

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

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PM Modi likely to visit Odisha September 27

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 nower 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 re-

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 Pakshva', state BJP workers are planning to organise blood donation camps, health check-ups, sanitation drives, and community assis-

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

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

The 193-member world body

approved a nonbinding resolu-

tion 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, Net-

anyahu 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.'

vehemently opposes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

Nuapada bypoll India: US to G7 US Treasure Department state-

SPECIAL SUMMARY REVISION

deletions, and corrections to the list

Aims to update the list with newly-eligible

to remove duplicates and deceased voters

An annual process where a routine, periodic

An exceptional, comprehensive, and rarely conducted exercise

sanitisation of existing voter list is made that creates a completely new electoral roll from scratch Primarily relies on public input for additions,

Involves compulsory house-to-house physical surveys by Booth Level Officers to verify every voter

Places a strong emphasis on validating citizenship with documentary proof and strictly targets the removal of illegal voters, such as those who have turned 18, and immigrants and duplicate entries

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION

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 by election. 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, $202\bar{5}$ 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 slat-

ed 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 houseto-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 by election 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.

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

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.

the regions with the highest

number of people over 100 years

old are Shimane, Kochi, and

Interest in the secrets of lon-

gevity of the Japanese popula-

tion is growing year by year.

According to the Ministry of

Health, the average life ex-

pectancy 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

Tottori Prefectures.

Asia Cup: Boycott calls ahead of India-Pak clash



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 la belled 'Pakistan' outside their of fice. 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 Trea ty, 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. Aishanya 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

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,

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.

eisure



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.



accuracy • reliability • trust

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

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 peruse will be successful. Students will excel and finish pending work. You can display your imagination excellently. In short, a day of happiness and variety.

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.

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

Call it your generous side, day to give back to all those from whom 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.



stars in Bandar (Monkey in a Cage), says her role as Khushi required her to step into a orally 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 national

Mum-Actress Chakraborty shared a sneak-peek into the behind-thescenes world of shooting and tagged the ex-

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.

bai:

perience as both

chaotic and magic-

Rhea finds BTS chaos

magical

She wrote: "The chaos behind every shoot is magical. Yet somehow we manage to get the end result. Out of chaos comes

On the acting front, the

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. tress has featured 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 Rumy Jafry. The movie also featured Amitabh Bachchan and

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). IANS

Emraan Hashmi in pivotal roles.

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 Saivagra actor admits that confidence doesn't always come easily and her early years in the industry were marked more by anxiety than "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

> 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. AGENCIES

be there, but they're no



The untold story of Babita's defiance many other women of her generation, dual vision led her to remove her-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 Shiydasani who was one of the biggest style icons of

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

EVERY TIME HER

DAUGHTER HITS A

HONKS THE HORN

GOOD SHOT, SHE

WILL YOU YOU DON'T

CUT THAT LIKE MY

OUT ?! (MOTHER!

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

DOST

self 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.

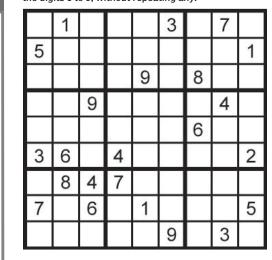
CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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



CALVIN AND HOBBES

WH0'5

HONKING

THAT CAR

HORN?

THAT'S

CRYBABY'S

MOTHER

PEANUTS

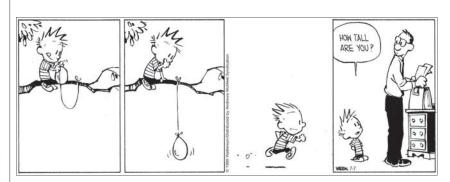
HOW'S THE TENNIS

"CRYBABY

BOOBIE AND

HER BROTHER

ARE LEADING



BREVITY



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 24 Gibbon, for one

27 Dangerous

28 Inveigle

situation

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
- Down 1 Stay
- 2 Car wash option

4 Quarrel

rug

Khan

5 Swedish shag

- - 21 Beam

6 Anxiety

12 Frogman

13 Maxim

a riot

18 Primitive

wagon

disorder

16 Put down, as

- 20 Llama kin
- 25 Consume 26 Greek vowel

SUDOKU

R D H E TREKSTATIONS

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

census teams to ensure the success of this first-of-its-kind initiative in the state.

Bhubaneswar: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will conduct a comprehensive

stray dog census at all wards under its jurisdiction in two phases from September 17 to 24, official sources said Saturday. As many as 410 teams have been formed to carry out the exercise, with surveys to be conducted at the street level. The census will be conducted scientifically

in two rounds for each street from 5am to 7am daily. The first phase of the enumeration will be from September 17 to 20, while the second phase from September 21 to 24. Mayor and Commissioner of BMC have appealed to citizens to extend full cooperation and support to the

CITY'S STRAY DOG CENSUS STARTS SEPT 17

Road safety is collective responsibility: CM

Majhi launches 'Zero Accident Day' campaign in Keonjhar

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday inaugurated the 'Zero Accident Day' (ZAD) campaign organised by the Commerce and Transport (C&T) department in Keonjhar and said road safety is not just the government's responsibility — it is a collective responsibility of every individual.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister called for transforming Odisha into a zero-accident state.

Majhi inaugurated the 'Zero Accident Selfie Point' and felicitated road safety ambassadors. Additionally, he flagged off awareness raths (vans) carrying road safety messages to all 13 blocks of Keonjhar district and launched a signature



campaign on road safety.

Addressing media, the Chief Minister said, "Road safety is not just the government's responsibility—it is a collective responsibility of every individual. After the successful observance of Zero Accident Day in Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar has now become the first district in Odisha to take this campaign forward."

"Our aim should be to spread

the awareness message of Zero Accident Day to every city, village, and household. Along with being personally aware, we must also make others aware. Vigilance in every field is what can protect us from such accidents," said the Chief Minister.

Keonjhar is a mineral-rich region where thousands of trucks, and heavy vehicles move daily,

playing a vital role in the economy. However, this poses a major road safety challenge, the CM noted. He urged every citizen in the district to strictly follow road safety norms and remain vigilant while travelling. He further said, "The observance of Zero Accident Day is a powerful step that reflects our collective responsibility. Companies, drivers, and employees involved in mining and industrial sectors must give top priority to safety."

There should be regular maintenance of heavy vehicles, and training for drivers should be emphasised. Strict compliance with these practices can significantly reduce road accidents, he said.

Among others, Keonjhar MP Ananta Naik, MLAs of Ghasipura, Champua, Patna, Telkoi and Anandapur, DGP Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, State Transport Authority Commissioner-cum-Chairman Amitabh Thakur and district Collector Vishal Singh were present.

75L SAPLINGS TO BE PLANTED ON PM'S BIRTH ANNIV:

PNN & AGENCIE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday appealed to the people of Odisha to join the 'Ek Peed Maa Ke Naam'-2 campaign and help the state to plant 75 lakh saplings on the 75th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi September 17.

Majhi, in a video message, appealed to the people and said in the second edition of this campaign, the state government has set a target to plant a total of 7.5 crore trees across this year. The campaign, which started June 5, will end September 30.

On Modi's 75th birthday September 17, Majhi said that 75 lakh saplings will be planted across the state as a mark of gift to the PM.

"Modi ji's leadership in building a strong and developed India has earned praise all over the world today. Modi ji has a special focus on the development of Odisha. In honour of his dedication to the development of Odisha, 75 lakh saplings will be planted on that day. This will be a gift from the people of Odisha to Modi ji," Majhi said.

Stating that the greatest blessing in the world is 'mother', the CM said all should plant a tree as a mark of respect to their mother.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (MSME) INDIA International Trade Fair (IITF)-2025 **Invites applications for Participation** 14th to 27th November, 2025 Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi Theme Pavilion of MSME-2025 "Vibrant MSMEs, Viksit Bharat" Last Date for online application: 20.09.2025 (Applications submitted after this date will not be Eligibility: Only Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) with a valid Udyam Registration Certificate are Traders are not allowed to participate. Stall Fee Payment: No stall fee or related receipt/invoice is required at the application Stall fees will be collected only from MSEs that have been allotted stalls, in accordance with the Procurement and Marketing Support (PMS) Scheme Guidelines Eligible MSEs can apply online through the MSME portal: https://my.msme.gov.in/MyMsme/Reg/COM_ViewEvent.aspx CBC 25113/12/0037/2526

VIKSIT BHARAT

OUNG LEADERS

IALOGUE 2026

HC seeks report on cooked food for govt hosp patients

CENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Orissa High Court (HC) has asked the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department and Cuttack's SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) to file a detailed report on hygiene measures being taken during preparation and distribution of cooked food to indoor patients at SCBMCH as well as other government healthcare facilities in Odisha, monitoring of the balanced diet preparation and adequacy of the diet to the patients.

The HC also asked the H&FW department and the state's premier healthcare facility to suggest as to how in SCBMCH as well as other government hospitals a well-planned infrastructure can

be provided, infection preventive measures can be taken and protocols for preparation as well as distribution of cooked diet in a systematic way can be maintained while ensuring quality.

The state's apex court sought for the implementation of technical and operational guidelines of 2022 framed by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"Since the kitchen facility available at SCBMCH has been outsourced, overall monitoring and supervision is required to be done by hospital personnel," the HC observed in the order pronounced September 10.

