and Horticulture Policies (2025-2035), aimed at driving agri-transformation and securing the prosperity of farmers in the state.

Naxalite killed in encounter

Bijapur: A Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Saturday, police said. The gun battle took place in the morning in a forest in the western region of the district when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation.

Inter-state burglar gang nabbed

Bokaro: Jharkhand Police arrested five members of an inter-state burglary gang who targeted government quarters in Dhanbad, Bokaro and neighbouring districts of West Bengal and committed heists by breaking into houses during daytime, an officer said. Bokaro Superintendent of Police, Harvinder Singh, told media persons Saturday that after several incidents of burglary in government quarters in Bokaro and adjoining Dhanbad district, a joint team of different police stations (where the burglary took place) was formed to nab the culprits.



In the past 20 months, our government strengthened the state's healthcare infrastructure and extended services to remote areas. The government prioritised healthcare from day one

VISHNU DEO SAI | CH'GARH CM

INDIA TO HOST 2027 CGGS IN CHENNAI

Looking to promote dialogue on emerging maritime challenges, India will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in Chennai in 2027 to coincide with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), an official said Saturday



SIR directions infringe EC's jurisdiction: Poll panel to apex court



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Election Commission has told the Supreme Court that any direction to conduct special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at regular intervals throughout the country would “encroach” upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the poll panel.

In a counter-affidavit filed in the apex court, the EC said it has the “complete discretion” over the policy of revision to the exclusion of any other authority.

It said through its July 5, 2025, letter addressed to all chief electoral officers (CEOs) of states and Union Territories, except Bihar, the commission has directed the initiation of immediate pre-revision activities for SIR of electoral rolls with reference to January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date.

The affidavit said the EC is vested with constitutional as well as statutory powers to oversee the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

“Any direction to conduct a ‘SIR’ at regular intervals throughout the country would encroach upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the ECI,” it said.

The affidavit was filed on a plea by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who has sought a direction to the EC to conduct SIR of electoral rolls at regular intervals throughout India, particularly before elections, to ensure that only Indian citizens

decide the polity and policy of the country.

On September 8, the apex court had directed that the Aadhaar card “must” be included as an identity proof of voters in the SIR exercise of electoral rolls in Bihar and asked the EC to implement the direction by September 9.

In its counter affidavit, the poll panel said under Article 324 of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to parliament and to the legislature of every state are vested in the EC.

“The said constitutional provision forms the bedrock of the Election Commission’s plenary authority in all matters relating to the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections,” it said.

It said Article 324 has been consistently interpreted by the apex court to confer plenary powers upon the EC in relation to the preparation of the electoral roll and conduct of free and fair elections, including in matters where the statutory framework may be silent or insufficient.

The affidavit said the enabling provisions under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, provide EC powers to decide whether an intensive or summary revision is appropriate, based on prevailing circumstances.

Waqf: SC to deliver interim order Sept 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Supreme Court is slated to pronounce September 15 its interim orders on three key issues, including the power to denotify properties declared as “waqf by courts, waqf-by-user or waqf by deed”, which cropped up during the hearing of pleas challenging the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

A bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai had May 22 reserved the interim orders on these issues after hearing both sides in the waqf case.

According to the cause list of September 15 uploaded on the apex court website, the court will deliver its order in the matter.

One of the issues relate to the power to denotify properties declared as “waqf by courts, waqf-by-user or waqf by deed” prescribed in the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Before reserving the inter-



im order, the bench heard arguments by advocates appearing for those challenging the amended waqf law, and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, on three consecutive days.

The bench previously identified the three issues, on which a stay was sought by the petitioners, for passing interim orders.

Apart from the issue of de-notification, petitioners have raised questions over the composition of state waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council,

where they contend only Muslims should operate except ex-officio members.

The third issue relates to a provision that says a waqf property will not be treated as a waqf when the collector conducts an inquiry to ascertain if the property is government land.

The Centre strongly defended the Act, saying waqf by its very nature was a “secular concept” and can’t be stayed given the “presumption of constitutionality” in its favour.

Moreover, though waqf was an Islamic concept, it was not an essential part of Islam, it added.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal leading the petitioners, described the law as a “complete departure from historical legal and constitutional principles” and a means to “capture waqf through a non-judicial process”. On April 25, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs filed a preliminary 1,332-page affidavit defending the amended Waqf Act of 2025 and opposed any “blanket stay” by the court on a “law having presumption of constitutionality passed by Parliament”. The Centre notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 after it got President Droupadi Murmu’s assent April 5.

The Bill was cleared by Lok Sabha with the support of 288 members while 232 MPs were against it. The Rajya Sabha saw 128 members voting in its favour and 95 against it.

Bomb scare: Delhi’s Taj Palace receives threat mail; declared hoax

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: A bomb threat received through e-mail Saturday sent Taj Palace staff here into tizzy which was later declared a “hoax” following an extensive search by the Delhi Police, an official said.

“After a thorough security check authorities have declared the threat a hoax. The safety and security of our guests and employees is of paramount importance to us and we continue to remain vigilant,” a Taj Palace spokesperson said.

Upon receiving information multiple teams of the Delhi Police including a bomb disposal squad (BDS), dog squad, and a quick reaction team (QRT) immediately rushed to the spot, the official said.

The mail mentioned that there were improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on each floor of the hotel.

However, nothing suspicious was found and the threat was declared a hoax, a senior police officer said.

Hassan Ganesh procession mishap toll rises to 10; CM, PM condole

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore/Hassan, Sept 13: The toll in the Ganesha procession accident in Hassan district has gone up to 10 Saturday, police sources said.

Tragedy struck Friday night at Mosale Hosahalli village in the district when a group of youths were taking out a Ganesha procession.

According to police, the driver lost control of the vehicle and ploughed it into the crowd, killing four people instantaneously, while four others died in the hospital Friday night.

The toll went up to 10 Saturday as two more injured succumbed to their injuries. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragedy. Condoling the deaths, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs two lakh from Prime Minister National Re-

lief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each deceased.

The injured would be given Rs 50,000, he said. The opposition BJP demanded that the compensation given by the state government be enhanced somewhere between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, saying Rs 5 lakh was way too less. JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda announced a compensation of Rs one lakh to the families of those killed in a road accident at a village in Hassan district.

Deve Gowda further announced that Rs 25,000 would be given as compensation to those who were seriously injured and Rs 20,000 to those with minor injuries. He urged the state government to enhance the compensation to Rs 10 lakh to next to the kin of the deceased.

The former PM said he would write to the Chief Minister in this regard. Reacting to the Opposition’s demand, Chief



Minister Siddaramaiah said his government gives an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of each deceased in Hassan accident to express condolence, not in a bid to equate the value of human life with the compensation. Referring to Friday’s tragic accident in Hassan, he said, “We have formulated the Road Safety Act. If an accident happens due to the mistake of truck drivers, how can the government be held accountable? I offer my respect to those killed in the accident.”

Siddaramaiah also said that he has asked district in-charge minister Krishna Byre Gowda to visit the families of the victims and announce the ex gratia.

Cloudburst in Himachal village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 13: Several vehicles were buried under debris, and crops were damaged due to a cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh’s Bilaspur district in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

No casualty was reported in the cloudburst that occurred around 3 am in the Gutrahan village in the Naina Devi Assembly constituency.

