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BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

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OIPR-32001/13/0012/2526

MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

eisure



SYDNEY SWEENEY TO PORTRAY **BOXING LEGEND CHRISTY MARTIN**

Sydney Sweeney, known for Euphoria and The White Lotus, undergoes a remarkable trans-Martin in the upcoming biopic Christy, set for release November 7. The film follows Martin's journey to prominence in competitive boxing while confronting her personal struggles,

BENICIO DEL TORO ON WORKING WITH LEONARDO DICAPRIO

Benicio del Toro and Leonardo DiCaprio teamed up for One Battle After Another, which premiered at Hollywood's TCL Chinese Theatre. Del Toro praised DiCaprio, sharing how he has long admired the actor's work and how rewarding it was to collaborate with him on the intense and thrilling film project

al Thakur, who has been

in the film industry for

over a decade, began

performance

and

the

she

her journey with the

internationally ac-

claimed indie film

Love Sonia. Her

ly appreciated

marked

years,

transi-

powerful

debut. Over

tioned from

Bollywood to

Telugu cin-

ema, choosing

an unconven-

tional path that

showcased her versatility and

passion for story-

the film was wide-





accuracy • reliability • trust

You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However. that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If Ganesha chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.

TAURUS

Money matters are likely to take up most of your time, this day. Ganesha sees that you will have quite a time handling the difficulties and complexities they pose. You may not find an easy way out of your financial problems and will find it hard to take firm decisions.

GEMINI

You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesha

CANCER

Today is a day for taking things slowly, especially on the business front. This applies the most to the stockbrokers and also others who invest n stocks or shares on the side. Stars are not so bright today and haste will only worsen the matters. People involved in speculation. chance games and shifty markets may feel frustrated. Ganesha also advises the manu facturers not to launch a new product today. and rather wait for a better period.

You will be unable to express the feelings that rise up inside you in spite of wanting to. However, keep them close to your heart. You will be very serious about your work today. There is a possibility of some delay in your schedule today due to unforeseen problems, says Ganesha

Ganesha says today you will be highly motivated. Your creative talents and abilities set you apart as an excellent artist. Words will flow if you give vent to your creativity, and if you choose to sing or dance, you will be the focus of attention Ganesha advises you to pursue the performing arts or writing as hobbies.

Ganesha advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation. There will be pressure put on you regarding certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions re garding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

SCORPIO

You can be fondly called as 'the perfectionist' today. Right from being punctual to following a systematic method for your work, you do t all. All in all, you set an ideal example for the people around you, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS Take it as a piece of advice:

tough times don't last; tough people do. The day has a lot of ups and downs in store for you. However, you are the sailor of stormy seas and would sail through all the troubles easily. Take the advice given by your near and dear ones, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You can't bear the weight of the heavy work load any more. Very cleverly, you will complete your tasks and slowly but steadi ly you take the load off your shoulders, predicts Ganesha. Attentive and observant, you meticulously plan your actions and minimise the chances of errors. Today, your efforts will not be effectively channelised, but it will not be a bad day, also.

AQUARIUS

You are talented, hard working, confident and down to earth. These four characteristics are the pillars of success. Now, it is time build the building. Your curiosity and desire to achieve your goals will help you with it, feels Ganesha. In order to succeed, you may skip a 'quality check' of your output.

PISCES

A reckless attitude is the root cause of any downfall. Ensure responsible behavior and actions at every step at your workplace, today, suggests Ganesha. Be alert and focused and you will be able to dodge any incoming trouble. Today is a day of materialization and the projects and other things that you have been working on since a long time will draw close to completion and begin to pay off.



formation to portray boxing legend Christy

including an abusive marriage Tamannaah's

relationship aspirations

Mumbai: Actors Tamannaah Bhatia and Vijay Varma grabbed head lines when their relationship and breakup became the talk of the town. After they parted ways in March 2025, Tamannaah staved mostly silent about love—until a recent interview where she opened up about the kind of partner she aspires to be She shared, "I am trying to work on be-

coming a great life

done

to be that life

someone feels

karma in

have

That's

partner... I want partner that they some good their past life. why I have come into their life... The package shall arrive soon. In earlier conver-

Tamannaah reflected on love versus relationships, explaining that love is unconditional and personal. Speaking to

fitness expert Luke Coutinho. said. "Love can only be unconditional; it can only be ek tarfa... Two people can individually love each other, but essentially love is an inside job... The moment you

ations

want people to act a certain way, it becomes transactional." Ta-For mannaah, love means "letting the other person be free" without imposing expect-

expect

and

ations or projecting one's desires onto them. Professionally, she's currently starring in the web series Do You Wanna Partner? streaming on Prime alongside Diana, Jaaved Jaaferi, Neeraj Kabi, and others.

lleana on postpartum battle

with husband Michael Dolan earlier this year. Although she was physically prewith nusually inichaet Dolan earlier this year. Atthough she was for the experience, the emotional challenges caught her Reflecting on the experience in a recent Renewing on the capetions in a root interview, the Rustom star revealed that she off guard. knew exactly what she wanted during her pregnancy—and what she didn't. Defying pregnancy—and what she drain to box, inserved expectations, she chose to go unmedicated during delivery, avoiding an epidural and

working with her nurse to create a plan working with her The approach proved sucthat suited her. The approach proved successful, as her delivery was quick and she was discharged the next day. However, the postpartum phase was far more difficult. Unlike her first experience with Koa Phoenix Dolan in 2023, this ence with Koa Filoenia Dolai in 2020, time time she had to care not only for a newborn but also for a toddler and herself. Despite knowing what to expect, she found it mentally exhausting and missed the support of friends back in Mumbai. Ileana shared that connecting with someone

who understands helps, and privacy has been comforting. On the work front, she starred in the 2024 rom-com Do Aur Do Pyaar with Vidya Balan and Pratik Gandhi.

AGENCIES

Mrunal recalls life-changing role Instagram, recalling how Love Sonia changed her life. "I was just a small-town girl, with big dreams in

> her heart, and somehow out of thousands, Sonia chose me," she wrote. She fondly remembered working alongside legends like Demi Moore, Freida Pinto, and others, and how their kindness made her feel welcomed. She also expressed

gratitude to director Tabrez Noo rani, whose words about making meaningful impact stay with her till today. Mrun-

On the film's seventh anniversary, Mrunal shared an emotional note on yond

change, supported NGOs, and saved lives. "Sonia gave me courage, a voice, and a family in cinema,' she said. Now celebrated as a bankable Pan-India star, Mrunal continues to shine across genres, with exciting projects on the horizon.

al added that Love Sonia went be

Mumbai: Ileana the ac-D'Cruz, claimed actress, opened up about the mental health struggles she faced after welcoming her second child, Keanu Rafe Dolan,

Aamir slams unfair industry practices

Mumbai: Aamir Khan recently addressed the growing concern over rising entourage costs in the film industry, highlighting how it burdens producers and strains film budgets, especially in the post-Covid era where box office returns remain uncertain. Speaking on Komal Nahta's show Game

Changers, the actor, who is both a star and a producer, urged that producers should only pay for what's necessary for the film's production, like makeup, hair, and costumes—not for personal expenses such as drivers, trainers, or Aamir expressed his disapproval of stars

asking producers to cover personal costs. "I have self respect. Now, will they also pay my children's school fees?"he remarked, emphasising that actors earning in crores should bear their own expenses. He added that from the start of his career, he never allowed producers to pay for his personal staff and continues to cover such costs himself, even while traveling with his family.