"As different dietary norms are to be followed for different categories of patients, the role of dietician is very much relevant," the HC ruled, suggesting that adequacy of diet and hygiene measures are required to be taken at the time of food preparation and also while serving the food to patients.

'Taking into account the continuing concern over the lack of attention to the nutritional needs of indoor patients, the H&FW department has already formed a technical and management

support team to assess the prevailing dietary practices in public health institutions and identify areas of improvement," department's Commissioner-cum-Secretary informed the HC in an affidavit.

Emphasis was also laid on formation of diet vigilance com-

mittee to monitor and supervise overall diet management process and quality assurance system, the affidavit said, adding, "Facilities at the kitchens need to be improved along with hygienic practices and each kitchen should have separate storage and cooking facilities along with provision of a food preservation

"The H&FW department has also issued guidelines for diet management in public health institutions wherein the role of dietician/nutritionist, sanitary measures, store and stock, cleanliness of kitchen staff and dishes/utensils and food handling have been highlighted," it added.

The matter was posted for further hearing November 6 next.





Yuva Shakti LEADING THE PATH TO Viksit Bharat

PM Narendra Modi

 Young Leaders to present their Vision of Viksit Bharat to PM Modi.

 Participants will be selected through a merit-based, multi-level process from pan-India.

 Aspiring youth take the quiz to script India's journey to Viksit Bharat.



with

LAST DATE TO REGISTER
15th OCTOBER 2025

Log in to mybharat.gov.in today

Make your first step by participating in the quiz for VBYLD 2026



CBC 47107/13/0011/2526



108 AMBULANCE TRAINS **AIR FORCE ON FIRST AID**

Bhubaneswar: On World First Aid Day 2025, the 108 Ambulance team Training Programme at the Air Force Selection Centre. The event, attended by Group Captain Sanjay Head Sabyasachi Biswal, highlighted Odisha launch March 5, 2013. Certified conducted sessions for Air Force per as heart attacks, fainting, breathing aging, insect and animal bites, and snakebites, with hands-on practice and live demonstrations. CPR training expanding such initiatives statewide

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



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Ama Bus services were disrupted Saturday as drivers from the Pokhariput depot staged a 'steering down' protest, demanding timely payment of

According to reports, over 43 buses remained idle at the Pokhariput depot as drivers refused duty, disrupting 'Ama Bus' services across the City and causing inconvenience to

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

City AIIMS ranks 14th in NIRF 2025

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

"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,

₹25K reward for info

on missing constable

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odis-

ha Police Saturday announced a

cash reward of ₹25,000 to anyone

providing information on miss-

ing woman traffic constable of

Subhamitra Sahoo, 25, a res-

ident of Paradip area in Jagats-

inghpur 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:

constable was also attached in

Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmo-

han 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 Bhu-

baneswar at around 10am Sep-

tember 6. Though her duty ended

by 7pm, she did not return home.

members have met the Commis-

sioner of Police here and sought

his help to trace her.

Meanwhile, Sahoo's family

the social media post.

The photograph of the missing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar.

-□ Institute rose from 31st in 2021 and 15th in 2024 to 14th in 2025, highlighting its progress in medical education, healthcare, and

□ 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-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: On

the 12th day of its ongoing spe-

cial drive, the Excise depart-

ment seized contraband worth

about ₹1.69 crore across several

In the crackdown on illicit

liquor and narcotics, enforce-

ment teams registered 292 cases

and arrested 168 people under

the Excise Act and Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Sub-

The operations resulted in

the seizure of 13,988 bulk li-

tres (BL) of illicit liquor, 785

BL of duty-paid liquor, and the

destruction of over 1.43 lakh

litres of fermented wash. Offi-

cials also confiscated 524 kg of

mahua flowers and seized 23

vehicles used for transporting

was action under the NDPS Act,

with 10 cases booked and sei-

zures of 132 kg of ganja and 332

grams of heroin, underscoring

the department's zero-tolerance

The Excise department said

the coordinated campaign is

part of its sustained effort to

break the illegal alcohol and

policy on narcotics.

A key highlight of the drive

stances (NDPS) Act.

contraband.

main committed to our mission of delivering excellence in healthcare, fostering worldclass 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

13,988 BL of illicit liquor, 785 BL of duty-paid liquor,

and 1.43 lakh litres of fermented

524 kg of mahua flowers were

allegedly used for transporting

10 NDPS cases registered with

seizures of 132 kg ganja and

drug trade. "The 12th day's

results reflect our firm resolve

to curb illicit activities and

safeguard public health and

Since the start of the month,

the Excise department has

carried out the special drive

through heightened surveil-

lance, field raids, and intelli-

gence-based operations, and

said it will continue with the

same momentum in the com-

contraband were seized

332 grams of heroin

safety," it stated.

confiscated, and 23 vehicles

wash destroyed

'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

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

environment.

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

A division bench of Justhe regional officer of pollution board to file a detailed by it since January to ensure 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

It posted the matter for further hearing September 25.

economic change in Western Odisha and beyond. "From its serene Jyoti Vihar campus, the University has blended academic excellence with char acter-building and a spirit of service," he said, adding that it has recently strengthened academics, research, and inno vation while upholding excel lence and social responsibility He emphasised that education must extend beyond academics

noting, "Knowledge without

character cannot build a just

Guv urges youth to be responsible citizens

Bhubaneswar/ Sambalpur

Sept 13: Highlighting the cru-

cial 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 ad-

dressing the University's 35th

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 mark-

ing the start of a new journey of

Reflecting on Sambalpur

University's legacy since 1967,

Kambhampati lauded its role in

nurturing generations of young

minds and driving social and

responsibility and service.

"Each of you carries the torch

Convocation.

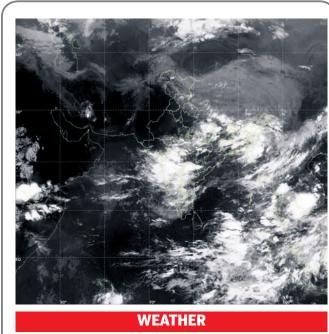
and prosperous nation." The Governor welcomed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the ceremony's chief guest. Addressing the gath ering, Pradhan said, "Universities should enhance the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of Odisha's people and prioritise teaching in the mother tongue. He added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

Special drive: ₹1.69cr Report on Cuttack air pollution: HC to SPCB AGENCIES

pollution in Cuttack.

tice SK Sahoo and Justice V Narasingh took cognizance of a newspaper report and asked report on the measures taken compliance of environmental

division bench ordered.



BBSR CTC **FORECAST** Max Temp 32.4° 30.0° Partly cloudy sky with possibility 26.2° 24.2° Min Temp thunderstorm 87% 95% Humidity TRACE Rainfall 13.6mm

BOOKING STA

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-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.

Man dies in shop building collapse; close shave for 3



Koraput, Sept 13: A 62-yearold shop owner was killed after two shops collapsed at a market complex near the bus stand in Koraput Saturday, police said.

The victim was identified as Loknath Patra, a resident of the town and owner of Harihar Bakery. Three others managed to escape unhurt. The incident took place at a two-storey shop, part of the Biswasray Marketing Complex, located in front of the district police headquarters along National Highway-26 in Koraput town, the police said. The incident triggered a fivehour rescue operation, during which traffic on National High-

way 26 was suspended. The mishap occurred when Patra was cleaning his shop with a group of workers ahead of the Dussehra festival. The shop, which had reportedly weakened due to continuous rains in the town, was under repair at the time of the incident.

The workers were carrying out drilling works when the roof of two adjacent shops caved in. While his brother Sridhar Patra and two labourers rushed out of the shop after hearing the cracking sound, Patra was trapped under the debris. Sridhar fainted upon witnessing the collapse.

Koraput SP Rohit Verma reached the site and launched rescue operations. Teams from the OSAP 3rd Battalion, ODRAF, emergency teams from Koraput, Laxmipur, Semiliguda, and Jeypore fire services, and Koraput Town police carried out the rescue operation on war footing. To expedite the rescue, authorities deployed six earth movers to clear the debris, and sniffer dogs to locate possible survivors.

Patra was pulled out in critical condition from under the debris after an hour and admitted to Saheed Laxman Navak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH), where he later died.

Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha, IAS probationer Santosh Patra, Sub-Collector Premlal Hial. Koraput Municipality Chairman Lalat Ranjan Sethi, SDPO, Town police IIC, and other officials were present at the site.

SP Verma and the sub-collector directed engineers to inspect other shops in the market complex by Sunday before taking further action.

Tehsildar S Sabir gave away an immediate financial assistance of Rs 30,000 to Patra's family on behalf of the district administration.

Woman, two youths tied up, assaulted by kangaroo court locked box in hostel

Baripada, Sept 13: Villagers tied up a woman and two youths to a utility pole and brutally assaulted them over suspected extra-marital affairs as part of a kangaroo court at a village under Jashipur police limits in Mayurbhanj district Friday evening.

Photos and videos of the assault went viral on social media, prompting police to act swiftly. Seven people were arrested and produced in court. The accused were identified as Jange Ho, 22, Ghanashyam Ho, 25, Anil Ho, 25, Padmabati Ho, 34, Surubali Ho, 52, Buduni Ho, 48, and Mata Ho, 45; all residents of Duradura village under Begunia panchayat.