Gushing waters carrying debris scattered all over agricultural lands, said Kashmir Singh, a villager whose land and crops have been damaged.

Four vehicles were buried under debris, said Deputy Commissioner of Bilaspur Ra-

hul Kumar, adding that crop damage is being assessed and relief will be provided after receiving the report.

As soon as the information about the incident was received, officials reached the spot and took stock of the situation.

The Public Works Department has begun removing the debris to restore traffic at the earliest.

There are reports of water and debris damaging over six houses in the Kamlari and Ghatasni villages of the Bhatiyat assembly constituency in Chamba district.

Three families, whose houses were endangered after a piece of land adjacent to their houses in the Dalit Basti area

in Hamirpur district started sinking following heavy rains, moved to their relatives’ homes.

In the state capital of Shimla, fog reduced visibility to a few metres, inconveniencing motorists. The local weather office has issued a yellow warning of heavy rains in isolated parts of the state on Saturday and Sunday.

Light to moderate showers continued to lash parts of the state, with Palampur receiving 86 mm of rain since Friday evening, followed by Murari Devi 69.2 mm, Kangra 58.2 mm, Jogindernagar 45 mm, Dharamshala 31.2 mm, Aghar 16.8 mm, Naina Devi 16.6 mm, Nahana 14.6 mm, and Mandi 13.6 mm.

New Delhi Declaration adopted to digitise vast manuscript heritage

The declaration, adopted at the closing of the three-day ‘Gyan Bharatam’ global conference hosted at the Vigyan Bhawan here, resolved to “acquire and repatriate original manuscripts or secure their digital copies from abroad, ensuring access for research and national pride”

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Asserting that manuscripts are “a guiding light for the future”, a major conference of scholars, researchers and other experts Saturday adopted the New Delhi Declaration to bolster efforts to preserve, digitise and disseminate their knowledge as well as to bring back the original works.

The declaration, adopted at the closing of the three-day ‘Gyan Bharatam’ global con-

ference hosted at the Vigyan Bhawan here, resolved to “acquire and repatriate original manuscripts or secure their digital copies from abroad, ensuring access for research and national pride”.

The New Delhi Declaration read out by a senior official of the Ministry of Culture in the presence of a large gathering of scholars, researchers and other experts, underlined that manuscripts are “living memory of a nation, and foundation of its civilisational identity”.



India has one of the richest collections of ancient manuscripts in the world, with nearly 10 million texts that hold the country’s traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

“We resolve to preserve, digitise and disseminate this vast treasure. We firmly believe

manuscripts are not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future,” it said.

The Declaration was adopted after three days of intense technical sessions categorised as per the eight working groups constituted earlier under the Gyan Bharatam Mission.

“We, the manuscript custodians ... script experts... all other people who care for the manuscript heritage of Bharat, assembled here in the international conference on ‘Reclaiming India’s Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage’, after thorough deliberations and deep realisations resolve to declare that Bharat is the land of world’s richest and the most diverse manuscript heritage, embodying the wisdom of thousands of years across philosophy, science, literature, arts, spirituality and many other subjects,” it reads. These manuscripts, inscribed on palm leaves, birch barks, cloths, handmade papers and other such material, represent the “living memory of a nation and the foundation of its civilisational identity”.

“In the spirit of Viksit Bharat

2047, we resolve

to join the movement of ‘Gyan Bharatam’, to preserve, digitise and disseminate this vast treasure, making it accessible to the citizens and scholars alike, across the world,” the declaration reads.

The government has launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission as a major initiative under the Ministry of Culture. It aims to survey, document, conserve, digitise and make accessible more than one crore manuscripts located at academic institutions, museums, libraries and private collections across India. “Gyan Bharatam Mission is set to become a proclamation of India’s culture, literature and consciousness,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his address at the conference n Friday.

of the day
QUOTE

I think we need to promote social harmony. Otherwise, why would such a wrong perception arise? They should not be created, and they have harmed us too

ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL | UNION LAW MINISTER

Today, Modi ji has come to be part of Bhupen da's birth centenary celebrations... The way he has shown respect for Bhupen da, the people of Assam will never forget it

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The society has distributed plots at the very price it had purchased the land. This is the first such example in the history of cooperative societies. I congratulate all the members for their initiative

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

POST OF THE DAY

Girls, this is your reminder that no AI tool will ever make you look prettier. Own your imperfections. Own your flaws. Own your real self. Stop giving yourself false hope that a Gemini or a GPT will turn you into art. Art is born of mind, heart & soul. Never technology.

@MsAnjaliB

SHORT TAKES

Food delivery agent crushed to death

Gurugram: A 20-year-old food delivery agent was killed in a road accident after being crushed by a speeding truck near the Southern Peripheral Road (SPR), police said Saturday. The truck driver fled the scene, abandoning the vehicle, which has since been impounded, the police noted. According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Vikas, a native of Auraiya in Uttar Pradesh and was working with Zomato in Gurugram.

Man arrested for stabbing wife to death

Gurugram: Gurugram police arrested a man for allegedly stabbing his 30-year-old wife to death in the middle of the road in Sector 15 Saturday morning over domestic discord. An FIR was registered at the Civil Lines police station, said police. The accused has been identified as Karan Singh (37), a native of the Atrai village in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district. He was currently living in Delhi's Pitampura area, while his wife and children were staying in a rented accommodation in Patel Nagar, Gurugram.

Hardcore criminal detained under PSA

Jammu: An alleged criminal was detained under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) here on Saturday, police said. Arjun Kumar alias "Billu", a resident of Kalyana village of Arnia, is a hardcore criminal with a history of involvement in violent and heinous offences, a police spokesman said. He said despite multiple arrests and legal actions, he has consistently shown a blatant disregard for the law and continued his involvement in criminal activities, posing a serious threat to public peace and security.



The country has a population of 140 crore. In such a vast country, there are bound to be differences of opinion over the cricket match. Some people may feel that since relations between the two countries are strained, there should be no match. At the same time, others may support the game

AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DY CM AND NCP LEADER

3RD NATIONAL LOK ADALAT OF '25 ORGANISED ACROSS STATES, UTS

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on Saturday organised the third National Lok Adalat of 2025 across taluqs, districts and high courts in 29 States and eight Union Territories, a release said



Vijay's first poll campaign address lost in audio glitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu), Sept 13: Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam Chief Vijay's address from atop his campaign vehicle here on Saturday was marred by audio issues and out of his 20-minute speech, barely one to two minutes was audible and clear.

Cadres, fans and the people who had gathered in thousands chanted 'Vijay, Vijay' as his speech became almost incomprehensible barring some remarks, words and points.



"Will you vote for the DMK?" he asked after raising a number of questions seeking to push the Chief Minister M K Stalin-led government to a tight corner.

One of his key accusation was that the DMK government did not fulfill its assurances made ahead of the 2021 Assembly election. He also hit out at the DMK regime over the illegal kidney sale racket.

SSB nabs Nigerian, Brazilian, Bangladeshi nationals from border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has apprehended two Nigerians and a Brazilian national who are suspected to have escaped from jails in Nepal during the recent anti-government protests, officials said Saturday.