He clarified that helping with professional requirements, like wrestling coaches for Dangal, is acceptable, but personal indulgences only harm the industry. Aamir warned that unchecked demands could soon extend to expenses like new flats. He called this trend unfair, harmful, and shameful, urging stars to act responsibly and avoid exploiting their producers.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

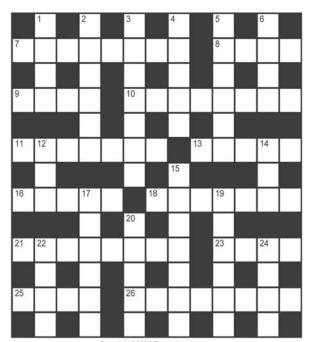


BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD



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Down

Across		
7	Anteater	

- 8 Mini-whirlpool
- 9 Sloughs
- 10 Musical events
- 11 Old World
- monkey
- 13 Kitchen appliance
- 16 Coffee order 18 Ritzy

- 21 Hawaiian volcano (5,3)

- 5 Echo 6 Mine entrance

1 Make cookies

2 Ukrainian port

of victory

26 Fish tank

3 Enmity

- tool
- 25 Harbinger 14 Delivery vehicle

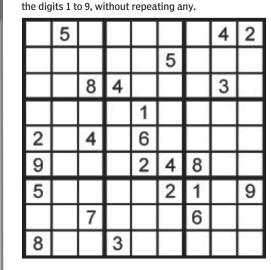
23 Narrow margin 12 Lumberjack's

- 15 Express an
- opinion (5,2)
- 17 Shade provider 19 Introverts
- 20 Loose outer
- garment 4 Tropical lizard 22 Zenith
 - 24 Knock for a loop

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains



SOLUTIONS

I D H E A I I N H I B I T I D E A L V S Q A E HO

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

SUDOKU

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BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 15, 2025



CLASS ACT: India's captain Suryakumar Yadav plays a shot during the Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, United Arab Emirates, Sunday. India registers a convincing seven-wicket victory over Pakistan (Report P12)

Vandals would be brought to justice: Nepal PM Karki

Kathmandu, Sept 14: Nepal Prime Minister Sushila Karki Sunday said those involved in violence and destruction across the country during the anti-government protests last week would be brought to justice.

Karki, 73, who assumed office at the newly-built Home Ministry building at Singhdurbar Secretariat in Kathmandu at around 11am, also announced that those who were killed during the 'Gen Z' protest will be declared "martyrs" and their families will be provided one million Nepalese rupees each.

Karki was appointed caretaker PM by President Ramchandra Paudel on the recommendation of the Gen Z group, which overthrew the KP Sharma Oli government through a two-day protest Tuesday. Addressing a meeting of secretaries and senior government officials soon after assuming office, Karki said those involved in the violence and destruction of public and private property will be brought to justice. She said the arson and vandalism during the protests of September 9 was "pre-planned" and the Gen Z protesters were not

The govt announced that those killed during the protest Sept 8 and 9 will be declared "martyrs" and their families will be provided 1 million Nepalese rupees each while ensuring free treatment to the injured. She instructed Chief Secretary to arrange for the repair of the destroyed police posts across the country.

involved in such activities.

CM to lay stones for projects worth ₹25,379 crore today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: In a major industrial boost for the state, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will lay foundation stones for 27 large-scale projects worth ₹25,379.34 crore across 12 districts at OUAT Krushi Siksha Sadan Conference Hall here, Monday.

The event is expected to attract leading industry figures from across India and provide a platform for direct interaction with the state leadership. The ceremony will underline Odisha's long-term strategy boosting the economy while

ensuring inclusive job creation. Officials said the new proj-



ects, spread across multiple districts, will diversify the state's industrial base. While Odisha has traditionally been known for mining and heavy industries, the upcoming units will also cover renewable energy. agro-processing, logistics, and modern manufacturing, widen-

ing the scope of opportunities. "Odisha's growth will be

measured not just in crores invested but in livelihoods secured," said a senior official of Industries department.

The upcoming ceremony is seen as part of a broader effort to transform Odisha from a resource-based economy into a manufacturing and knowledge-driven hub.

For young job seekers, particularly in vocational and technical fields, the new projects bring hope of fresh employment avenues. Local entrepreneurs are equally watchful. "If these industries create strong MSME linkages, small businesses will finally get the boost they need," said a city-based entrepreneur.

Home guard aspirant dies

Chhatrapur, Sept 14: In a shocking incident, an aspirant for home guard post collapsed during a physical test being conducted at the Reserve Police Grounds at Chhatrapur in Ganiam district and died at a hospital Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Shibaram Pradhan under Tarasingh police station. According to officials, candidates were undergoing mandatory physical tests when Pradhan fell ill while running. He was rushed to Chhatrapur Hospital and later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, where he succumbed during treatment.

Following the incident, the afternoon physical tests were suspended and aspirants were sent back home. Authorities said the interviews would resume later as per instructions from higher authorities.

When contacted, Ganjam SP Shubhendu Patra confirmed the death, saying the body would be sent for post-mortem once family members arrive.

Significantly, this is not the first such tragedy in the recruitment process. Two other candidates died and six others turned critical during similar recruitment tests at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district May 29 this year.

Nepali youth dies preparing for test



A youth from Nepal died of suspected cardiac arrest while



Shibaram Pradhan

practising for physical test in Gurkha sepoy recruitment drive of Odisha Special Armed Police (OSAP) 2nd Battalion in Jharsuguda Sunday, police

The deceased was identified as Govind Kumal, a young aspirant from Nepal.

According to police, the OSAP 2nd Battalion is scheduled to conduct its recruitment test for appointment of 135 Gurkha sepoys (of age 18 to 25) September 17.

About 3,000 aspirants from Nepal came to Jharsuguda to take part in the test, and many of them have been practising for the physical tests at the police parade ground Sunday morning. While preparing for the physical tests, Govind suddenly collapsed, a police officer said.