According to police, the incident took place when the woman, a widow and mother of

two children, was seen talking to the two youths on her way back from a nearby market. Her in-laws and villagers, suspecting an extra-marital affair, grew agitated and dragged the woman along with the two men before tying them to a pole and thrashing them.

After a complaint was lodged.

police registered a case (310/25) and launched an investigation. Using the viral visuals as evidence, police officials arrested the accused persons and produced them in court. Jashipur police station Inspector-In-Charge Sanjukta Mahalik said efforts are underway to apprehend others involved in the crime.

Sundargarh, Sept 13: A Class III student was rescued in an unconscious condition from a locked box at a school hostel in Jarda under Gurundia block of Sundargarh district Friday, officials said.

The child, a resident of Brahmanidihi village, was later found to be safe and stable. His family alleged that one of his classmates stuffed him into the box following a quarrel.

According to reports, the boy had an argument with a classmate at the hostel earlier in the day. Upset, the classmate allegedly locked him inside a box. When the student was marked absent during roll call, the hostel warden informed the headmaster and a search was launched.

Failing to locate him, school officials contacted his family.

WHILE THE **FAMILY ACCUSED** A CLASSMATE OF **CONFINING HIM,** HE DENIED THE CHARGE CLAIMING **THE BOY HAD HIDDEN INSIDE THE BOX ON HIS OWN**

When they arrived and began searching, they heard noises from a locked box. Upon opening it, they found the boy unconscious and pulled him out.

While the family accused the classmate of confining him, he denied the charge claiming the boy had hidden inside the box on his own. The incident has triggered unrest among parents in the area.

Delayed overbridge on highway causes traffic chaos

DWARKA PRASAD PATNAIK, OP

Chhatrapur, Sept 13: One of the important junctions along the National Highway 16, Humma connects the famous Tara Tarini temple and other tourist destinations with major cities like Bhubaneswar and Berhampur. With multiple village roads merging into the NH-16, there was a growing demand for construction of an overbridge. Considering this, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) decided to carry out the project on a priority basis.

Construction began in full swing with one part of the overbridge almost reaching the final phase. But the project has come to a standstill owing to an ongoing tug-of-war between Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPSODL) and NHAI.

NHAI notified the discom to relocate a power grid to enable early completion of the project. However, neither TPSODL is making any effort to clear the site, nor the NHAI is moving ahead with the construction. The impasse has led to traffic chaos alongside the main road of Humma, making commoners the biggest sufferers.

Tragically, as many as eight persons have lost their lives



and at least six people have been critically injured in accidents on the congested road which is used by heavy vehicles, long distance buses, regular commuters and locals. Most importantly, ambulances carrying critical patients are the worst affected due to traffic jams on the route.

With the festive season approaching, temples in the area expect a large congregation of devotees who throng the shrines to offer their prayers. To avoid further mishaps, Bateswar Shrine Conservation Committee led by former sarpanch Dilip Chhotray, working president Siba Prasad Swain, secretary Ranjit Palai and others recently presented a letter to Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan requesting a quick solution with proper connection of the roads to the NH-16. They also urged him to make way for early completion of the overbridge.

IIMC, Dhenkanal forest div launch photography contest

DHENKANAL: The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal, in partnership with the Divisional Forest Office, has announced a nature and wildlife photography competition and invited submissions from September 10-25. A public exhibition of the shortlisted entries will follow in the first week of October to celebrate International Wildlife Week. The contest of the Dhenkanal district, with categories for individual entries, group photo-features, and an open section fo include "Beauty in Biodiversity." 'ColoUrs of Flora & Fauna," and "Man-Animal: Peaceful Coexistence." "The contest will inspire citizens, especially youth, to appreciate and document ou unique biodiversity," said Sumit Kar, Divisional Forest Officer, Dhenkanal. Professor Anand Pradhan, Regional Director of IIMC, emphasised the role of communication in conservation.

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(A Gold Rated State PSU)

TEL: **06760-266031, Email**: <u>sgmel**500@gmail.com**</u>
No.: RHEP/TW/PUR-III-240/6691 /Date: 11.09.2025 NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. RHEP - 31/2025-25

	SI. No.	Description of Services	paper (Non- refundable) in Rs.	of DD only (Refundable) in Rs.	Period of availability of tender at OHPC website	Last date & Time of receipt of Tender	of opening of Techno Commercial bid
l	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	Rebabbitting of old and used Thrust Bearing Pads (09 nos.), Lower Guide Bearing Pads (09 nos.) and Upper Guide Bearing Pads (09 nos.) for 50 MW Hydro Generator of RHEP, Rangali	Rs. 11,800/- (Rs. 10,000/- + GST@18%)	50,700/-	From Dt. 15.09.2025 to Dt. 03.10.2025 up to 1:00 P.M.)	Dt.03.10.2025 up to 1.30 PM	Dt.03.10.2025 at 04:30 PM
For details and further correspondence / corrigendum, please visit our website www.ohpc/td.com.							
OIPR-04022/11/0104/2526 Sd./- C & P Head, RHEP, Rengali							

Name of the Work

Approx Estimated Cost

06. Last date / time of receipt of

bids in the portal

of bid document in the portal

EAST COAST RAILWAY DEVICES (IFDs) FOR MONITORING & CONTROL (INDIAN RAILWAYS NATIVE IOT BASED YIELD ANALYSIS TELEMETRY, RECORDING AND CONTROL -IR-NIYANTRAC) OF ELECTRICAL GENERAL ASSETS LIKE

PLATFORM (30/70%) LIGHTING, STREET LIGHTING, LIFTS, ESCALATORS, SUBSTATION ETC VER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 9,20,13,805.04 EMD: ₹ 6,10,100/-(2) e-Tender notice No: e-Tender-Elect-G-44-25

DESCRIPTION OF WORK : AUGMENTATION OF POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT REPLACEMENT OF 33/11 KV TRANSFORMER & HT SWITCH AND CONVERSION OF OVER HEAD LINE TO UNDER GROUND CABLING SYSTEM WITH LT PANEL AND FEEDER

PILLARS UNDER RAIL AWAS AND RAII

KUNJ AND MONITORING OF SUBSTATION UNDER HQ JURISDICTION AT CHANDRASEKHARPUR. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 5,77,84,830.45,

EMD: ₹4,38,900/-(a) BY TERRIDER HOLDER TO BE SERVICE TO SERV Approx. Cost of Work : ₹ 4,78,28,611.21,

(4) e-Tender notice No: e-Tender-Elect-G-47-25

04. Period of Completion
05. Date & Time of availability DESCRIPTION OF WORK:
ELECTRIFICATION IN CONNECTION
WITH PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS
SHIFTING OF UTILITIES IN
CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION
OF DALLWAY OVER DRUDGE (ROR) AT OF RAILWAY OVER BRIDGE (ROB) AT KM 370/25-27 OF NH-200 (NEW NH-53) ON KOLKATTA-CHENNAI MAIN LINE IN BETWEEN STATIONS
HARIDASPUR-DHANMANDAL UNDER
DEPOSITSCHEME. Approx. Cost of Work : ₹ 12,45,637.23,

(5) e-Tender notice No: e-Tender-Elect-G-48-25

DESCRIPTION OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR WEE BASED PUMP AUTOMATION OF COMPLETE SYSTEM IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR 3 YEARS. Approx. Cost of Work : ₹ 23,46,761.16,

EMD: ₹46,900/-Completion Period : 06 Months (for SI No. 1 & 3), 04 Months (for SI. No. 2), 03 Months (for SI. No. 4) & 36 Months (for SI. No. 5).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 hrs. of 03.10.2025 (for all the Tenders). No manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted agains such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-Tender is available at website: www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website ten (10) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. The tenderers / bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered nderer(s)/ bidder(s) can participate on

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ PR-586/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

O/O Sr. GENERAL MANAGER, Rengali Hydro Electric Project P.O: RENGALI DAM SITE, PIN: 759105, DIST: ANGUL (ODISHA)

SN	SI. lo.	Description of Services	paper (Non- refundable) in Rs.	of DD only (Refundable) in Rs.	Period of availability of tender at OHPC website	Last date & Time of receipt of Tender	of opening of Techno Commercial bid
Г	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	Rebabbitting of old and used Thrust Bearing Pads (09 nos.), Lower Guide Bearing Pads (09 nos.) and Upper Guide Bearing Pads (09 nos.) for 50 MW Hydro Generator of RHEP, Rangali	Rs. 11,800/- (Rs. 10,000/- + GST@18%)	50,700/-	From Dt. 15.09.2025 to Dt. 03.10.2025 up to 1:00 P.M.)	Dt.03.10.2025 up to 1.30 PM	Dt.03.10.2025 at 04:30 PM
For details and further correspondence / corrigendum, please visit our website www.ohpcltd.com.							
OIPR-04022/11/0104/2526 Sd./- C & P Head, RHEP, Rengali							

Social Responsibility Council (SRC) 114, 1st Floor Pratap Bhawan, 5 BSZ Marg, New Delhi 110002 Ref. No.: NSTFDC/CSR/Space Lab/2025-26

Notice: Inviting Proposal for Selection of ISRO-

Recognized Space Tutor for Establishment of Space Labs The Tender document is available on the official website of the