The force guarding the India-Nepal international border and the state police have caught more than 75 people from various locations along this 1,751-km-long unfenced front till now, they said.

They include two Nigerian nationals, a Brazilian, a Bangladesh citizen and some Indians. These people have been caught from the border over the last three-four days after they escaped from various jails following the massive anti-government protests in the neighbouring country, according to the officials.

Out of them, about 43 people have been caught from along the international border in Bihar, 22 from Uttar Pradesh, 8 from Uttarakhand and 2 from West Bengal, the officials said. The Nigerian and Brazilian nationals have been apprehended from the Bihar area (Jainagar) Friday while the Bangladeshi was nabbed from the same state a few days ago, they said. The India-Nepal border spans across 20 districts in five states. The SSB has issued three emergency helpline numbers to assist those Indians who are stranded in Nepal.

PM IN MANIPUR

Modi vows to turn state into 'symbol of peace'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal/Churachandpur, Sept 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday vowed to transform Manipur into a "symbol of peace and prosperity" as he urged all groups to shun violence, assuring the people that the Centre stood firmly with them in rebuilding lives torn apart by the ethnic conflict.

Modi, who landed amidst heavy rain in Manipur's capital Imphal on his maiden visit to the state after ethnic clashes erupted in May 2023 between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, described the state as the "ratna" adorning the crown of "mother India" and lauded the role of the "valiant sons" of Manipur in the success of Operation Sindoor.

Modi Saturday unveiled projects worth ₹8,500 crore in Manipur during his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out nearly two-and-a-half years ago.

From the Kuki stronghold of

Modi Saturday unveiled projects worth ₹8,500 crore in Manipur during his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out nearly two-and-a-half years ago

Churachandpur, Modi laid the foundation stones for projects worth over ₹7,300 crore.

Among them were the Manipur urban roads, drainage and asset management improvement initiative worth ₹3,647 crore, and the Manipur Infotech Development (MIND) project worth ₹550 crore.

He also laid the foundation for nine working women's hostels worth ₹142 crore, and super-speciality and healthcare facilities to be developed at ₹

SNIPPETS

Honeymoon murder: Sonam files bail plea

Shillong: Sonam Raghuvanshi, accused of murdering her husband Raja during their honeymoon in Meghalaya, filed a bail petition. The judicial magistrate first class of Sohra sub-division fixed September 17 for hearing her petition. Additional Public Prosecutor Tushar Chandra said the petition was filed Friday, but the prosecution sought time to examine the case records. Sonam's counsel has claimed "flaws" in the charge sheet filed in the murder of Indore-based businessman Raja Raghuvanshi.

SDRF row: Punjab BJP asks Mann to apologise

Chandigarh: Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar on Saturday cited a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report claiming that SDRF funds were "lying unused" and accused Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of "misleading" people over the issue. Jakhar demanded that the chief minister apologise to the people of Punjab and also ensure proper utilisation of the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF). Countering the BJP's charge, Mann asked the opposition party to not "play politics" in this hour of crisis. Of the ₹5,012 crore received under the SDRF since it was set up, ₹3,820 crore has been spent, he said.

FIR over AI-generated video on PM, his late mother

New Delhi: Delhi Police Saturday registered an FIR on a BJP worker's complaint over an AI-generated "deepfake" video posted by the Bihar Congress unit on its X handle that allegedly tarnished the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his late mother, an official said. The complaint was filed Friday by Sanket Gupta, convenor of the BJP Delhi Election Cell, at the North Avenue Police Station, who alleged the video "maligned the Prime Minister's image, grossly violating law, morality and women's dignity".



People take a walk on a misty afternoon during rain, in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

NE being threaded together with ambitious railway projects

Among them is Mizoram's 51 km Bairabi-Sairang railway line, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday, a milestone that has finally put Aizawl on India's railway map

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 13: Once considered a distant terrain, the northeast region is now being threaded together with ambitious railway projects -- signalling not just connectivity, but a new era of commerce, mobility, and integration for India's northeastern frontier, according to the government Saturday.

Among them is Mizoram's 51 km Bairabi-Sairang railway line, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday, a milestone that has finally put

Aizawl on India's railway map. "Once dependent on a handful of isolated stations, the region now stands at the cusp of a railway renaissance. Since 2014, railway allocations to the region have multiplied five times, touching ₹62,477 crore. Of this, ₹10,440 crore has been set aside for the current fiscal year. With projects worth ₹77,000 crore under way, the region is seeing the largest wave of rail investment in its history," according to the government.

In Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, and beyond, long-delayed



projects are finally linking capitals to the national grid. In Tripura, railway line has reached the borders, Meghalaya has seen its first railway station, while Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Assam push for-

ward with new lines, electrification, and doubling works. Each state's journey shows how railways are shaping the Northeast.

The 51-km Bairabi-Sairang line, built at a cost of over ₹8,070

crore, finally bringing Aizawl's grand debut onto the railway tracks.

The state also witnessed the flagging off of three new train services, the Sairang-Delhi Rajdhani express, the Sairang-Guwahati Express and Sairang-Kolkata Express.

Mizoram's railway journey began in the late 1980s with Bairabi station near the Assam border, as a Metre-Gauge station in the late 1980s.

In 2016, it was upgraded to broad gauge under the 83.55 km Kathakal - Bairabi Gauge Conversion Project, receiving its first freight train with 42 wagons of rice and a passenger service flagged off virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Looking ahead, the ongoing 223 km Sairang-Hibich-

huah project aims to extend tracks to Mizoram's southern border, opening direct trade routes to Myanmar and South-east Asia via Sittwe port, the government said. In Nagaland, Dimapur, opened in the early 20th century, remained the state's lone railhead for over 100 years. In 2022, Shokhuvi ended that isolation, becoming the state's second station.

The 82.5 km Dimapur-Kohima new line is progressing with Dhansiri-Shokhuvi section commissioned in October 2021 and the first passenger service, the Donyi Polo Express rolling out in August 2022.

The Shokhuvi-Molvom section was completed in March 2025 while the remaining section from Molvom to Zubza (near Kohima) is in progress.

international

of the day quote

I convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Sushila Karki on her assumption of the Premiership of Nepal's interim government. We are confident that her leadership will guide Nepal towards a smooth return to lasting peace and democracy

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE | PRESIDENT , SRI LANKA

When bin Laden was eliminated in Pakistan, the question asked was not 'why target a terrorist on foreign soil'? No one asked that question. The question was, 'Why was a terrorist given shelter at all?' The same question must be asked today. There was no immunity for bin Laden, and there can be no immunity for Hamas

GILAD ERDAN | ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO UN

Karki's assumption of this high office, at a critical and challenging time, is a reflection of the trust and confidence reposed in you by the people of Nepal

MUHAMMAD YUNUS | CHIEF ADVISER, BANGLADESH

SHORT TAKES

19 soldiers, 45 militants killed in Pakistan

Islamabad/Peshawar: At least 19 soldiers and 45 militants have been killed in clashes in Pakistan's restive northwest, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday vowing to respond with full force against the terrorists. According to the Pakistan army, at least 45 militants have been killed in clashes in three different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province from September 10 to 13. Sharif, accompanied by army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, visited Bannu and attended a high-level meeting focused on counter-terrorism, Radio Pakistan reported.