The youth was rushed to a local hospital, where a doctor declared him brought dead, he

"We have informed the family members of the deceased. After conducting a post-mortem, the body will be handed over to his family," the police officer said. The incident has cast a shadow among Nepali vouths who came to Jharsuguda for the recruitment test.

How can we say no to cricket? It's the game of quick U-turns

Violence rocks Churachandpur

Churachandpur/Imphal, Sept 14: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, violence broke out in Manipur's Churachandpur Sunday amid protesters demanding the release of two men arrested earlier in the week for vandalising decorations put up in preparation for the PM's visit.

On the night of September 11, several banners and cutouts put up at Pearsonmun and Phailien Bazaar were vandalised. In connection with that incident, several youths were picked up by the



police. While all of them were released after questioning, two youths were arrested.

Demanding their immediate release, a mob started a demonstrastation. The situation subsequently escalated, and they hurled stones at the security forces.

Police said they were trying to

bring the situation under control. Modi visited the state Saturday for the first time after ethnic clashes broke out between Kukis and Meiteis in May 2023. He addressed a public rally in Churachandpur, promising to make the state a "sym-

bol of peace". He also met the people affected by the violence in the district and unveiled a slew of developmental projects.

AI's retro glam trend reveals darker reality

DEEPAK KUMAR DEHURY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: After the 3D model-making trend, Instagram users have already moved on to another viral craze — this time centred on retro sarees and old-school cinema vibes. The latest filter-style edits, powered by Gemini, are transforming regular photos into portraits that look like they belong in a classic film poster. However, this new trend points to darker and concerning sides of AI-use

Insta is replete with resplendent images of women appearing in elegant sarees, bathed in soft lighting, and framed by romantic, retro backdrops. The style echoes the golden age of 1990s Bollywood mixed with a Pinterest-inspired aesthetic. The visuals are nostalgic – grainy textures, golden hour lighting, and old film-like aesthetics. Loss of originality

Since many people are using the same or similar prompts, the



very similar. The visual formula becomes very standardized moody, golden light, retro grain, specific saree colours, etc. Over time, "novelty" decreases and one loses personal uniqueness.

This can lead to a flattening of aesthetics. Diversity of styles might get suppressed because only what goes viral is 'safe' or 'popular'. **Unrealistic ideals**

These AI edits often present an idealised version of the self-perfect lighting, perfect pose, and cinematic effects. This may lead to people comparing themselves unfavourably with edited images, even though those images are heavily manipulated.

There's also risk of pressure to conform to certain 'vintage Bollywood' beauty norms: fair skin, ideal proportions, specific features, etc. Consent, privacy, misuse

Once people upload images to these tools or share AI-edits, there's a risk that those images

could be used unexpectedly or shared without full awareness of where they go, how they are AI models often train on large datasets. Sometimes people don't know whether their photos might

feed into larger AI model training

or dissemination.

AI tools often have built-in biases (skin tone bias, facial feature bias, beauty norms). The 'vintage' aesthetic chosen might favour lighter skin, smoother textures, certain facial features. If the AI isn't well-trained for diverse looks, some people will be misrepresented or excluded. Authenticity

The line between one's own identity and the edited/AI-generated person can blur. People may feel pressure to present themselves in AI-filtered / edited forms, rather than just as they are.

This can reduce the value of photography/portraiture as an honest expression.

Companies might exploit these trends to get engagement and advertisements, like pushing certain aesthetics so that people buy filters, subscriptions, etc.

The algorithms of social media reward looks that fit popular templates: that could push unhealthy beauty standards or even encourage filter addiction.



downtown



Odisha to join Swasth Nari Consumers shouldn't suffer: Min Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan **Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Patra welcomes new MRP policy**

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: Odisha is all set to participate in 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan', a transformative health campaign focused on comprehensive screening, nutrition, and wellness of women, which will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi September 17 during his visit to Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.

As part of the initiative, 75,000 health camps will be organised across the country, providing healthcare services focused on specific needs of women and children at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and CHCs, along with Poshan Maah celebrations at all Anganwadis.

At the state level, the programme will be inaugurated at IDCO Ground, Unit-III in presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, along with ously, the regional launch will be inaugurated by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Juel Oram at Government Medical College,

Venugopal slams BJP over India-Pakistan match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: Senior Congress leader KC Venugopal Sunday criticised the BJP over the India-Pakistan match in Dubai, alleging that its leaders indulge in creating 'fake narratives' on patriotism.

Venugopal was speaking to reporters in Bhubaneswar as India faced off with Pakistan in an Asia Cup fixture, the first since the military conflict in May. "These (BJP) people talk about patriotism, and now they are doing this (allowing the Indian team to play against Paki-

"When Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi raised issues concerning China in Parliament. the BJP called him a Chinese agent. However, they had no problem when PM Narendra Modi himself visited China. I think the BJP leaders are creating a fake narrative on patriotism," he added. Another senior party leader, Ajay Kumar Lallu, said this was the "darkest day" in India's history. "The entire world saw how Pakistan killed innocent people in India. All parties came together to give a befitting reply to Pakistan for

what it had done," he said. "When the children of the country are saying that India should not play against Pakistan, the BJP-led government allowed the match only to gain monetary benefit at the cost of the dignity of the country. The country will not forgive the prime minister for this," he claimed.

Aspiring singer gangraped in City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: A woman was allegedly raped by three persons at a lodge in Bhubaneswar, police said Sunday.

The accused were arrested Saturday, and they have confessed to the crime, a police officer said.

The incident took place September 10 after the accused took her to the lodge in Chandrasekharpur area here and offered her a sedative-laced drink, according to the police complaint. They had lured the woman, who is a singer, with the assurance of handing her a big

musical project, the officer said. Further investigation is underway, the officer said.



More than 5,000 women beneficiaries will participate in the state programme from September 17 to October 2, undergoing screening for TB, NCDs, anaemia, and cancer. Based on their health needs, they will also receive personalised counselling on nutrition and dietary diversity.

Across all 30 districts, the target is set to screen maximum number of women and girls for hypertension, diabetes, oral, breast, cervical cancers, anaemia, TB, sickle cell disease, maternal health and NCDs. Screening camps will be organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, PHCs, UPHCs, CHCs, UCHCs and in remote villages.

During the campaign, all pregnant women in the state will undergo antenatal check-

will be covered and anaemic women and girls will receive free treatment.

State-wide blood donation camps will be organised in coordination with National Voluntary Blood Donation Day October 1

The state government has urged the beneficiaries to carry Aadhaar Card, ABHA ID or Ayushman Card for registration through the MoHFW mobile app. IEC materials have been shared with districts to ensure widespread community awareness.