14.09.2025. Interested Applicants are required to download the tender document from the SRC website www.srcouncil.in and submit their proposals via email to pro@srcouncil.in only on or before 28.09.2025, 17:00 hrs (IST). The technical bids will be opened on 29.09.2025, 11:00 hrs (IST). The Authority reserves the right to

reject any or all proposals at any stage without assigning any PRO-SRC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA

Parmanandpur, Railway Station Road, Bhawanipatna Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766002, e-mail: eephbhpt@gmail.com

National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement Identification No. SEPH-BHPT - 25 of 2025-26/Dt.11.09.2025

e-Procurement Notice

1no Work

Single Bid System Rs.41.79 Lakh

PM of 25 09 2025

02 Calendar Months

5.00 PM of 25.09.2025

From 11.00 AM of dt. 16.09.2025 to 5.00

urday after a gap of 33 months. District Collector and Board Chairman Vishal Singh presided over the meeting. Among those present were DMF CEO Reena Pradhan, Lok Sabha

MP Ananta Nayak, Rajya Sabha

MP Sujit Kumar, MLAs Badri

Narayan Patra, Abhimanyu Sethy,

Keonjhar/Hatadihi, Sept 13:

The 12th Trust Board meeting of

the District Mineral Foundation

(DMF) in Keonjhar was held Sat-

POST NEWS NETWORK



DMF Trust Board meeting held after gap of 33 months

Sanatan Mahakud, Akhil Chandra Nayak and Fakir Mohan Nayak, Zilla Parishad CDO Kumar Nagabhusan, Keonjhar DFO Dhanaraj HD, senior departmental officials and other Trust Board members.

CO POWERED BY

POWERED BY

Officials did not release detailed information on whether new or old issues were taken up for discussion. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, though present in Keonjhar district, failed to attend the board meeting — a decision that has drawn criticism from residents.

The administration, however, said on social media platforms that proposals for the district's development were discussed and adopted with the participation of all board members.

Inspector suspended

over negligence in duty

JAJPUR: The Odisha Police Saturday suspended a lady inspector in Jajpur district over "gross misconduct and negligence in duty", an official said. An order issued by the state police headquarters stated that disciplinary proceeding is being contemplated against the inspector. During the suspension period, she will be entitled to draw subsistence allowance and dearness allowance, as per norms, it said. The officer was recently accused of illegally detaining a businessman from Nischintakoili area in Cuttack district for three days, and allegedly extorting money for his release. Subsequently, an inquiry was conducted, and she was transferred to the district police headquarters at Panikoili, police sources said.

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

OrissaPOST -BHARAT

Social Responsibility Council (SRC) at www.srcouncil.in from

NAME OF WORK : PERIODIC OVERHAULING OF BIO-DIGESTER TANKS AND EVACUATION OF SEPTIC ANKS AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR ALONG WITH SUPPLY OF INOCULUMS FOR A PERIOD OF 24 (TWENTY-FOUR)

Tender No. MCSW-Bio-Tank-25-26-19

Advertised Value : ₹5,97,27,014.28 EMD : ₹4,48,600/-, Period of Completion: 24 Months

Bidding Start Date: 16.09.2025 Tender Closing Date and Time :

At 1500 Hrs. of 30.09.2025.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including etender documents and corrigendum is available in website www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH), PR-591/Q/25-26 CRW/Mancheswa

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(A) Auction Catalogue No. SDCM-4W-PSA

(1) Lot No./Category: PARKING-KUR-KUR-FW-214-25-1 (Parking - Four Wheeler) DESCRIPTION : PARKING LOT FOR FOUR WHEELER NEAR PATHWAY OF

KHURDA ROAD (NEW) STATION BUILDING IN (DIVISION KHURDA (2) Lot No./Category: PARKING-KUR-KUR-TW-10-22-2 (Parking - Two Wheeler

DESCRIPTION: PARKING LOT FOR TWO WHEELERS ON PLATFORM-1 SIDE (OPP.-KALYAN MANDAP) OF KHURDA ROAD RAILWAY STATION IN (DIVISION KHURDA ROAD), AREA 1677 SQM.

Lot Start Date & Time: 20.09.2025 a 1100hrs. (for both SI. Nos.) Lot End Date & Time : 20.09.2025 a 1130 hrs. (for SI. No.1) and 1140 hrs. (fo SI. No.2).

(B) Auction Catalogue No.SDCM-PSA-4W-0 Lot No./Category: PARKING-KUR-PSA-FW-215-25-1 (Parking - Four Wheeler) DESCRIPTION: PARKING LOT FOR FOUR WHEELERS AT LOCATION PALASAIN (DIVISION KHURDA ROAD). Lot Start Date & Time: 23.09.2025 at 1100hrs., Lot End Date & Time: 23.09.2025 at 1130 hrs.

(C) Auction Catalogue No. KUR BHCEND Lot No./Category: PnU-KUR-KUR-Toi-90-25-1 (Pay and Use - Toilets) DESCRIPTION : ON PLATFORM-1 (BHADRAK END) OF KHURDA ROAD

Lot Start Date & Time: 23.09.2025 at 1500hrs., Lot End Date & Time: 23.09.2025 at 1530 hrs. Minimum Increase: 0.2%, Lot Status

New in Draft Catalogue. Complete details available at website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divl. Commercial Manager



07. Date & Time of opening of At 11.30 AM of 26.09.2025 technical bids ROAD), AREA: 2150.40 SQM. Name and Address of the Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Division Officer Inviting Bid Bhawanipatna, Railway Station Road. At/Po - Parmanandpur, 766002, Dist Kalahandi Further details can be seen from the website http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer, OIPR-13059/11/0041/2526

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid identification No. : 23/2025-26					
	Name of the Work		3 Nos. of work		
	Estimated Cost	:	23.50 lakh to 79.15 Lakh		
3	Period of Completion	:	Three months		
4	Date & time of	:	From 11.00 A.M. of		
	availability of bid		16.09.2025 to 5.00 P.M. o		
	document in the portal		03.10.2025		
5	Last Date/time for	:	5.00 P.M. of 03.10.2025		
	receipt of bids in the				
	portal				
6	Name & Address of		Superintending Engineer		

the Officer inviting Bid P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal in the Website (http://tendersorissa.gov.in)

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, OIPR-13205/11/0033/2526 P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar



By your stumbling, the world is perfected.

SRI AUROBINDO



Aakar Patel

Today I

wanted to ask

question: What

has the Indian

state intended

to achieve and

has it been

doing this

successful in

ourselves a

Majoritarian Momentum

n 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 Raiasthan 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 propaga-

tion. 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

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.

GEOPOLITICS

RESOURCE RIVALRY

ritical raw materi als 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

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.

> Center for International Relations, Poland

The writer is expert,

SPECTRUM

Bruno Surdel

AND THE US

INCREASINGLY

VIEW CHINESE

CONTROL OVER

SUPPLY CHAINS

AS A STRATEGIC

EUROPE

THREAT

COMMERCE

Trump tariffs will widen North-South divide



Qiyuan Xu & Yutao Huang

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

hile 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 lowend 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

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

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.

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.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Subhalaxmi Lenka, BANGALORE



TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000



TWO STATES





Land subsidence crumbles hopes, dreams in Jammu



Following a week of incessant rainfall and devastating floods. concerns over land subsidence, especially in the flood-affected regions, have aggravated the troubles of the

people in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khari (Bantalab), Sept 13: Mohammad Javaid sits desolate under the fragile cover of a tent, unable to comprehend how he ended up in this situation. A little over a week ago, he was living with his family of six in his dream home.

But in a cruel turn of fate. his two-storied house in Khari village in Jammu and Kashmir, built only a year and a half ago. developed cracks due to land subsidence. The house built from savings, made painstakingly through years of hard labour, has now collapsed, putting his family in a precarious place.

"For the past six to seven days, the land in our village has been sinking. It started with small cracks in our houses after the rains stopped around September 3, but now there are four to five-foot deep cracks in the earth." Javaid tells PTI.

Eves brimming with tears, he adds, "I spent lakhs of rupees building this house with every penny I saved. My house has gone. Now everything is completely destroyed. We sleep in our farm land under tarpaulins, covering our goods and family when the rains come."

Javaid says their survival solely depends on the support of the government and his fellow villagers. "The administration has given us tents, but it's no substitute for a home. Nearly 20 to 25 houses here are completely damaged."

Across the Jammu region, land subsidence has been reported at 19 places in Ramban, Kishtwar, Poonch, Reasi, and Kathua districts. This follows heavy rains and flash floods at the end of August that displaced over 2,500 to 3,000 people

Those who lost their homes and livelihoods now appeal to the government for urgent relief and permanent rehabilitation as they continue to live under the constant threat of sinking ground and further tragedy. Khari lies on mountainous

terrain, and is called the green engine of Jammu due to its lush green cover. The village is 15 km from Jammu, the city

Now Khari wears the look of a place devastated by an earthquake, with some houses sunk into the land, collapsed roofs and walls. Across a vast patch of land, residents have set up tents where subsidence-hit families stay, along with their household goods and cattle.

With no power and water supply, and road connectivity disrupted due to the recent floods, several families spend long hours sitting on beds in the open under the shade of trees.

Gulam Mohammad (69) and his seven family members say they fear that the ground could give way at any moment.

"My house collapsed and sank into the earth after the surrounding land submerged five to six feet deep September 5. We barely managed to bring out our household goods and family," he says.