Istanbul district mayor, 47 officials detained

Ankara: Turkish authorities Saturday detained the mayor of an Istanbul district, along with 47 other officials, over allegations of corruption, as part of a widening crackdown on the country's main opposition party. The state-run Anadolu Agency said the Istanbul chief prosecutor's office ordered the detentions in connection with an investigation into alleged extortion, bribery, fraud and bid rigging by the Istanbul's Bayrampasa municipality. Bayrampasa's mayor, Hasan Mutlu, denied the allegations in a statement on X.

Tens of thousands join pro-Palestinian march

New Zealand: Thousands took part in a pro-Palestinian march in Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, Saturday, in what organisers said was the largest rally of its kind since the war in Gaza began between Israel and militant Islamist Palestinian group Hamas. Some 50,000 attended the March for Humanity rally in central Auckland Saturday morning, the Aotearoa for Palestine group said.

US officials hold talks in Kabul

Kabul: US officials held talks Saturday with the authorities in Kabul over Americans held in Afghanistan, the Taliban administration said, as the White House pushes to free citizens it sees as wrongly detained abroad. Adam Boehler, the Trump administration's special hostage envoy, and Zalmay Khalilzad, a former U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan, met the Taliban's foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Trump urges NATO to hit China with 50-100% tariffs

Trump says he is ready to impose 'major sanctions' on Russia when all NATO countries agree and start to do the same thing and stop buying oil from Moscow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, Sept 13: US President Donald Trump Saturday said NATO countries should impose 50 to 100 per cent tariffs on China and stop buying oil from Russia to help end the Ukraine conflict.

Trump's post on Truth Social comes a day after the US asked G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia.

In his post, Trump said he is ready to impose "major sanctions" on Russia when all NATO countries agree and start to do the same thing and stop buying oil from Moscow.

The US president said that NATO's commitment to win has been "far less than 100%, and the purchase of Russian oil, by some, has been shocking".

"It greatly weakens your negotiating position, and bargaining power, over Russia," he said.



China has a strong control, and even grip, over Russia, and these powerful tariffs will break that grip

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

Trump said that he is ready to "go ahead" when the NATO countries are.

The president said that the 50 per cent to 100 per cent tariffs on China will also be of "great help in ending this deadly, but ridiculous war".

"China has a strong control, and even grip, over Russia, and these powerful tariffs will break that grip," he said.

Trump also said that the Ukraine war is "not his conflict" and it would never have started if he was president.

"It is Biden's and Zelenskyy's war. I am only here to help stop it, and save thousands of Russian and Ukrainian lives...If NATO does as I say, the war

will end quickly, and all of those lives will be saved! If not, you are just wasting my time, and the time, energy, and money of the United States," he said.

The US has imposed an additional 30 per cent tax on imports from China while Beijing has responded with a 10 per cent tax on imports from Washington.

At one point, Trump raised tariffs on Chinese imports to 145 per cent before the two countries agreed in May to end the tit-for-tat tariff war.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the United States Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer were on a call with G7 finance ministers Friday when they reiterated President Trump's call to the bloc's partners about imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia.

UN endorses two-state, slams Hamas

REUTERS

United Nations, Sept 13: The United Nations General Assembly Friday overwhelmingly voted to endorse a declaration outlining "tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps" towards a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians ahead of a meeting of world leaders.

The seven-page declaration is the result of an international conference at the UN in July - hosted by Saudi Arabia and France - on the decades-long conflict. The United States and Israel boycotted the event.

A resolution endorsing the declaration received 142 votes in favor and 10 against, while 12 countries abstained. The vote comes ahead of a meeting of world leaders September 22 - on the sidelines of the high-level UN General Assembly - where Britain, France, Canada, Australia and Belgium are expected to formally recognise a Palestinian state. The declaration endorsed by the 193-member General Assembly condemns the attacks against Israel by Palestinian militants Hamas October 7, 2023, which triggered the war in Gaza. It also condemns the attacks by Israel against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza, siege and starvation, "which have resulted in a devastating humanitarian catastrophe and



UN resolution condemns Hamas and Israeli attacks in Gaza

US and Israel criticize resolution as harmful, 'publicity stunt'

Resolution supported by Gulf Arab states, opposed by US and Israel

protection crisis."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said the resolution secured the international isolation of Hamas. "For the first time today, the United Nations adopted a text condemning it for its crimes and calling for its surrender and disarmament," he said in an X post.

The resolution was supported by all Gulf Arab states. Israel and the United States voted against it, along with Argentina, Hungary, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and Tonga.

The declaration endorsed by the resolution says the war in Gaza "must end now" and support the deployment of a temporary international stabilization mission mandated by the UN Security Council.

Ghana's fantasy coffins colourful celebration of life, legacy

Fantasy coffins, while common among the Ga people of Accra, are becoming a widespread practice, offering a colourful alternative to simple wooden boxes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accra (Ghana), Sept 13: A giant pink fish, a colourful peacock, an airplane painted with the national flag. These are just some of Ghana's fantasy coffins, known as Abebuo, which translates to "proverb".

Each piece is crafted not just

to bury the deceased, but to embody the essence of their life. A farmer isn't laid to rest in a car; instead his coffin might take the shape of the tools he used or the crops he cultivated. The design itself becomes metaphor, a wooden riddle, a final message left behind.

Fantasy coffins, while common among the Ga people of Accra, are becoming a widespread practice, offering a colourful alternative to simple wooden boxes.

When a family loses a loved one, they gather to decide how to honour them. They visit a carpentry workshop, some with a clear vision, others seeking the carpenters' guidance to create a fitting tribute.

The choice depends on each person. A fishmonger might be



remembered in the form of the fish he sold, down to its exact type. Lion-shaped coffins are reserved only for chiefs, as the animal is a symbol of power. In Labadi, a suburb of Accra, royal families are tied to their emblem, the rooster, a design reserved only for their lineage. The right to a particular coffin

Poland scrambles jets, closes Lublin airport in 'preventative' move

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warsaw(Poland), Sept 13: Polish and allied aircraft were deployed in a "preventive" operation in Poland's airspace Saturday because of a threat of drone strikes in neighboring areas of Ukraine, and the airport in the eastern Polish city of Lublin was closed, authorities said.

The alert lasted around two hours. It came after multiple Russian drones crossed into Poland Wednesday, prompting NATO to send fighter jets to shoot them down and underlining long-held concerns about the expansion of Russia's more than three-year war in Ukraine.

The Polish military's operational command posted on X Saturday afternoon that ground-based air defense and reconnaissance systems were on high alert. It stressed that "these actions are preventive in nature," and were aimed at securing Poland's airspace and protecting the country's citizens. It cited a threat of drone strikes in regions of Ukraine bordering Poland, but didn't give further details.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk also posted that "preventive air operations" had begun in Polish airspace because of the threat posed by Russian drones operating over nearby areas of Ukraine. The Polish Air Navigation Services Agency said that Lublin Airport was closed to air traffic "due to military aviation activities," and the government security center warned of a threat of air attack for several border counties in the region.