The campaign is being launched by the state Health department, in collaboration with the Women and Child De velopment, ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare, School and Mass Education, and Mission Shakti departments.

In the first phase, screening will also include women service providers and frontline workers, ensuring comprehensive coverage of government wom-

en employees across both rural ups by specialists, girls left and urban areas. **IIT-Bhubaneswar organises**



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: To mark National Nutrition Month, Sanjeevan Health Centre of IIT-Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with Kalinga Hospital, organised an awareness talk on "Reducing Consumption of Sugar, Salt and Oil" at the institute's Community Centre, Sunday, The session was delivered by Clinical Nutritionist at Kalinga Hospital, Bhubaneswar Anjana Tripathy. The event also featured millet food sampling and sale to promote healthier dietary choices.

Addressing the gathering, Tripathy described excess sugar, salt, and fat as "silent culprits" behind obesity, diabetes, and heart ailments. She urged people to adopt small lifestyle changes such as choosing fruit-infused water, reducing salt in cooking, and measuring oil usage. Emphasising the importance of preventive nutrition, she said, "Food is medicine

by choosing whole grains. fruits, vegetables, and healthy fats, we can safeguard overall health and liver function."

The event also sought to dispel common myths around nutrition, stressing that skipping meals or avoiding all fats is unhealthy. Instead, it highlighted mindful eating, balanced diets, and moderation in high-fat, salt, and sugar intake as keys to long-term wellness. Millet-based foods were showcased, sampled, and offered for sale, underscoring their value as sustainable and nutritious options. The initiative reinforced the theme, "Nutrition for All - Together Towards a Healthy India."

IIT-Bhubaneswar Resident's Clubs Advisor Shruti Karmalkar graced the programme. while Professor-in-Charge (Healthcare) Seema Bahinipati, NSS Coordinator Sivaiah Bathula, and Senior Medical Officer Mansoor Ahmed Khan were also present.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: State Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra Sunday welcomed the Centre's decision to revise the maximum retail price (MRP) norms, calling it a pro-people step aimed at protecting consumers from arbitrary pricing and restoring fairness in the marketplace.

Speaking to the media in Bhubaneswar Sunday, Minister Patra stated, "The Prime Minister has taken a good decision keeping in mind the interests and convenience of the common public. Our department fully supports and welcomes this move. The profit and loss of wholesalers is secondary what matters is public welfare."

The minister confirmed that

Congress to raise fertiliser

issue in Assembly: Kadam

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: State

Congress Legislature Party

(CLP) leader and Pottangi MLA

Rama Chandra Kadam Sunday

criticised the state government

over the fertiliser issue and

said the OPCC will raise the

matter in the upcoming Assem-

Speaking to the media, Kad-

am alleged that the state gov-

ernment is neglecting farm-

ers by ignoring the fertiliser

shortage. "Farmers have been

facing this problem for the last

1.5 months, yet ministers claim

there is no shortage, which is

Kadam slammed the state

government, alleging that

people in his constituency are

forced to stand in long queues

and pay double for fertilisers.

He said black marketing has

become rampant due to scar-

city, leaving farmers with no

choice but to buy in black. "If

farmers are struggling to get

fertilisers, how can ministers

claim there is no shortage?

The Congress party will raise

this in the upcoming Assembly

shocking," he said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

bly session.

the revised MRP policy will come into force across Odisha by the end of December 2025 or earlier if existing stocks are exhausted. The revised pricing framework is expected to cover a wide range of packaged goods. essential food items, and dai ly-use commodities. As per the key rules under

the new MRP policy, all packaged goods must display the revised MRP, especially in cases where GST rates have been reduced. The old MRP will not be erased. Instead, the new price must be printed or labeled alongside the old price for consumer clarity. The revised MRP labeling must be in place by December 31, or sellers must clear out existing stock before continuing sales.

District-level enforcement squads will begin regular in-



spections after the deadline. Violators may face penalties, including fines or suspension of trade licenses.

Minister Patra acknowledged concerns raised by small retailers and wholesalers about the transition. He assured that the state government would run awareness campaigns and extend technical support to ease the change.

"The aim is not to burden

businesses, but to ensure fair ness for all. Consumers should not suffer due to price manipulation or lack of transparency,

the minister stressed. To further support consumer rights, the Food Supplies de partment also plans to launch a helpline and a mobile app to

allow citizens to report over

pricing and MRP violations. The move has received sup port from economists, con sumer rights groups and civic bodies, who believe it will help tackle inflationary pressures and protect household budgets

As the December deadline nears, the Odisha government has made it clear fair pricing is non-negotiable, and the new MRP policy will be implemented in full force to uphold the interests of consumers across the state.

AWARENESS THROUGH MOVIES

TPCDT hosts 'Tanvi The Great' screening



Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: Tata Power Community Development Trust (TPCDT), in partnership with Anupam Kher Studio, organised a special screening of the film 'Tanvi The Great' at INOX Cinemas, Bhawani Mall here Sunday The event is part of Tata Pow er's flagship 'Pay Autention' initiative, aimed at fostering awareness, understanding, and inclusion for individuals on the Autism Spectrum and the wider neurodiversity community The event witnessed partici-

pation from 440 individuals, including Tata Power led Odisha Discoms leadership, employees, 295 special children, neurodiverse children and PWDs, along with caregivers, educators, NGO partners, government officials, committed to advancing neurodiversity inclusion.

The screening brought together a wide network of organisations and individuals dedicated to supporting neurodiverse communities. Partici-

the Centre for Autism Therapy Counselling and Help (CATCH) Manage Autism Now (MAN) Braille Louis School, and Loyola School's Affirmative Action programme, alongside their caregivers, special edu cators, and volunteers. Several NGO partners-We4you, Sattvic Soul, MFU, MART, NAAM Mahashakti Foundation, SNE HA, Shree Jagannath Hospital and PANTISS-helped with their expertise and resources to make the event impactful.

Speaking on the occasion CHRO and Chief Sustainabil ity, CSR Himal Tewari said, "Inclusion isn't about treating people with autism differentlv, it's about celebrating the uniqueness in each of us.

'Tanvi The Great' is a pow erful narrative about a young neurodiverse girl who defies societal limitations to pursue her dream. The film sensitive ly captures the challenges and strengths of individuals on the autism spectrum, sparking critical conversations around inclusion, acceptance, and re

Nat'l Lok Adalat resolves over 96K cases in Khurda

POST NEWS NETWORK

session," he added.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: The third National Lok Adalat of the year concluded successfully in Khurda district, where 1.26.802 cases were taken up and 96,156 disposed of, resulting in settlement of ₹17.71 crore through fines, compromises, and revenue recovery. Conducted under the directives of NALSA and Odisha State

Legal Services Authority, the drive marked a major push for speedy justice delivery.