"Every day the land sinks more. The tents and rations we received from the administration help, but living here is too risky. We want the government to relocate us to safer places," he says.

Mehram Bibi recalls how her house sank within minutes September 6. "All our household goods were buried along with the house. We have nothing left, but thankfully, we managed to save our lives," she savs.

Bibi, whose two sons and their families lost their home, says there is no electricity or water supply, and the roads have been damaged, "We survive on rations from the Army and some kind people who offer food. But how long can we endure this?" she asked, her voice trembling.

"Where will we go as the rains are continuing and the land keeps sinking? We demand immediate rehabilitation," she says

Following a week of incessant rainfall and devastating floods, concerns over land subsidence, especially in the flood-affected regions, have aggravated the troubles of the people in Jammu.

The ground has been sinking for days in Khari and Kanger panchavats of Bantalah area Lower and Upper Bermini, Guraa, Chaata, Undue Sarari in the Sidhra-Bajalta belt on the outskirts of Jammu city. leading to deep cracks in at least 100 houses.

All affected families have been shifted to temporary tents. Officials suspect that excessive water saturation caused by torrential rains led to the subsidence in

parts that are on hilly terrain. Experts are expected to inspect the site soon to assess the situation further.

Damaged road, poor mgmt push travel time

NIGHTMARE ON JAMMU-SRINAGAR HIGHWAY

Jammu, Sept 13: The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highregion, has turned into a scene of chaos and frustration for commuters, who face a gruelling ordeal as what used to be a nearly five-hour journey just three weeks ago now drags on for more than 12 hours due to damaged road and poor management.

The highway - the only all-weather road linking Kash mir with the rest of the country – suffered extensive damages at several places, especially on the stretch between Nashri and Udhampur, in the aftermath of record rainfall August 26 and 27.

However, the damaged portion is not the only obstacle to smooth movement of vehicles.

Even as the authorities implemented a one-way traffic system after reopening the highway three days ago, lack of proper management has only added to the misery, the commuters who took the arterial road told PTI.

The truckers, who are officially not allowed on the road for the time being, have completely choked one side of it almost all along the highway, with continuous work on the

The situation is worsened by complete disregard for lane discipline, reckless overtaking, and near-total absence of traffic regulation.

damaged portions leading to

severe traffic congestion.

The commuters, however, were all praise for the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), which has managed to create a diversion between the severely-damaged Balli Nalla and Thared in Udhampur district where both sides of the highway are completely buried under a moving hill

"The surface is still not completely stable and we have to keep our men and machinery ready to keep the traffic moving," an NHAI official supervising the operations near Thared He said they are faced with

a challenging situation to keep the highway open in view of major damages at four places between Nashri and Udhampur, particularly in the Samroli area where portions of the highway have been washed away. besides the complete blocking of one tube of a tunnel due to a major landslide near Peerah.

"It will take months for complete restoration of the high way. At least three months are required to raise and stabilise a bed where the road has been washed away," the NHAI offi-

A traffic official said they are regulating one-way light motor vehicle traffic on the highway

Light motor vehicle traf fic was allowed on trial basis September 11 but due to the slipperv surface of the road vehicles got jammed and were pushed with excavators and loaders throughout the day Due to the wet bed of this stretch (Thared), heavy motor vehicle movement cannot be permitted until the bed dries up," the official said.

However, the situation or the ground speaks of a different scenario altogether with trucks also seen plying along side passenger vehicles, includ

According to data available with the toll plazas, about 2,500 trucks, including fruit-laden vehicles, plied on the highway during the 16 hours from 4 pm Friday till 8 am Saturday de spite the restrictions in place.

'Swimming, survival, seva': Tales of families living in Delhi's Yamuna Bazaar

New Delhi, Sept 13: Along the Yamuna Bazaar area here, children are taught to swim almost as soon as they start walking. For families living on the riverbank, swimming is not a sport but a survival skill passed down generations for protection against the river's dangers.

"At first, we get a little rash Not all of us are strong," nineyear-old Sameer says laughing, as his friend teases him for being weak. "But it is fun to swim." he says.

Families here train their children from an early age to keep a watch in summer, when the water levels in the Yamuna are low, and respond fast during floods.

The youngest are asked to alert the elders, while the older ones learn to pull back people who stray too close to the deeper parts of the river.

"Even this year, when the water rose, it was the children who were the first to spot people in trouble. Some even helped pull them out," Ghanshyam, 60, a long-time resident of the Yamuna Bazaar area, told PTI.

"Our fathers taught us how to swim and we are teaching children now. This is not a commercial activity for us, this is for survival,"



he said. That survival instinct has defined life along the Yamuna Bazaar for generations.

"My father used to tell me that if you cannot swim, the river will swallow you. So I taught all my children how to swim. It is like learning to walk for us. The water level here can change suddenly, you cannot afford to be unprepared," said Hathiram, another resident.

During the 2023 floods, Suren dar, who once worked as a government lifeguard and now guards a hotel pool, stayed back in the area with his neighbours for a week after their families were moved to shelters.

"We pulled people out every day. You cannot turn your back when someone is drowning, he recalls. His elder son, an engineering student, is an accomplished swimmer, while the younger one is still learning.

Women in the community, though often not in the water themselves, live with constant worry. "We get a little scared when we see the children trying to swim in the river. But like everything else, you get used to it," said Ruksana, watching from the steps of the ghat.

Alongside the families, the Rescue Boat Club near Civil Lines has been central to organised rescue work. "Someone usually spots a

person drowning and calls police. Police then inform our organisation and that is when we move in," said Shabbir, a diver who has worked with the club "But before we arrive, locals

often jump in to pull people out. By the time we reach, many lives have already been saved," he added. The club, staffed with divers and boatmen, claims to have rescued more than 2,000 people this year during the floods. "It is mostly children who tend to drown," Shabbir said.

The Yamuna's ghats are often crowded with families performing rituals and last rites. Many mourners wander too close to the water, unaware of the currents "This year too, we pulled back journalists, people who came for visarjan and visitors who had gone too far," Surendar said.

Delhi to start free bus ride pink card registration for women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Delhi government is likely to begin the registration process for the free bus ride Pink Card from mid-October as a Bhai Doo gift for women in the national

The Pink Card will be valid for a lifetime, making it easier for women to use public trans port anytime, without restrictions, an official said.

The final decision on the date and procedure for the new initiative will be made in an up coming meeting, the senior transport official told PTI.

The new initiative will re place the previous paper-based ticket system with the 'Saheli Smart Card', a permanent, per sonalised travel pass that will allow female passengers to travel freely and conveniently on Delhi government buses, the official added. He said the card registration is likely to begin in October, enabling "Delhi's daughters and sisters to avail unlimited free travel as a token of the government's commitment towards their welfare".

transport more secure by eliminating the need for daily paper tickets, replacing them with a safer and hassle-free smart card

The card will also make public

Freight train delivers first consignment of Kashmir apples to Jammu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Sept 13: In a historic moment that would change the future of horticulture in Kashmir for better, the railways Friday successfully delivered the first ever consignment of apples at the Jammu railway station from the Valley.

In a historic movement that brought cheer to the faces of apple growers and traders, a

New Delhi, Sept 13: AIIMS Delhi

has installed a state-of-the-art da

Vinci Surgical Robot at its skills.

e-learning and telemedicine (SET)

facility for training, officials said.

Provided by Intuitive Surgicals

under a memorandum of under-

standing, the robot opens up a new

opportunity for training in robot-

ic-assisted surgery at the premier

AIIMS Delhi is now the only institu-

tion in the country to have two sur-

gical robots purely for training," the

hospital said in a statement. A Hugo

training robot, provided by Medtron-

ics, already exists in the SET facility.

The facility is used by a large

"With the installation of this robot,

consignment of apples loaded at the Budgam railway station in Kashmir was delivered at Jammu railway station within

The entire apple industry was in the throes of devastation for the last two weeks, as dozens of loaded trucks of fruit parked alongside the Srinagar-Jammu national highway had started rotting because of the continued blockade of the highway.

Huge losses are suffered by apple growers and traders each time the highway gets blocked due to inclement weather, triggering a landslide/mudslide on the highway.

It was due to the looming danger of this loss that the Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced freight train services between the Valley and outside.

Not only would the freight

trains ensure the timely and safe delivery of the apple consignments, but this would also bring down transportation charges, benefiting sellers and

Contrary to common belief, horticulture is the biggest industry of Kashmir and not tourism. which is the second contributor to the Gross State Domestic Product of Jammu and Kashmir. Horticulture provides livelihoods to a large portion of the rural population and boosts export earnings through the sale of high-value crops like apples and saffron.

The industry also promotes agricultural diversification, improves rural incomes, and supports the processing and export of quality fruits and nuts. making a substantial impact on the region's overall economic development.