Grandson of French Prez de Gaulle seeks Russian citizenship



AGENCIES

Saint Petersburg, Russia, Sept 13: In a move that has stirred political and cultural debate across Europe, Pierre de Gaulle, grandson of French wartime leader General Charles de Gaulle, has formally declared his desire to acquire Russian citizenship.

Speaking at the Saint Petersburg International Cultural Forum last week, Pierre de Gaulle praised Russia's "deep spiritual roots, strong national identity, and traditional values," expressing admiration for what he called a "civilizational alternative" to the West.

"It would be an honor for me to become a Russian citizen," he told reporters, standing before a portrait of his grandfather. "Russia today embodies a sense of sovereignty and values that Europe has abandoned."

Though he has not yet received citizenship, Kremlin officials have reportedly expressed openness to the request. Russian state media praised de



Gaulle's words, framing them as a symbolic victory amid ongoing geopolitical tensions with NATO and the European Union.

Mixed Reactions in France
The reaction in France has been swift and divided. While far-right political figures have applauded Pierre de Gaulle's statements as a "wake-up call," mainstream politicians and historians have condemned the move as a betrayal of General de Gaulle's legacy.

"Charles de Gaulle stood for France's independence, not submission to another power," said historian Michel Dupont. "To see his grandson speak favorably of the Kremlin at a time of war is deeply troubling."

His brother, Yves de Gaulle, publicly distanced the family from Pierre's statements, calling them "personal opinions" that do not reflect the views of the de Gaulle family as a whole.

A New Face of Pro-Russian Sentiment?

Pierre de Gaulle has increasingly positioned himself as a pro-Russian voice in Western Europe. Over the past two years, he has criticized NATO's expansion, questioned Western media coverage of the war in Ukraine, and attended multiple forums hosted by Russian intellectuals.

Analysts suggest his comments reflect a broader undercurrent of anti-Western sentiment among certain European intellectuals, though most dismiss his stance as marginal and largely symbolic.

Nepal Prez dissolves parl; fresh polls in March

Paudel announces fresh elections will be held March 5 next year and sought cooperation from all political parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Sept 13: Nepal's leading political parties Saturday described as "un-constitutional" and a "blow to democracy" President Ram Chandra Poudel's decision to dissolve the parliament even as the security situation in the Himalayan nation gradually returned to normal following two days of deadly protests.

After dissolving the parliament following a recommendation by the interim government led by former Supreme Court chief justice Sushila Karki, Paudel also announced that fresh elections will be held March 5 next year and sought cooperation from all political parties.

In a statement, the president urged all concerned stakeholders to utilise the "hard earned opportunity" to conduct the election on time and safeguard the interests of the people.

Karki, 73, was sworn-in Fri-



day night as Nepal's first woman prime minister, ending days of political uncertainty after the abrupt resignation of PM KP Sharma Oli this week following wide-spread anti-government protests against a ban on social media and alleged corruption.

Oli quit Tuesday shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office demanding his resignation. More than 50 were killed in the nation-wide protests.

Almost all leading political parties including the Nepali Congress, Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) slammed

the decision to dissolve the parliament. "This move to dissolve parliament is against the spirit of our Constitution and the interpretation of the Supreme Court. It is absolutely unconstitutional," the Nepali Congress said in a statement.

The parliament was dissolved with effect from 11 pm September 12, according to a notification issued by the President's Office.

Even as political temperature remained high in Kathmandu, the country gradually moved toward normalcy with authorities lifting curfew and restrictive orders.

The United Nations and neighbouring countries India,

as a final opportunity to honour the deceased, sparing no expense on ceremonies that feature music, dancing and vivid displays of cultural heritage.

But while families see fantasy coffins as tributes, collectors see them as art.

Nicolas Ablorh Annan, a coffin maker from Accra, said that while the practice of burying loved ones in fantasy coffins started among the Ga people, it has expanded across Ghana. For his family, it is merely a business. His great-grandfather started it, he said, and they continue to run it as a family enterprise, with no ties to the rituals.

Some coffins never hold bodies at all, destined instead for museums abroad. Annan said that international interest is growing, with many foreign

clients ordering coffins primarily for exhibitions as art pieces. Currently, he is working on six fantasy coffins that will be shipped abroad the following week.

At funerals, the presence of a fantasy coffin transforms everything. Mourners burdened with grief find themselves captivated by the craftsmanship, the vivid colours, the detailed shapes, the boundless imagination.

"People forget for a moment what's inside; they admire the coffin and the atmosphere shifts," said Eric Kpakpo Adotey, a carpenter who specialises in fantasy coffins.

Laughter blends with tears, and the sorrow is softened by creativity. For those left behind, each coffin is more than a final resting place.

of the day

quote

At a time when countries are designing cross-border carbon regulations, India's leadership in green hydrogen will ensure that our industries remain competitive and future-ready

SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK | UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

The reduced GST slabs will greatly benefit the tyre industry and consumers alike. Not only will it lower the cost of owning and operating a vehicle for customers across various segments but, by making tyres more affordable to replace, it will also make our roads safer

ARNAB BANERJEE | MD & CEO, CEAT

(Exports) to the US is \$6.6 billion out of \$22 billion, which means there is a large alternate market also available to the industry. The industry has been building out, based on risk mitigation markets, customers and so on and so forth

VIKRAMPATI SINGHANIA | PRESIDENT DESIGNATE, ACMA

RESULTS CORNER

Flipkart loss widens

New Delhi: Walmart-owned e-commerce giant Flipkart India Private Limited saw widening of consolidated losses to Rs 5,189 crore in the financial year ended March 2025, according to data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler. Flipkart India's losses stood at Rs 4,248.3 crore in the preceding financial year. The company recorded a 17.3 per cent increase in consolidated revenue from operations at Rs 82,787.3 crore in FY25, from Rs 70,541.9 crore in FY24. The company's total expenses for the fiscal year swelled 17.4 per cent to Rs 88,121.4 crore. The primary driver of the company's expenses was the purchase of stock-in-trade, which surged to Rs 87,737.8 crore in FY25 against Rs 74,271.2 crore a year ago. Finance costs also saw a significant jump, about 57 per cent, to about Rs 454 crore in FY25. The company had posted a consolidated loss of Rs 2,358.7 crore in FY24.

Myntra profit zooms

New Delhi: Fashion and lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra Designs Private Limited has posted manifold jump in consolidated profit at Rs 548.3 crore in the financial year ended March 2025. The Bangalore-headquartered firm had reported a profit of Rs 30.9 crore in the preceding fiscal, as per data sourced from Tofler. The company's revenue from operations rose 18 per cent from Rs 5,121.8 crore in FY24 to Rs 6,042.7 crore in FY25.

We (India and the European Union) are now maximising our efforts to finalise negotiations by the end of the year

MAROS SEFCOVIC | TRADE CHIEF, EU

IPHONE 17 PRE-ORDERS SURGE

The demand for Apple's new iPhone 17 series is rising fast in India, with industry sources saying pre-orders have been stronger than last year. The surge comes at a time when Apple has been steadily increasing its "Made in India" push, expanding both local manufacturing and retail presence in the country



FIIs SLASH INDIA HOLDINGS

Foreign institutional investors net sold ₹1 lakh crore in Indian equities since July

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 13: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have sold over Rs 1 lakh crore in Indian stocks since July, impacting the market sentiments, but consistent domestic inflows lent support, according to provisional data from stock exchanges.