The special sitting was held across all judicial and revenue courts in Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Bannur, Jatni, Tangi, Chilika, and Begunia. Khurda District & Sessions Judge and chairman of Bhubaneswar District Legal Services Authority, Justice Biranchi Narayan Mohanty, supervised the proceedings along with senior judicial officers.

The Lok Adalat covered a wide spectrum of disputes including land and property issues, criminal compoundable cases, revenue disputes, motor accident claims, matrimonial and family disputes, labour and employment matters, electricity and water supply issues, bank loan defaults, and other cases of public importance.

District Legal Services Au thority secretary Sabyasachi Pradhan coordinated the event and presented the compiled results from all courts to the District Judge. He extended gratitude to judicial officers revenue officials, telecom and banking authorities, insurance representatives, lawyers, court staff, and volunteers for their cooperation in making the Ada lat a success

Outfit plans protests over Gadakana dumping yard

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: The Sainik School Banchao Alia Gada Hatao Abhiyan Sunday announced plans to gherao the Regional Pollution Control Board office in Patia September 22 and launch a hunger strike, demanding the removal of the Gadakana dumping yard.

At a meeting, the forum blamed both the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) for negligence. Campaign convener Prasanna Bishoyi demanded that the Pollution Board revoke the CTO issued to BMC within seven days.

The group alleged that the illegal dumping yard at Sainik School has caused severe environmental and health hazards for over 22 years, affecting near-



ly half of the city's population. Students of the prestigious Sainik School have reportedly suffered serious illnesses, tarnishing the institution's reputation and bringing disrepute to Odisha nationally. The use of chemical sprays to control foul odors has further wors-

ened the impact. The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB)

overlooked these threats and issued a consent to operate (CTO) without proper monitoring. A joint inspection by BMC and OSPCB September 9 revealed that the processing unit lacked valid documents. with the civic body having only sought permission to operate a dumping station. The Pollution Board directed BMC to clear the garbage within seven days. Environmental activists have described the issuance of the CTO despite these violations

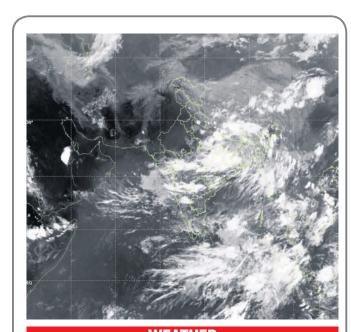
as a serious procedural lapse. "If the CTO is not cancelled by September 22, we will gherao the Regional Pollution Control Board office. If the BMC fails to remove the waste immediately, we will launch an indefinite hunger strike from September 24," announced Prasanna Bishoyi, spokesperson of the campaign.

Contraband worth ₹1.15 crore seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: Odisha Excise department continued its intensive enforcement drive on the 13th day against illicit liquor and narcotics and seized contraband worth ₹1.15 crore, Sunday with statewide raids and checks

During the operation, the department registered 223 cases, including 4 under the NDPS Act. A total of 80 persons were arrest ed, while 78 were released under Section 35 of BNSS. Seizures included 11,442 bulk litres (BL) of illicit liquor, 17 BL of IMFL, 99 BL of beer, 115 BL of country spirit, 259 BL of OS liquor, 1,24,030 BL of fermented wash, 13,950kg of gur wash, 33 litres of duplicate foreign liquor, along with 40kg of ganja and 711kg of mohua flower and 80kg of brown sugar. Enforcement teams also seized 42 vehicles used in the illegal trade The total value of the seized articles amounted to ₹1,15,36,517 on the day, while the cumulative value of seizures since September 1st



BBSR CTC Max Temp 32.2° 31.6° 25.4° Min Temp 87% Humidity 14.6mm 15.2mm Rainfall

Light to moderate districts of Odisha

FORECAST

has reached ₹18,03,74,970. FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS OUR

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-9861341484

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.

State's first turtle research centre still a distant dream

Chhatrapur, Sept 14: The iconic Olive Ridley turtles, among the rarest of marine turtles globally, continue to choose Odisha's coastlineparticularly the Rushikulya river mouth near Ganjam—as a favoured nesting ground. The area's climatic conditions are highly conducive for egg-laying, drawing large numbers of turtles each year.

This year, more than 8,00,000 Olive Ridley turtles arrived to nest setting a new record. Similarly, an uncountable number of hatchlings emerged from the nests to make their way into the sea. These natural phenomena continue to draw tourists here from across the state and country.

In an effort to protect and study these unique creatures, the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change proposed a first-of-its-kind Turtle Research Centre, to be established at Purunabandha near Ganjam. A 3.5-acre site was identified, and the foundation stone was laid March 6, 2024, by Sanjaya Kumar Swain, then chief conservator of forests, Berhampur Circle.

The proposed facility is ex-



Apart from stone laying, an entrance gate, and barbed-wire fencing, no significant development has

occurred on the site

pected to include a research hub for PhD scholars, a stateof-the-art museum, and comprehensive resources on the turtles' life cycle, habitat, and conservation. The centre is also intended to serve as an educational site for tourists, students, and researchers.

However, progress on the project has stalled. Aside from the laying of the foundation stone, the construction of an entrance gate, and the installation of barbed-wire fencing, no significant development has occurred on the site.

"We have completed whatever orders we had received from the higher authorities,' said Khallikote Forest Ranger Dibya Shankar Behera. "A survey has already been conducted by a special team from Bhubaneswar.

Sources said a sanctioned amount of ₹2 crore remains unutilised.

With less than six months remaining before the next mass nesting season, uncertainty looms over when the construction will actually begin.

Youth goes missing at Sunapur beach

Chikiti, Sept 14: A youth went missing Sunday at Sunapur beach in Ganjam district while bathing in the sea with three of

The missing youth has been identified as Amit Pradhan, 18. of Liakhai village under K Nuagaon panchayat in Chikiti block. Despite a search operation launched by the fire service, he had not been traced till Sunday evening.

Police said Amit and his friends Rajesh Pradhan, 19, Ashish Pradhan, 18, and Deepak Pradhan, 22, all residents of the same village, had travelled by bus to Sunapur beach for an outing. While bathing, the rising tide swept them away. Rajesh, Ashish and Deepak were rescued, but Amit could not return to shore.

The three survivors alerted local home guards, following which the Berhampur fire service and marine police rushed to the spot and launched a search.

Locals alleged that there were no safety measures in place at the beach. Earlier home guards had been deployed through the forest protection committee, they said claiming that at present none are stationed there. They also claimed that unauthorised individuals were collecting fees from visitors even though the beach remained poorly maintained.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Bikers abduct minor girl; probe on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, Sept 14: An 8-year-old girl was abducted Saturday night from outside her residence in Radhanathpur Adia village under Chandamani marine police limits of this block in Bhadrak district.