🔠 ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ଉନ୍ନୟନ କରୃପକ୍ଷ

ପତ୍ର ସଂଖ୍ୟା: 17798/ଭୂ.ଉ.କ., ଭୂବନେଶ୍ବର ତା: 11.09.2025ରିଖ

KNL-686/93 ସୂଚନା

OIPR-13033/11/0378/2526

No. CAD-1759: ଏତଦ୍ୱାରା ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ଅବଗତି ନିମତ୍ତେ ଜଣାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଅଛି କି କଳିଙ୍ଗ ନଗଟ

ଇତି ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅଶ୍ୱନୀ କୁମାର ବେବର୍ତା ଓ ଜ୍ୟୋହ୍ମା ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ପଞ୍ଜୀକୃତ ନାଦାବି ପ (Registered Deed of Relinquishment Document No. 11082501269 Dated 11.02.2025) ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଉଲ୍ଲ ପଟରେ ଥବା ନିଜର ଅଧକାର /ଅଂଶକ ଅଶୋକ କମାର ବେବର୍ତା ହସ୍ତାନ୍ତର କରିଅଛନ୍ତି । ସୁତରାଂ ଅଶୋକ କୁମାର ବେବର୍ତାଙ୍କ ନାମରେ ମାଲିକାନା ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରାଯିବ ସୟକ୍ଷରେ ଯଦି କାହାର କିଛି ଦାବି/ଆପଭି ଥାଏ ତାହାହେଲେ ଭକ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ପ୍ରକାଶନର ପନ୍ଦର (୧୫) ଦିନ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ନିମ୍ନ ସ୍ୱାକ୍ଷରକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଲିଖିତଭାବେ ଜଣାଇବେ । ତତ୍ପରେ ଏ ସୟନ୍ଧରେ କୌଶସି ଦାହି ବା ଆପଭି ଶୁଣାଯିବ ନାହିଁ ଏବଂ ପ୍ଲଟର ମାଲିକାନା ସ୍ୱତ୍ୱ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଆଇନ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ସମ୍ପାଦ

ପୁଟେଡ୍ ଡେଭଲପମେଣ୍ଟ ୟିମ୍, ମୌଜା: ଶୁବୁଦ୍ଧିପୂର, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ LIG ପୁଟ ନଂ. K-4-357ଜ୍ ପ୍ରମୋଦ କୁମାର ବେବର୍ତା, ପିତା: ଗୋପୀନାଥ ବେବର୍ତା, ଗ୍ରାମ/ପୋଷ୍ଟ/ଥାନା: ପାରଳାଖେମୁଷ୍ଠି ଜିଲ୍ଲା: ଗଞ୍ଜାମଙ୍କ ନାମରେ ଆବର୍ଷନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଆବର୍ଷନଗ୍ରାହୀ ପ୍ରମୋଦ କୁମାର ବେବର୍ତା ଗଡ ତା୧୫।୦୪।୨୦୧୦ରିଖରେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁବରଣ କରିଅଛନ୍ତି। (Death Certificate No. 7492 dated 29.05.2010). Legal heir Certificate Misc. Case No. E-LHC/2024/13179 Dated: 02.09.2024 ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ପ୍ରମୋଦ କୁମାର ବେବର୍ତାଙ୍କର ଉତ୍ତରାଧିକାରୀ (୧) ଶୈଳବା ବେବର୍ତା (ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ), (୨) ଅଶ୍ୱନୀ କୁମାର ବେବର୍ତା (ପୁତ୍ର), (୩) ଅଶୋକ କୁମାର ବେବର୍ତା (ପୁତ୍ର) (୪) ଜ୍ୟୋତ୍ସା ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ (ବିବାହିତା କନ୍ୟା) ଅଟନ୍ତି । ଇତି ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆବର୍ତ୍ତନଗାହୀ ପ୍ରମୋଦ କୁମ ବେବର୍ତାଙ୍କ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ: ଶୈଳବାଳା ବେବର୍ତା ଗତା ତା୦୩।୧୦।୨୦୨୪ରିଖରେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁବରଣ କରିଅଛନ୍ତି (Death Certificate Issue No. 626/2021 dated 13.11.2024)

> ସ୍ତା./- ଆବଞ୍ଚନ ଅଧିକାରୀ-ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ଉନ୍ନୟନ କର୍ତ୍ତୃପକ୍ଷ

TENDER CALL NOTICE Notice No:LXVI-27/2022/13558 Date 12.09.2025 No.JJ-49: Bidders are invited for a Tender for Selection of

OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT

COMMISSIONER-CUM-CHAIRMAN

STATE TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

ODISHA, CUTTACK

Agency for Providing Manpower for the office of Transport Commissioner and Sub-Ordinate Offices by the Office of Transport Commissioner for online submission latest by 08.10.2025. For details, please visit the websites www.odishatransport.gov

in and www.gem.gov.in. By the orders of Transport Commissioner

Odisha Sd./- Additional Commissioner Transport (Admin.)

OIPR-38003/11/0091/2526 STA, Odisha, Cuttack

Bhubaneswar Development Authority

Akash Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha

Ph: 0674-2396437

Notice No.17544/BDA 3DA-Estate2-AL107-0108-2025 Expression of Interest (EOI)

Redevelopment of Priyadarshini Market Complex on PPP Mode No.CAD-1760 : The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) is in the process of "Redeveloping of Priyadarshini Market Complex on PPF

The BDA invites interested entities to submit their EOI for Redevelopme of Priyadarshini Market Complex on PPP Mode. The experience and expertise sought from the bidding entity(ies) include development o residential/commercial/intuitional/commercial-cum-residential/high rise

Interested firms are requested to submit their documents in the manner specified in the Notice for EOI, available at the BDA website (https:// www.bda.gov.in)

he last date of submission: 23.09.2025

BDA reserves the right to cancel this invitation and / or invite fresh EOI Bid / RFP with or without amendments to this invitation, without liabilit or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason BDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals withou

OIPR-13033/11/0379/2526

Bhubaneswar Development Authority

number of trainees and faculty, both from AIIMS and other institutions. the statement said. It allows access to state-of-the-art training facilities



AIIMS Delhi installs da Vinci robot for

training in robotic-assisted surgery

using manikins and simulators, and students, nurses, residents, healthcare professionals, and the faculty can learn and practise in stress-free sessions.

Installation of the da Vinci robot at the SET facility increases these opportunities, besides equipping the surgeons and care teams with skills and technology training necessary to perform robotic-assisted surgery across core specialities,

including urology, gynaecology, general surgery, surgical oncology, head and neck surgery, and more, the statement said. This collaboration is expected

to play a key role in advancing the adoption of robotic-assisted surgery in India by offering high-quality training in a government institution, it said.

Commenting on the launch, AIIMS Delhi Director Dr M Srinivas said, With this training centre, AIIMS Delhi is reinforcing its leadership in advancing surgical education and innovation. The demand for precision-driven technologies like robotic-assisted surgery is growing in India.

"By equipping surgeons for performing surgeries on advanced robotic technologies, this centre will help improve surgical precision. reduce recovery time, and elevate patient care across the country."

national



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





Fadnavis should come forward related to the issue of reservation. Then be it Maratha, OBC or any other community, he should give straightforward answers on behalf of the gov-

SANJAY RAUT | SENA (UBT) LEADER

ernment, with proof

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

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 gir 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, 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

Naxalite killed in encounter

farmers in the state.

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

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 au-

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 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

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

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 denotification, 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 wanf when the collector conducts an inquiry to ascertain if the property is government

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 constitutionan Islamic concept, it was not an essential part of Islam, it

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 want through a non-judicial pro cess". 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 constitution ality passed by Parliament" The Centre notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 af ter 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 Tai **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 Po lice 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 explo sive devices (IEDs) on each floor of the hotel.

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

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.

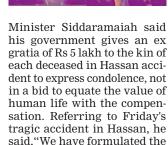
According to police, the driver lost control of the vehicle and ploughed it into the crowd, killing four people instantaneously, while four others died in the hospital Friday night.

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 Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each 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



Road Safety Act. If an accident

happens due to the mistake of

truck drivers, how can the gov-

ernment 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

However, nothing suspicious was found and the threat was

declared a hoax, a senior police



People raise slogans during a rally to express solidarity with Palestine in Kolkata, West Bengal

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 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 Rahul 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 sit-The Public Works Depart-

ment 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 Bhattiyat 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

"We, the manuscript cus-

todians ... script experts... all

other people who care for the

manuscript heritage of Bharat,

assembled here in the interna-

tional conference on 'Reclaim-

ing India's Knowledge Legacy

through Manuscript Heritage',

after thorough deliberations

and deep realisations resolve to

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 weath er 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 Mura ri Devi 69.2 mm, Kangra 58.2 mm, Jogindernagar 45 mm Dharamshala 31.2 mm, Aghar 16.8 mm, Naina Devi 16.6 mm Nahan 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 origi-

nal works. The declaration, adopted at the closing of the three-day 'Gyan Bharatam' global con-

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

ference hosted at the Vigyan

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"

manuscripts are not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future," it said. The Declaration was adopt-

ed after three days of intense edge and cultural heritage. 'We resolve to preserve, digitise and disseminate this vast

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.3 it reads. These manuscripts, inscribed on palm leaves, birch

resent the "living memory of a nation and the foundation of its civilisational identity' "In the spirit of Viksit Bharat

barks, cloths, handmade papers

and other such material, rep-

2047, we resolve

to join the movement of 'Gyan Bharatam', to preserve, digitise and disseminate this vast treasure, making it acces sible to the citizens and schol ars alike, across the world," the declaration reads. government

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, li braries and private collections across India. "Gyan Bharat am Mission is set to become a proclamation of India's culture, literature and consciousness, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his address at the con ference n Friday.