The sell-off, driven by lacklustre earnings, stretched valuations, and uncertainty over US tariffs, has resulted in range-bound indices.

Between July 1 and September 8, foreign institutional investors sold equities totalling Rs 1.02 lakh crore, with Rs 7,800 crore sold in the first six sessions of September.

Going forward, FIIs are likely to reduce their selling or turn buyers since there are indications of a turnaround in the Indian market due to repo rate cuts and GST reforms, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

In 2025, foreign institutional

IN 2025, FIIs HAVE NET SOLD ₹2.18L-CR WHILE DIIs COUNTERED THIS WITH PURCHASES OF ₹5.37L-CR

FIIs CONTINUED SELLING IN SEPTEMBER WITH A SELL FIGURE OF ₹11,169CR UP TO SEPTEMBER 13



Higher valuations in India compared to markets like China, Hong Kong and South Korea have nudged FIIs to sell in India and buy in cheaper markets. This strategy has worked so far this year since these cheaper markets have hugely outperformed India this year

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT INVESTMENTS

investors (FIIs) have net sold Rs 2.18 lakh crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have countered this with net purchases of Rs 5.37 lakh crore. DIIs have been consistently net

buyers in the cash market since August 2023.

FIIs continued selling in September with a sell figure of Rs 11,169 crore up to September 13, as per NSDL data.

Sky Automobiles Bhanpur unveils Maruti Suzuki's all-new Victoris

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 13: Sky Automobiles, Bhanpur — the oldest Maruti Suzuki dealership in Odisha — has launched the all-new Maruti Suzuki Victoris, a premium SUV positioned as the vehicle that has 'Got It All.'

The Victoris blends advanced technology, indulgent comfort, robust safety features, and sleek futuristic design. It offers versatile powertrains including Smart Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, and a first-in-segment S-CNG option with an underbody fuel tank design that ensures uncompromised boot space.

Among its standout features are the 'Theatre on Wheels' eight-speaker Infinity6# premium sound system by Harman with Dolby Atmos, a 25.65 cm SmartPlay Pro X infotainment system with Alexa integration, and a fully digital 26.03 cm in-



strument cluster. Convenience is enhanced with a smart powered tailgate with gesture control and 64-colour customisable ambient lighting.

Safety remains a priority with Level 2 ADAS, six airbags, and a high-definition 360° camera offering 11 perspectives. Connectivity is powered by Suzuki Connect Telematics with 60+ features including eCall.

The SUV will be available in six variants—LXI, VXI, ZXI, ZXI Optional, ZXI+, and ZXI+ Optional—and 10 colour choices,

including new shades Mystic Green and Eternal Blue.

Present at the launch were Tushra Ranjan Behera, COO Sky Automobiles Arena; Pravin Lath, COO Sky Automobiles NEXA; Sanjay Kumar Gupta, General Manager; Jagannath Prasad Sahoo, Senior Sales Manager and Rashmi Rekha Mishra, Quality Manager.

With Victoris, Maruti Suzuki sets a new benchmark in the SUV segment, redefining mobility for young, connected, and dynamic Indian drivers.

August inflation tops 2% clouding rate cut hope

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 13: With August inflation print a tad higher than the 2 per cent mark, a rate cut in October is unlikely, according to a report by SBI Research, adding that even a rate cut in December looks a little difficult if growth numbers for Q1 and estimated Q2 data are taken into consideration.

As the Goods and Service Tax (GST) rate on around 295 essential items has been reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent or NIL, the consumer price index (CPI) inflation in this category may come down by 25-30 basis points in FY26 after considering a 60 per cent pass through

effect on food items, said the report.

Apart from this, the rationalisation of GST rates of services should also lead to another 40-45 bps reduction in CPI inflation on other goods and service items, considering a 50 per cent pass-through effect.

"Overall, we believe CPI inflation may be moderated in the range of 65-75 bps over FY26-27," SBI Research said.

India's CPI inflation, which moderated to a 98-month low of 1.55 per cent in July this year, has recorded a slight uptick in August at 2.07 per cent, due to a rise in food and beverages inflation, which was negative in the last 2 months.



Inflation on 'meat and fish' has increased to 1.48 per cent in September, which was negative during April-July. Vegetable prices continued to stay

BULLISH TREND

Auto, IT lift markets over 1% this week



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 13: The Indian equities displayed strong bullish momentum this week on hopes of stronger H2 FY26 earnings, driven by GST rationalisation and the benefits of monetary easing.

Benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex ended the week with a gain of around 1.50 per cent and 1.47 per cent, respectively, with the rally driven by auto and IT stocks. Midcap and small-cap stocks outperformed the benchmark indices.

The IT index exhibited its rally, driven by renewed hopes of a Fed rate cut, Infosys' buyback announcement, and optimism over a revival in technology spending.

The Nifty advanced 373 points forming a robust bullish candle. Analysts said that, on the weekly chart, the index has broken out of a symmetrical triangle pattern with conviction, signalling the potential for further upside.

"The Nifty has shown resilience by holding firmly above the 25,100 mark, closing at 25,114. It continues to trade above its key EMA levels—underscoring the broader bullish undertone," according to Choice equity broking. Immediate resistance levels are placed at 25,160, followed by 25,250 and 25,500 zones. Immediate support is seen at 25,000

and then at 24,900 zones.

In contrast to the IT sector, consumer-focused sectors such as auto and FMCG advanced, supported by expectations that GST cuts will boost domestic consumption and aid demand recovery, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

Domestic CPI inflation registered a slight uptick and continued foreign outflows weighed on the rupee. Gold reached fresh highs on strong safe-haven demand amid global trade tensions.

This week, US retail inflation rose to 2.9 per cent in August, marking the highest rate since January.

Core inflation, excluding food and energy, held steady at 3.1 per cent. The market focused on the slowdown in job gains and the potential for accelerated Fed easing. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note dropped to 4 per cent, marking the lowest level since April.

Several analysts have cautioned the Fed against lowering rates amid persistent high inflation but indicated that the writing on the wall is clear. With United States' CPI inflation in August, along with a sharp downturn in labour market dynamics led they anticipated a 25-basis-point cut at next week's FOMC meeting and expect approximately three cuts in total for 2025.

GOLD REACHED FRESH HIGHS ON STRONG SAFE-HAVEN DEMAND AMID GLOBAL TRADE TENSIONS

***** DOMESTIC CPI INFLATION SEES UPTICK, CONTINUED FOREIGN OUTFLOWS WEIGHED ON RUPEE

HIT BY REAL-MONEY GAMING BAN

Bharti Airtel scion shutters Hike after 13 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Hike founder Kavin Mittal has announced the complete winding down of 13-year old startup, saying while its US business was off to a strong start, scaling globally after India ban on real money gaming would require a "reset that is not the best use of capital or time".

In a post on LinkedIn, the entrepreneur and Bharti Group scion questioned if raising more capital for a pivot by Hike was worth it, and concluded it was not. Neither for himself, his team, nor investors.