Police said two unidentified youths were lying in wait on the road in the dark when the girl stepped outside around 8pm to use the toilet. They allegedly forced her onto a motor cycle and fled.

The victim's elder sister saw



the men taking her vounger sibling away on the bike and raised an alarm. Family members and neighbours searched the area but failed to trace her, after which they informed Chandamani Marine police.

On the direction of Bhadrak Superintendent of Police (SP) Manoj Raut, police set up checkpoints across various routes in Basudevpur. Basudevpur IIC Lopamudra Nayak, Nayakani dihi IIC Rajlaxmi Nayak, Kasia Marine IIC Sabitri Panda and Chandamani Marine IIC Banani Behera led the operation

SP Raut visited the village Sunday, met the girl's family and local residents, and direct ed officers to expedite the inves tigation. Bhadrak Sadar SDPO Bichitrananda Sethi has been assigned to probe the case.

Police said efforts are underway to rescue the minor

Kashinagar farmers suffer as Andhra ups Gotta barrage height



Paralakhemundi, Sept 14: Farmers in Kashinagar block of Gaiapati district have reported heavy crop damage after rainwater inundated their paddy fields, with many blaming the increased height of the Gotta barrage in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh for the crop loss

Reports said that about 200 farmers lost paddy cultivation on nearly 300 acres of farmlands after rain-swollen ponds and blocked drains caused floodwater to enter farmlands in Galibadi, Iddu and Bhupati Lakshmipur villages and Kashinagar NAC area.

Farmers alleged that Andhra Pradesh has violated its earlier agreement with Odisha by unilaterally raising the height of the barrage's concrete wall by 3 feet. The move has led to heavy silt deposition in the Vamsadhara riverbed near Kashinagar. As a result, rainwater no longer drains properly into the river

FMU professor conferred

Bharatiya Bhasha Samman

Balasore: Fakir Mohan University

Professor Debasish Patra, head of

the department of Language and

Literature, has been awarded the

the Bharatiya Bhasha Sammilani

language and literature, as well

as his research on tribal studies.

The conclave, themed "Mother

Tongue and Developed India,"

was organised by Hindusthan

Samachar at the Kashi Vidyapith

Auditorium and brought together

scholars and writers from across

India. The event was inaugurated

Governor Manoj Sinha. Atul Bhai

Kothari, national secretary of

Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas,

delivered the keynote address.

Distinguished guests included

Banaras Hindu University Vice

Chancellor Anand Kumar Tyagi.

FMU Vice Chancellor Santosh

Kumar Tripathy congratulated

Patra, calling the honour a

proud moment for the

and Kashi Vidyapith Vice

Chancellor Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi

by Jammu and Kashmir Lt

for his contributions to Odia

in Varanasi. Patra was recognised

Bharativa Bhasha Samman 2025 by

The affected farmers met Kashinagar NAC executive officer Bhagabat Sahu and demanded compensation urging him to visit their farmlands and review the situation. NAC vice-chairman and local farmers' association secretary Raghuram Sahu also supported their demand during the discussion with the executive officer.

Kashinagar Citizens' Forum president Prashant Mishra warned that farmers will be forced to launch an agitation if the NAC fails to mitigate their sufferings and act on their demands. Senior resident Gopinath Choudhury recalled that a similar situation in 1980, when the Gotta barrage shutters were not opened, had triggered devastating floods in Kashinagar area.

Choudhury said the state government must remain vigilant to check Andhra Pradesh's anti-Odisha activities in border areas.

13 girls fall ill in school hostel; cause unknown

Jeypore, Sept 14: At least 13 girls from the Vejahandi UPS Nodal School hostel in Kundura block of Koraput district had to be hospitalized after being afflicted with diarrhoea Sunday.

They were admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Jeypore for treatment. In the past three days, a total of 24 students from the hostel have been affected with diarrhoea, though the cause remains unclear.

Reports said three days ago nine Class X girls first developed symptoms. They were treated at the Kundura community health centre, where six recovered and other three were shifted to the district headquarters hospital. Four more girls fell ill and were treated with medicines in the hostel Saturday.

Meanwhile, 13 more girls from Classes VI, VII and X developed diarrhoea and were



shifted to the district headquarters hospital Sunday, hostel warden Tanushree Jena said. The affected girls are undergoing treatment and no symptom other than diarrhoea has been reported so far, she added. It is apprehended that the numbers of affected might go up with the

disease spreading and showing no signs of decline.

The hostel with a capacity of 100 seats, which accommodates students from Classes IV to X, has now come under med ical watch. A health team has reached the hostel and conducted checkups on other boarders.

Spurious liquor claims man's life in Subarnapur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur/Binika, Sept 14: A man from Tulundpali village under Binika police limits of Subarnapur district died after allegedly consuming spurious liquor Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Raghu Bhoi, 43, a daily wage labourer in the village. Police said Raghu, who regularly consumed liquor, was found unconscious near the village pond after consuming liquor.

On being informed, family members rushed him to the Binika community health centre in critical condition, where doctors pronounced him dead. His body was kept at the morgue and a post-mortem examination will be conducted Monday.

Raghu's wife, Allhadini, alleged that her husband died after consuming spurious coun try liquor, which is openly sold in the area. She lodged a written complaint at Binika police station, demanding an end to the illegal liquor trade. Police registered a case and said the exact cause of death will be known after the post-mortem report is available to them.

Binika IIC Satya Narayar Pradhan said the investigation will proceed based on the medical findings.

Meanwhile, residents alleged that the sale of spurious liquor has been on the rise in the region, trapping many youths Locals have urged police and Excise officials to crack down on the illegal liquor trade.

Raghu is survived by his wife, a seven-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son. His death has left the family shattered.

YOUTH DROWNS; UNCLE Pregnant minor rescued after family boots her out MISSING IN MAHANADI

27 yrs on, landless pay taxes sans possession

panchayat in Shamakhunta block of Mayurbhanj district have been paying taxes for the

last 27 years despite lacking possession of the land. The state government had allotted 4

decimals of land to more than 30 families in 1998; however, they are yet to receive

recorded plots. However, they remain excluded from housing schemes and other

benefits because the land has not been demarcated or handed over to them. The

matter came to the fore when the representatives of the affected families met the

inspector and tehsil offices seeking land maps and identification have yielded no

results. "As we have not been given possession, we are being deprived of housing

schemes," said villagers Sunaram Singh, Bhagirath Hansda, Sanatan Singh, Mangal

District Collector to highlight the issue. Villagers said repeated visits to the revenue

the possession. For the past 27 years, the families have been paying land tax on the

Baripada: As many as 30 landless families in Akharshila village under Kalapathura

Paradip, Sept 14: A man drowned while his uncle went missing while taking a bath in the Mahanadi river in Jagatsinghpur district Sunday, police said. The incident took

place near Tirtol when the duo, along with several others, went to the river to conduct a 10th-day ritual after the death of a woman in

their family, the police said. The deceased was identified as Rudra Jena (22), while his uncle Sampad Jena (45) was missing after slipping into deep water in the

river. Rudra was rushed to Manijanga Community Health Centre (CHC), where a doctor declared him dead, said Addition-

al Superintendent of Police, Paradip, Smruti Ranjan Kar. Fire service personnel

have launched a search operation to trace Sampad, the ASP said.