India has one of the richest collections of ancient manuscripts in the world, with nearly 10 million texts that hold the country's traditional knowl-

treasure. We firmly believe

technical sessions categorised as per the eight working groups constituted earlier under the Gyan Bharatam Mission.

national



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 taluks, districts and high courts in 29 States and eight Union Territories, a release said

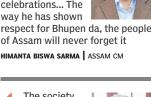




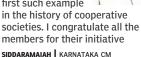
would such a arise? They should not be created,

and they have harmed us too ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL | UNION LAW MINISTER

Today, Modi ji has come to be part of Bhupen da's celebrations... The way he has shown



The society has distributed plots at the very price it had purchased the land. This is the first such example







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 Perinheral Road (SPR), police said Saturday. The truck driver the vehicle, which has since been impounded, the police noted. According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Vikas, a native of Auraiva 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. Ariun 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

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-anda-half years ago.

From the Kuki stronghold of

SNIPPETS

Shillong: Sonam Raghuvanshi, accused of murdering her husband Raja

during their honeymoon in Meghalaya, filed a bail petition. The judicial

hearing her petition. Additional Public Prosecutor Tushar Chandra said

the case records. Sonam's counsel has claimed "flaws" in the charge

the petition was filed Friday, but the prosecution sought time to examine

sheet filed in the murder of Indore-based businessman Raja Raghuvanshi.

SDRF row: Puniab 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 "Iving unused" and accused Chief Minister Bhagwant

the BJP's charge. Mann asked the opposition party to not "play

. SDRF since it was set up. ₹3.820 crore has been spent, he said.

New Delhi: Delhi Police Saturday registered an FIR on a BJP

Mann of "misleading" people over the issue. Jakhar demanded that

the chief minister apologise to the people of Puniab and also ensure

politics" in this hour of crisis. Of the ₹5,012 crore received under the

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

worker's complaint over an Al-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,

Station, who alleged the video "maligned the Prime Minister's

image, grossly violating law, morality and women's dignity".

convenor of the BJP Delhi Election Cell, at the North Avenue Police

proper utilisation of the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF), Countering

Honeymoon murder: Sonam files bail plea

magistrate first class of Sohra sub-division fixed September 17 for

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 ₹

105 crore. He laid the foundation stones for infrastructure development in and around Polo Ground at ₹30 crore, and the upgradation of 120 schools in all 16 districts for ₹134 crore.

Terming any violence in Manipur "unfortunate", Modi struck a note of healing, reassurance, and confidence as he listened to the concerns of the families of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the historic Kangla Fort complex in Imphal and Peace Ground in Churachandpur.

The ethnic clashes two years ago have left over 260 people dead and more than 60,000 displaced, many of whom are still living in relief camps.

During his visit, the prime minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for development projects worth ₹8,500 crore.

Stressing that the only way forward was to build a "bridge of trust" between the Hills, home to the Kuki community, and the Valley, dominated by the Meiteis, Modi, in his public meeting in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district, said a "new dawn of hope and trust" was rising in the state.

The PM, who has faced sharp Opposition criticism for not travelling to Manipur despite the prolonged unrest in which over 260 people have been killed and thousands were rendered homeless, underlined that the Centre's efforts were already vielding results.

"Manipur is the 'Mani ratna' adorning the crown of 'Mother India'. Any form of violence here is condemnable. It is not only unfortunate but also a grave injustice to our ancestors and future generations.

Cong slams PM's visit to Manipur

Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said the people of Manipur have been undergoing tremendous pain, distress, suffering, and agony for the past 28 months ever since violence erupted in the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Congress Saturday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Manipur visit as a "pit stop", and said it was "shockingly insensitive" of him to be there "for less than five hours" when he has the time and inclination to spend days campaigning and travelling worldwide.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said the people of Manipur have been undergoing tremendous pain, distress. suffering, and agony for the past 28 months ever since violence erupted in the state.

"The people of Manipur have waited patiently for the Prime Minister to visit the state. He has finally obliged them today But he was in the state, from landing till take-off, for less than 5 hours," he said on X.

"The Prime Minister has the time (and the inclination) to spend days campaigning and travelling across the world. But is Manipur worth only so much to him? It is shockingly insensitive. 'Der aaye durust nahi aaye' (too late to be effective), Ramesh said.

Earlier, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused Modi of organising a grand welcome ceremony for himself and claimed that it "is a cruel prick" to the wounds of those still suffering. "In the words of your own... Where is your Rajdharma?" Kharge asked on X just before Modi's Manipur visit. "Narendra Modi ji, your three-hour pit stop in Manipur is not compassion - it's a farce, tokenism, and a grave insult to wounded people. Your so-called roadshow in Imphal and Churachandpur today is nothing but a cowardly escape from hear

ing the cries of people in relief camps!" the Congress chief said in his X post.

"Your last visit to Manipur? January 2022 for elections! Your 'Double Engine' has bulldozed the innocent lives of Manipur. You and Home Minister Amit Shah's gross incompetence and complicity in betraving all communities were shielded from scrutiny by imposing President's Rule in the state. Violence still continues,'

Keeping up with his attack on the ruling party, the Congress president said, "It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining law and order in the state, and it is now the Union government which is again dithering."

"Not to forget, that is your government, which is responsible for national security and border patrol. This hush-hush pit stop isn't repentance. It's not even guilt. You are organising a grand welcome ceremony for yourself.

Speaking to reporters in Kerala's Wayanad, Congress general secretary and local MP Privanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the prime minister and said he should have visited the northeastern state long ago. Congress general secretary K

C Venugopal also lashed out at the prime minister over his Manipur visit, calling it a "belated and face-saving farce" PM Modi's Manipur visit

Saturday is a display of how sorely lacking in empathy and compassion a leader can be, he claimed.

Venogopal, in his X post, said Manipur has been burning since 2023, and the prime minister found time to pay a visit now -- after two-and-a-half

Vijay's first poll campaign address lost in audio glitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tiruchirappalli Nadu), Sept 13: Tamilaga Vettri 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 yote 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-gov ernment 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 bor der spans across 20 districts in five states. The SSB has issued three emergency helpline num bers to assist those Indians who are stranded in Nepal



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

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

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 capward with new lines, electrification, and doubling works. itals to the national grid. In Tripura, railway line has reached Each state's journey shows the borders, Meghalaya has seen its first railway station, Northeast. while Arunachal Pradesh,

Sikkim, and Assam push for-

how railways are shaping the The 51-km Bairabi-Sairang

line, built at a cost of over ₹8,070

crore, finally bringing Aizawl's grand debut onto the railway 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-Hbicchhuah 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 2023 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.

peace and security

international



The country will present a policy of jointly advancing nuclear arms and conventional military might during an upcoming key meeting of its ruling

MORE THAN 100,000 PACK LONDON STREETS

More than 100,000 demonstrators packed London streets Saturday for a march organized by far-right activist Tommy Robinson. The "Unite the Kingdom" rally got underway as much smaller numbers of counterprotesters, organized by the Stand Up To Racism group, gathered under the banner of the "March Against Fascism"





gratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Sushila Karki of Nepal's interim government. We are confident that her leadership will guide Nepal towards a smooth return to lasting peace and

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE |

PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

When bin Laden was eliminated in Pakistan, the question asked was

soil'? No one asked that question. The question was, 'Why was a terrorist given shelter at all?' The today. There was no immunity for bin Laden, and there can be no immunity for Hamas

GILAD ERDAN I ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO UN



people of Nepal

MUHAMMAD YUNUS I

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

the Ukraine conflict.

from Russia.

on countries purchasing oil

ready to impose "major sanc-

tions" on Russia when all NA-

TO countries agree and start

to do the same thing and stop

NATO's commitment to win

has been "far less than 100%,

and the purchase of Russian oil,

by some, has been shocking!".

negotiating position, and bar-

gaining power, over Russia,'

"It greatly weakens your

The US president said that

buving oil from Moscow.

In his post, Trump said he is



tariffs on China and stop buying oil from Russia to help end Trump said that he is ready Trump's post on Truth Social to "go ahead" when the NATO comes a day after the US asked countries are G7 countries to impose tariffs

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

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.

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

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

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 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 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 betraval of Genera 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 fa vorably 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 increas ingly 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 institutions.

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

UN endorses two-state, slams Hamas

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

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 disarma-

ment," 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.

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 "unconstitutional" 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 stakehold ers 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-

royal families are tied to their

emblem, the rooster, a design

reserved only for their lineage

The right to a particular coffin



Nepal Prez dissolves parl; fresh polls in March

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 Pres ident'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,

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh of fered support to PM Karki in congratulatory messages.

Shops, grocery stores, vegetable markets and shopping malls reopened after days of closure. while traffic began to flow back on the streets.

drives Cleaning launched at several places, in cluding key government build ings that were vandalised and set on fire by agitators during the recent wave of violent pro-

Seen as a positive gesture Prime Minister Karki visited the Civil Hospital in Banesh wor area of Kathmandu, where dozens of people injured during the agitation are undergoing

treatment. As the Prime Minister's Of fice in Singhdurbar Secretariat was set on fire during the twoday agitation, the newly-constructed building for the Home Ministry within the Singhdur bar complex is being prepared for the Prime Minister's Office

the sources said. Nepal police Friday said that at least 51 people, including an Indian national, died in the

'Gen Z'-led protests. In a related development, Nepal's hotel industry invited tourists back to the Himalayan nation as the situation norma

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 trans-

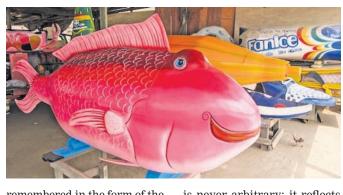
lates to "proverb" Each piece is crafted not just

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 com-

mon 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 is never arbitrary; it reflects fish he sold, down to its exact identity, occupation and status. Each coffin takes about two type. Lion-shaped coffins are reserved only for chiefs, as the animal is a symbol of power. In Labadi, a suburb of Accra,

which starts at around \$700, varies depending on the type

weeks to complete. The cost, of wood and the complexity of the design. Funerals in Ghana are vi-

brant affairs. People see them

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

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 special ises in fantasy coffins.