"After regrouping with our investors and the team, I've made the difficult decision to wind down Hike completely,"



he wrote in the post.

The US business, which launched just nine months ago, was off to a strong start "but after the India ban, scaling globally would require a full recap, a reset that is not the best use of capital or time", he said.

While listing out the factors driving his decision, Mittal reflected that real money gaming was never the destination, but rather a way to test unit economics and traction in India while working toward a bigger vision. The real money online gam-

The big question - we could raise the capital, but the real question is: is it worth it? Is this a climb worth pivoting for? For the first time in 13 years, my answer is no. Not for me, not for my team, and not for our investors

KAVIN MITTAL | FOUNDER, HIKE

ing space dealt a fatal blow after Parliament passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, banning all forms of online money games, while promoting e-sports and online social games.

Now an Act, after the President's nod, it aims to crackdown on rising instances of addiction, money laundering and finan-

cial fraud through such applications. Following the passage of the Bill in Parliament, online gaming platforms, including Dream11, My11Circle, WinZO, Zupee, and Nazara Technologies-backed PokerBaazi, have halted their real-money online gaming offerings.

Kavin Mittal in his LinkedIn post said that in hindsight, starting in India locked the company into the model and regulatory headwinds, turning a temporary path into a more permanent one.

"The Gaming Nation vision is real, but we may be too early," he said. The last 13 years have been "immense", Mittal said noting Hike Messenger reached 40 million monthly active users (MAUs).

66 consumers rewarded by TPCODL in Nayagarh



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 13: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha, felicitated 66 lucky consumers under its "Bill Pay & Win Scheme" at a special prize distribution ceremony in the Nayagarh division.

Eligible consumers with no outstanding dues were selected through a lucky draw and rewarded with mobile phones

and other attractive prizes. The scheme also promotes timely bill payments while serving as a platform to recognise and celebrate valued customers.

Through such initiatives, TPCODL goes beyond reliable electricity supply to build stronger consumer connect. The "Bill Pay & Win Scheme" is among several consumer-centric programs rolled out across divisions, reinforcing the company's focus on customer satisfaction and community trust.

Greatest rivalry lacks roar

With India miles ahead of Pakistan, contest lacks on-ground hype after widespread calls to ban any sporting ties with the arch-rivals following terror attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 13: A spoilt-for-choice Indian squad will be the favourite by a country mile against arch-rivals Pakistan here Sunday in their Asia Cup encounter which is strangely devoid of any hype despite border tensions that have only risen in the past few months.

There is no dearth of context in the contest with a T20 World Cup set to be played in India in four months' time. But for the first time in many years, a cricket match between India and Pakistan, that too scheduled Sunday, lacks the kind of high-pitched narrative that always comes with the territory.

There are batters like Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Abhishek Sharma, a pacer like Jasprit Bumrah, spinners of Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy's calibre in the Indian playing XI. The Indians look way more menacing on paper compared to Pakistan, who are trying to find their feet under new skipper Salman Ali Agha.

However, considering the fickle nature of the format, there is always the chance of an upset but against this Indian team, the probability remains low.

One of the most talented batters in Pakistan's line-up, opener Saim Ayub, middle-order willow-wielder Hasan Nawaz and the troika of spinners in Abrar Ahmed, Sufiyan Muqeen and Mohammed Nawaz would love to prove a point in a new look team



that dumped the philosophy of depending heavily on Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan.

THE POLITICAL PITFALLS

The terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 tourists, began the most recent worsening of relations between the two countries.

The ensuing military operation and the public anger have played a role in the very muted build-up to the most high-profile match of the continental cricketing showpiece.

With thousands of tickets still available and very few fans turn-

ing up at the India practice Friday, the festive excitement surrounding the match is missing.

The social media calls for a boycott by India has found resonance to an extent and as a result, no one knows how many BCCI officials, who otherwise make a beeline during marquee events, will turn up Sunday.

The Government of India has allowed national team's matches against the bitter rivals at multi-nation tournaments but not at the bilateral level.

The travelling media is also aiming to spice up things but predictably representatives of

both nations have dead batted any probing queries which even remotely touch on politics.

BRITTLE BATTING LINE-UP

More than bowling, it is the batting line-up of India that will make Pakistan anxious.

Gill, Abhishek, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, and Shivam Dube can butcher any bowling attack on their day. When it comes to all-rounders -- Faheem Ashraf is not comparable to Hardik in terms of match-winning ability.

These are players, who can take pitch out of the equation

at any given point of time.

If India are wary of any one particular bowler in the Pakistan line-up, then it has to be Shaheen, who has fond memories at this ground in 2021. He had dismissed KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and some overs later Virat Kohli to set up a nice T20 World Cup group league win for his country.

But post knee surgery, Shaheen hasn't been half the bowler he was and the late swing and off the pitch movement has gone missing. The key for India will be to figure the ideal batting line-up. Sanju Samson's slot will be vital and so will be that of Dube, whose assigned task will be to take down the spinners in the middle overs.

The noise may be absent, but the stakes remain high. Because when India and Pakistan take the field, hype or no hype, the world stops to watch.

TEAMS

India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson, Rinku Singh

Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Khushdil Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Agha, Hussain Talat, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Harris, Sahibzada Farhan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufiyan Muqeen, Mohammad Wasim Jr

ASIA CUP

Eves storm into final, face China for glory



The winning team will qualify for next year's World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou (China), Sept 13:

Indian women's hockey team qualified for the Asia Cup final despite playing out a 1-1 draw against Japan after hosts China beat Korea 1-0 in the last match of the Super 4 stage here Saturday.

India will face China in the summit clash Sunday, and the winning team will qualify for next year's World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

After the 1-1 draw against defending champions Japan, India had to wait for the result of the match between Korea and China, who have already qualified for the final.

Korea needed to win by a margin of at least two goals to qualify for the final, but China's victory ensured that India, the third-place finisher in the 2022 edition, made it to the summit clash.

China topped the Super 4s table with nine points after three wins, while India ended at second with four points from one win, one draw and one loss. Korea secured just one point -- one draw and two losses -- to end at the bottom. Japan finished third with two points.

Against Japan, India took an early lead with Beauty Dung Dung putting them ahead in the seventh minute with a field goal. But Japan hit back late, as Kobayakawa Shiho (58th) scored the equaliser just two minutes from the hooter.

It was the second draw between the two sides in this tournament, after their pool-stage clash had also ended 2-2.

A win against Japan would have straightaway put India in the final against hosts China. So, India waited for the result of the Super 4s match between China and Korea. The Harendra Singh-coached side eventually made it to the final.

India had the better start in the early exchanges of the contest and threatened within the first few minutes itself, as Ishika Chaudhary hit the frame of the goal.

After that, Japan began to put together a few attacking moves, but were quickly pushed back as India struck in the form of Dung Dung.

Japan came out in the second quarter looking for the equaliser and were on the front foot in the first few minutes. They won a penalty corner as well, but India kept them out without much trouble.

As the contest progressed, the Indians started to regain the possession, and began building attacks.