Umerkote, Sept 14: A seven months pregnant unmarried minor girl was rescued Saturday by the Umerkote Integrated Child Development Project (ICDS) after her family and the accused boy's kin refused to shelter her.

Police said the 17-year-old girl, a resident of a village under Umerkote police limits, had been surviving by going door to door and

Notice

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for

procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available

on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in, respective

subsidiary Company, (MCL, www.mahanadicoal.in),

CIL e-procurment portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) Jagruti Vihar, Burla - 768020, Dist. - Sambalpur, Odisha h. (EPABX) : 0663-2542461 to 469 Website : www.mahanadicoal.i

eating whatever food

worker reported the matter to Umerkote Child Development Project Officer Sanjukta Behera. Supervisor Chandrika Bag, acting on Behera's in-

structions. reached the village, where a meeting was held in the presence of the sarpanch

R-5269

and several resivillagers provided. dents. The supervisor later brought the A local Anganwadi

girl to Umerkote. As the girl is pregnant, officials immediately produced

On the committee's directive, she was placed at the Sakhi One Stop Centre in Nabarangpur. Authorities said a decision on her long-

Sd./- Executive Engineer

Bhubaneswar

R.W. Division, Karanjia

her online before the term rehabilitation Nabarangpur Child has not yet been Welfare Committee. **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS ELECTRICAL DIVISION** BHUBANESWAR

e-Procurement Notice NO - EERWELBBSR - 12/2025-26 (f) Provision of Convenional Egiting Arestot, De Set and Glow Sign Board at RW Division Bhadrak-I and Bhadrak-II.-37.56 lakhs (fi) Provision of Conventional Lighting Arrestor, DG Set and Glow Sign Board, AC, Solar Light and Video Conferencing at RW Division Balasore-I and Balaso (iii) Provision of Conventional Lighting Arrestor, DG Set and Glow Sign Board, AC, Solar Light and Video Conferencing at RW Circle Balasore-23.56 lakhs (iv) Provision of Conventional Lightning Arrestor, DG Set and Glow Sign Board, AC, Solar Light and Video Conferencing at RW Division Jaleswar - 29.39 lakhs Estimated Cos om 23.56 lakhs to 39.27 lakhs (Excluding GST) 180 days From Dt.16.09.2025 at 12.00 A.M. to Dt.24.09.2025 up ocuments in the portal Dt.25.09.2025 at 01:00 P.M. and address of the officer Divn. Complex, Rasulgarh Behind Esplanade Mall. Dist Khordha, Odisha, Pincode-751010 inviting Bids urther details can be seen from the Govt. Website www.tenderorissa.gov.in

Singh and Chunuram Singh. The villagers warned that if the problem is not resolved soon, they will be forced to launch an agitation.

Khandabasa festival celebrated Bhawanipatna/Junagarh: The annual Khandabasa festival of Goddess Lankeshwari, the presiding deity of Junagarh in Kalahandi



district, was celebrated with grandeur Sunday in the presence of Kalahandi Maharaja Ananta Pratap Deo. Devotees turned out in large numbers for a direct glimpse of the Goddess. At 6:15pm, the priest carried the patakhanda (sword) of the goddess from the temple in a colourful procession to a temporary hut near the Dak Bungalow. Another khanda from Budharaja temple was also brought there. Goldsmith Balakrishna Achari conducted rituals and purification of both swords before they were returned to their respective shrines. At 9:15pm, the Goddess' patakhanda was placed on rice, followed by a small animal sacrifice. At midnight, a major animal sacrifice was offered at the root of a shimuli tree inside the temple complex. Police deployed one platoon and additional officers from Dharmagarh subdivision to maintain order. Cultural programmes, including music and dance, added colour to the celebration, drawing

and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure. gov.in In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in".

NAME CHANGE I, Alajingi Samuel Shine, Age about 27 years, S/O Alajingi Raju, residing at Goutam nagar 6th Lane, Rayagada, PO/PS/Dist-Rayagada, Odisha, Pin-765001, declared by this affidavit D.R.NO-848, dated-12/09/2025 that My name, Father name & Mother name is wrongly mentioned on 12th Class NIOS Certificate vide Reg. 16/221046 AINO 010172, Roll No. 920117300763 issued by Director Evaluation National Institute of Ope Schooling. But my actual and correct name Alajingi Samuel Shine, Father Name Alajingi Raju, Mother Name-Alajingi Ribika entered in my birth certificate vide Regd. No. 1065/1998. That my actual name is Alajingi Samuel Shine as mentioned as all relevant documents. I swear this affidavit to be file before the concerned authority for correction change of my name, Father name and Mother name. I declared that, the facts stated above

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KARANJIA (MAYURBHANJ)

OIPR-25168/11/0016/2526

E-mail ID : eerwkaranjia@yahoo.com Letter No.3967/WE//Date: 11.09.2025

"E" Procurement Notice for Construction of Building works for year 2025-26 Bid Identification No - RWDKNJ-07/2025-26

Name of the work: "Infrastructure Development of Government Higher Secondary Schools for the year 2025-26"

Details as per Annexure), 2. Eastimated Cost: Rs.51.00 to 64.75 Lakhs (Approximately), 3. Class of Contractor: 'B Class (of Odisha P.W.D.), 4. Period of Completion : 9 Calendar Month, 5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000/-Availability of tender On-line Last Date

eeking Tende From To Technical Bid Financial Bid No. Clarification Dt.26.09.25 Executive Engineer, Rura Building Dt.16.09.25 up Dt.24.09.25 up Dt.03.10.25 at Will be RWDKNJ-07 intimated Later Sd./- Executive Enginee

in this affidavit are true and correct to the besi of my knowledge and belief. OIPR-25086/11/0029/2526 university and Odia literature. thousands of devotees from within and outside the district.



Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions



THE MOTHER

Brazilian Justice

n a landmark verdict, the Brazilian Supreme Federal Court, that country's highest judicial authority, on 11 September convicted former president Jair Bolsonaro for attempting a coup d'état following his defeat to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in the October 2022 presidential elections. After a lengthy and rigorous trial, the court found him guilty and sentenced him to 27 years and three months in prison—a punishment reflecting the gravity of the charges. Six high-ranking officers, including three generals, were also convicted along with Bolsonaro. Given the former president's age and fragile health at 70, the sentence may still be adjusted.