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

business



We (India and the Furopean 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



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



able to the industry. The industry has been building out, based on risk mitigation markets, customers

and so on and so forth VIKRAMPATI SINGHANIA I

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-intrade, 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

Myntra profit zooms

Rs 2,358.7 crore in FY24.

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.

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 Septem-

ber 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 buvers since there are indications of a turnaround in the Indian market due to repo rate cuts and GST reforms, said VK Vijavakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

In 2025, foreign institutional

GST RATE REDUCTION

HUL cuts prices of key products

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 13: Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), one of India's biggest consumer goods companies, has announced a cut in prices of several popular products after the government reduced Goods and Services Tax (GST) on personal care and food items. The new prices will come

into effect from September 22, and the revised packs will soon reach shops across the country.

Among personal care products, Dove shampoo (180 ml) will now cost Rs 145 instead of Rs 165, while Lux soap (100 gm) has become cheaper at Rs 30 compared to Rs 35 earlier.

Lifebuoy soap (125 gm) will also see a price drop, from Rs 33 to Rs 28, according to the official notification. In the food and beverages category, Kissan Jam (500 gm) has been reduced from Rs 160 to Rs 140, and Horlicks (1 kg) will now be available at Rs 350, down from Rs 390.

Bru coffee (100 gm) will also be cheaper at Rs 160 instead of Rs 180. The price cuts come after the GST Council decided to lower tax rates on these products from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. The government has also made it mandatory for companies to publish advertisements in newspapers to inform consumers about the new prices.

A spokesperson from HUL said the company is committed to providing value to consumers by adjusting prices in line with the GST reforms while maintaining the quality of its products. "We are focused on providing value to consumers by adjusting our prices in line with the recent GST reforms, while maintaining the quality of our products," the company said in a statement.



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.

Single-digit corporate earnings growth served as a major catalyst for FII outflows. Analysts said that small- and midcap valuations remained high in August, while large-caps adjusted towards long-term

"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,' said Vijayakumar.

India's GDP growth has rebounded strongly in Q1 and the reforms such as budget tax cuts, rate cuts by the MPC and GST rationalisation have the notential sustain the growth momentum, he said.

Though earnings growth will be modest in the 8 to 10 percent range in FY26, there is a high likelihood of above 15 percent earnings growth in FY27 leading to a turnaround in FPI sentiments, he added.

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 allnew 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.

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 REACHED

the rally driven by auto and IT stocks. Midcap and smallcap 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 levelsunderscoring 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 do mestic consumption and aid demand recovery, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geoji Investments Limited.

Domestic CPI inflation registered a slight uptick and continued foreign outflows weighed on the rupee. Gold reached FRESH HIGHS ON fresh highs on STRONG SAFE-HAVEN strong safe-hav-

DEMAND AMID GLOBAL TRADE TENSIONS en demand amid global trade tensions. This week, US retail inflation WEIGHED ON

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 acceler ated 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 cau

tioned the Fed against lowering rates amid persistent high inflation but indicated that the writing on the wall is clear. With United States' CP 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

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

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

in the negative zone, though inched up marginally in August to -15.92 per cent.

Pulse prices declined by -14.53 per cent, while spice prices also exhibited a decline in August. Fruit inflation also declined to 11.65 per cent, while Oil and fat CPI increased to 21.24 per cent.

India's core inflation increased again to 4.16 per cent. Both rural and urban CPI inflation have increased in August to 1.69 per cent and 2.47 per cent, compared to 1.18 per cent and 2.10 per cent in July, respectively.

The state-wise inflation indi cates that out of 35 States and Union Territories, 26 of them have recorded inflation under 4 per cent, the report noted.

There are only Kerala and Lakshadweep whose inflation rate was over 6 per cent.

HIT BY REAL-MONEY GAMING BAN

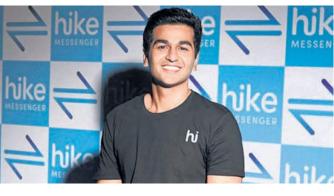
Bharti Airtel scion shutters Hike after 13 years

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 re-

flected that real money gaming

was never the destination, but

rather a way to test unit econom-

ics 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 scheme also promotes timely bill payments while serving as a platform to recognise and celebrate valued customers. Through such initiatives, TPCODL goes beyond reliable

and other attractive prizes. The

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 satis faction and community trust.

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

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-forchoice 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 highpitched narrative that always comes with the territory.

There are batters like Shubman Gill, Survakumar 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 turning 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

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.

India: Survakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah. thy, Kuldeep Yaday, Harshit Rana

Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Khushdil Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Agha, Hussain Talat, Faheem Ashraf, Moham-Sahibzada Farhan, Abrar Ahmed. Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufivan

and I am sure you will see very

good things from the Indian

On her mindset in the final,

she said: "Yes I am aware of

things like India has not won

a medal yet and that there are

great shooters in the field,

but I have played many finals

against these guys and its them

all the time so I now know that

the pistol is in my hand and

the battle is with me so I try

to enjoy the match as much as

Esha and teammate Rhythm

Sangwan had qualified for the

final with identical scores of

578, securing the last two avail-

team in Cairo.

possible.

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 be tween 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.

Asian Table Tennis

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 137, and they made 511 before getting bowled out an hour into the post-lunch session. South reached 129 for two 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), 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 Box-Minakshi defeated Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan of Mongolia 5:0. Jaismine ham mered Omailyn 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 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 We are training very hard for it I am very happy as this

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

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 ad-

vancing to the knockout rounds.

organized by the Tennis Ball

Cricket Association of India in

collaboration with the Odisha

T10 Tennis Cricket Association

and Shri Jagannath Darshan

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

Jharkhand downed Uttara-

khand by nine wickets, Megha-

79 runs in the second game.

Charitable Trust.

The tournament is being



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

16 teams reach knockouts in

All-India T10 Tennis Ball Cricket

laya defeated Andhra Pradesh

by 40 runs, Goa overcame Ra-

jasthan by eight wickets, Him-

achal Pradesh edged Meghalaya

by 20 runs, Delhi beat Haryana

by seven wickets, West Bengal

thrashed Telangana by 55 runs,

and Tripura topped Andhra

Odisha Host beat Uttarakhand

by 40 runs, Purvanchal downed

Sikkim by seven wickets, Mad-

hya Pradesh beat Maharashtra

by 28 runs, and Assam defeated

Rajasthan by eight wickets.

Pradesh by seven wickets.

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

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

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

at the tournament.

The 16 teams moving for-

ward are AIID. Chhattisgarh.

Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, West

Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya

Bharat, Odisha, Purvanchal,

Jharkhand, Odisha Host, Goa,

Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Tri-

Similarly, all the women's di-

vision knockout matches, along

with the men's and women's

quarterfinals and semifinals

will be played Sunday. Finals

in both divisions are scheduled

pura and Karnataka.

for the evening.

21 archers from Vedanta **Sports Programme qualify**

ODISHA STATE OPEN ARCHERY MEET

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 Bhattacharva. 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.'

in Bhubaneswar from October 11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: After the UAE's withdrawal, 22 nations have now confirmed participation in the 28th IT-TF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Team Championships in Bhu baneswar, with more than 500 participants expected, organ-

isers said. The event, set for October 11-15 at Kalinga Stadium, marks the first time Odisha will host an Asian-level table tennis

championship. The Odisha State Table Tennis Association will welcome over 500 participants, including 450 players and support staff, as well as 70-80 Asian Table Tennis Union officials.

The championships return to India after 16 years and promise high-quality competition. with Asia dominating the world stage in the sport.

Salt's carnage drives Eng's record-breaking spree

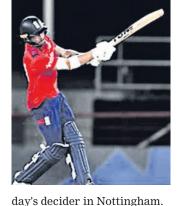
The mammoth total of 304 was the most runs conceded by South Africa in T20s and ended up as their biggest loss in the format

REUTERS

Manchester, Sept 13: Opener Phil Salt smashed an unbeaten 141 from 60 balls in England's mammoth total of 304 for two as the home side thrashed South Africa by 146 runs in the second Twenty20 international Friday as records tumbled at Old Trafford.

Having been sent into bat. the hosts attacked the bowling from the opening delivery as Salt posted a record T20 score for an England batsman, and his team scored the most runs ever by a full member nation in this format.

South Africa were desperately poor with the ball and had to be perfect with the bat, but were never up with the rate and managed 158 all out in 16.1 overs as England levelled the series at 1-1 heading into Sun-



"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

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 Balaii 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 Dhakshinesh war 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 Satwiksairaj 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 Satwik 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.

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