SHORT TAKES

Rathod smashes 194

Bangalore: Yash Rathod scored his highest first-class score of 194 as Central Zone constructed a massive first-innings lead of 362 against South Zone to gain complete control of the Duleep Trophy final here Saturday. Central started the third day at a strong 384 for five, with Rathod on 137, and they made 511 before getting bowled out an hour into the post-lunch session. South reached 129 for two in their second innings, still trailing by 233 runs. But the star of the day was undoubtedly Rathod, the highest run-getter in the previous Ranji Trophy season with 960 runs, who came into the final after squandering two golden chances against NorthEast Zone to notch hundreds.

Pugilists enter finals

Liverpool: Minakshi (women's 48kg), Jaismine Lamboria (women's 57kg), and Nupur (women's 80kg) were at their dominant best in their respective semi-finals to raise hope of multiple gold medals for India at the World Boxing Championships 2025 in Liverpool. Minakshi defeated Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan of Mongolia 5:0. Jaismine hammered Omaliyn Carolina Alcala Cegovia of Venezuela 5:0, and Nupur proved too good for Turkey's Seyma Duztas. India has fielded a 20-member contingent at the inaugural World Championships being held under the aegis of the World Boxing, a recently formed international governing body for boxing, and is hoping for a good showing in both men's and women's events.

Athletes flop on Day-1

Tokyo: Indian race walkers disappointed in the 35km events with Sandeep Kumar and Priyanka Goswami finishing at 23rd and 24th places in the men's and women's sections respectively on the opening day of competitions at the World Athletics Championships here Saturday. Another Indian in the fray in men's 35km race walk event, Ram Baboo was disqualified (DQ under rule TR54.7.5) after receiving his fourth red card. He had crossed 24km by then. Baboo, who had finished 27th in Budapest World Championships two years ago, is the current national record holder with a time of 2 hour 29 minute and 56 seconds.

Esha clinches gold, ends medal drought

This was Esha's maiden World Cup gold in the event and it helped India move to fifth spot in the medal standings, joining four other nations with a gold medal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ningbo (China), Sept 13: Olympian and reigning mixed team pistol world champion Esha Singh ended India's medal drought at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol, clinching gold in the women's 10m air pistol here Saturday.

At the Ningbo Olympic Sports



Centre, the 20-year-old edged out home favourite Yao Qianxun by 0.1 point in a tense final. Reign-

I am very happy as this is the first event that I started with and to win a world cup gold in it...I am just happy that some of my goals are being reached

ESHA SINGH

ing Olympic champion Oh Yejin of South Korea took the bronze.

Hosts China lead the standings with two gold, four silver and one bronze. India have fielded their fourth to sixth ranked shooters in each event at the tournament.

Speaking on the next challenges ahead, she said, "Yes obviously the world championship is the next big one for the year.

16 teams reach knockouts in All-India T10 Tennis Ball Cricket

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 13: The league stage of the men's division in the Third All-India T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship concluded Saturday at Shri Jagannath Cricket Stadium in Penthakata of Puri district with 16 teams advancing to the knockout rounds.

The tournament is being organized by the Tennis Ball Cricket Association of India in collaboration with the Odisha T10 Tennis Cricket Association and Shri Jagannath Darshan Charitable Trust.

On the third day, 15 league matches and eight knockout matches were played. Uttar Pradesh defeated Telangana by 47 runs in the opener, while Karnataka beat Maharashtra by 79 runs in the second game.

Jharkhand downed Uttarakhand by nine wickets, Megha-



laya defeated Andhra Pradesh by 40 runs, Goa overcame Rajasthan by eight wickets, Himachal Pradesh edged Meghalaya by 20 runs, Delhi beat Haryana by seven wickets, West Bengal thrashed Telangana by 55 runs, and Tripura topped Andhra Pradesh by seven wickets.

Odisha Host beat Uttarakhand by 40 runs, Purvanchal downed Sikkim by seven wickets, Madhya Pradesh beat Maharashtra by 28 runs, and Assam defeated Rajasthan by eight wickets.

The 16 teams moving forward are AIID, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Odisha, Purvanchal, Jharkhand, Odisha Host, Goa, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Karnataka.

Similarly, all the women's division knockout matches, along with the men's and women's quarterfinals and semifinals will be played Sunday. Finals in both divisions are scheduled for the evening.



day's decider in Nottingham. "It was really good fun, a

personal milestone but also the fact we got to 300 and won by such a big margin, you cannot ask for much more," Salt said.

England had already broken their record for most runs in a T20 powerplay with 100 from six overs, and managed the highest score in all T20 internationals at the 10-over mark with 166-1.

Salt got to 100 in 39 deliveries, breaking Liam Livingston's previous England record of reaching three figures in 42 balls, and then beat his own record of 119 for the team.

ODISHA STATE OPEN ARCHERY MEET

21 archers from Vedanta Sports Programme qualify

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Sept 13: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, is supporting young archers from Kalahandi district through its flagship Sports Training Initiative in Lanjigarh.

Recently, 21 of these athletes (12 male and 9 female) qualified for the upcoming 26th Odisha State Open Archery Meet 2025. The qualifiers emerged from the district-level trials held at SSD School, Lanjigarh, organised by the Kalahandi Athletic Association with Vedanta's support, where a total of 40 archers competed across Indian Round, Compound, and Recurve categories.

Launched in 2018, Vedanta Lanjigarh's Sports Initiative has been nurturing young talent from Kalahandi by providing access to professional training, national-level coaches, modern equipment and kits, logistical



support, and nutritional diets.

Speaking on the achievement, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, CEO of Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "This achievement is a proud moment not just for the young archers but for the entire community of Kalahandi. It demonstrates what focused training and the right support can do in unlocking potential. Our endeavour is to nurture grassroots sporting talents in the region and provide them a strong platform to shine at higher levels. We look forward to seeing many more such success stories emerging from our sports programme."

Davis Cup: In a first, India seal Qualifiers spot



Biel (Switzerland): India progressed to the Davis Cup Qualifiers for the first time ever after Sumit Nagal tamed aggressive teenager Henry Bernet in the first reverse singles to script the team's 3-1 win over Switzerland in the World Group I tie, here Saturday. Nagal took the court after N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli lost

a tight doubles rubber 7-6 (3) 4-6 5-7 to Jakub Paul and Dominic Stricker in two hours and 26 minutes. India had started the day with 2-0 advantage following Friday's inspiring singles wins by Nagal and debutant Dhakshinewar Suresh. This is India's first win over a European side in an away tie in 32 years after they had beaten France in the quarterfinals way back in 1993 when Leander Paes and Ramesh Krishnan led the team to a rare win.

Lakshya, Sat-Chi enter Hong Kong final

Hong Kong: India's Lakshya Sen entered his first major final in two years after edging out Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in straight games, while the men's doubles pair of Satviksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also stormed into the summit clash here Saturday. The 23-year-old from Almora, a 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, ended a long wait for a title shot with a fighting 23-21, 22-20 win over world No 9 and third seed Chou in a gruelling 56-minute semifinal. Earlier, the world No 9 duo of Satvik and Chirag defeated Chinese Taipei's Bing-Wei Lin and Chen Cheng-Kuan 21-17, 21-15 to make their first final of the season after six semifinal heartbreaks. The eighth-seeded Indians will take on China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, silver medallists at the Paris Olympics.