Nevertheless, this verdict marks a historic first: never before in Brazil's turbulent political history has an attempted coup resulted in conviction. The decision carried particular symbolic weight because the deciding vote came from Judge Cármen Lúcia, the lone woman on the five-judge panel. For, Bolsonaro is infamous for his misogyny, especially his disparaging remarks toward women.

Despite pressure from Bolsonaro's allies to push for an amnesty law, the ruling sends a clear message. Democracy is safeguarded at the ballot box, not through the dismantling of institutions. The country's history makes this judgement especially significant. From 1964 to 1985, a Right-Wing military dictatorship ruled over Brazil with repression, torture, and extrajudicial killings—all backed by US administrations. A National Truth Commission later documented these crimes, but no perpetrators were ever convicted. Civilian rule was restored in the 1980s while Bolsonaro's presidency re-empowered the armed forces politically, reopening old wounds.

Bolsonaro's conviction carries implications far beyond Brazil's borders. During his presidency, he aligned himself closely with US President Donald Trump, who at the time was serving his first term in office. As Bolsonaro's trial unfolded, Trump denounced the proceedings as a "witch hunt" and imposed 50 per cent punitive tariffs on Brazilian goods in retaliation. The 11 September guilty-verdict was also swiftly condemned by the US as Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Brazil of engaging in "political persecution"—language commonly used by Far-Right groups worldwide to discredit judicial rulings. Rubio went ahead, threatening more reprisals. Ironically, such heavy-handed tactics may risk driving Brazil closer to Beijing, a result Washington should

Attention now turns to Brazil's 2026 presidential election. Unless Bolsonaro succeeds in overturning his conviction and accompanying election ban, he will be sidelined from the race. Lula has yet to confirm his candidacy, but he would enter as the frontrunner. A runoff against Right-Wing contender Tarcísio de Freitas, a former army captain often seen as Bolsonaro's political heir, could nonetheless be tightly contested. Bolsonaro's conviction also risks casting him as a political martyr, a role that could galvanize support for figures who embrace his brand of politics. Indeed, in the days before the verdict, roughly 40,000 of his supporters rallied in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, underscoring his continued influence. Still, the Supreme Court's ruling represents a powerful statement: despite ongoing polarisation, the likelihood of successful challenges to Brazil's democratic order has been sharply reduced.

This contrasts sharply with the US experience. While Brazil held a former leader accountable for subverting democracy, Trump has evaded prosecution despite orchestrating a relentless campaign against the 2020 election outcome which he called an "electoral fraud" without providing an iota of evidence. The 6 January 2021 attack on the US Capitol, the most brazen assault on American democracy in modern times, ended not in accountability but in presidential pardons for many involved.

The 11 September Brazil ruling is not an end but a beginning. The South American country remains deeply polarised, mirroring the divisions that have consumed the US and many other democracies including India. To be admired here is the spine shown by Brazil's judiciary. In the face of all adversities it proves one thing for sure: the Brazilian justice system stands firm and unwavering.

WISDOM CORNER

When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are

challenged to change ourselves

VIKTOR E. FRANKL

Where love rules, there is no will to power: and where power predominates, there love is lacking. The one is the shadow

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

1821: Central Americans granted independence. On this day in 1821. Central American notables accepted a plan drafted by the Mexican caudillo Agustín de Iturbide that brought independence from Spain to Costa Rica, El Salvador,

- 1894: Battle of Pyongyang ends with decisive Japanese victory. The major land battle took place between the forces of Meiji Japan and Qing China during the First Sino-Japanese War.
- 1916: The tank was used for the first time in combat, by the British during World War I.
- 1935: The Nürnberg Laws, among the first pieces of racist Nazi legislation that would culminate in the Holocaust, were passed in Germany; designed by Adolf Hitler, they deprived Jews of German citizenship and forbade marriage or sexual relations between Jews and "citizens of German or kindred blood."
- 1963: A Ku Klux Klan bomb kills 4 young African-American girls. Four members of the white supremacist group, set off a timed bomb at the 16th Street Baptist Church, a predominantly black church in Birmingham. Alabama. The bombings marked a watershed moment in the Civil Rights Movement in
- 1978: Muhammad Ali won the world heavyweight boxing championship for the third time with his victory over Leon Spinks.

GATHERING CHICKENS

The farmer's son was returning from the market with the crate of chickens his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden the box fell and broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the neighbourhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to





PUTIN'S TEST ON NATO

the history of NATO, a member state has been attacked by a rival. The incident involved 19 Russian combat drones (there is no confirmation that they were equipped with warheads), some of which entered Poland from Belarus. The Kremlin must have been aware that casualties were a real possibility (one home was destroyed, but no one was injured).

If Russian tanks had rolled across the border and Russian fighter planes had flown over Poland, no one would doubt that this was an act of aggression. But because the incursion was made by drones, some are raising doubts, despite the fundamental role that drones play in warfare today

Of course, today's wars are not declared. Even aggression is not called war - Putin calls his war against Ukraine a "special military operation." In the case of Russia, this verbal chicanery is nothing new; Russia has been operating in a definitional and legal gray area of its own creation since it first invaded Ukraine in 2014 with its insignia-less soldiers, dubbed "little green men."

MAKE NO

IS TESTING

BIAS AND

SERVILITY

RUSSIA HAVE

NEVER BEEN

MORE OBVIOUS

TOWARD

MISTAKE: PUTIN

TRUMP, WHOSE

Against the backdrop of what constitutes an attack nowadays, the status of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. which enshrines NATO members' mutual defense pledge, seems unclear. The treaty does not specify what kind of attack is needed to trigger Article 5, nor even how NATO countries should respond. After all, between a protest note and a military mobilisation, there is a wide spectrum of actions that most countries, far removed from the war, may respond to very differently.

Was the drone incursion part of the biennial Russia-Belarus "Zapad" (West) military exercises, which begin on 12 September? Whatever the case, provocations have always been part of Russia's repertoire, and similar military exercises preceded several of Russia's recent invasions of neighbouring countries, including Ukraine

Nonetheless, Russia's ac-



Russian President Vladimir Putin followed his red-carpet summit with Trump in Alaska by escalating attacks on Ukraine and provocations on NATO's eastern flank

tions came as a surprise to Poland. Politicians and the public still do not fully believe in the possibility of war with Russia. And, judging by the reaction of the Warsaw stock market, which fell by less than 1 per cent, they will continue not to believe.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk emphasised that there is "no reason to claim we're on the brink of war." But this is more of an attempt to avoid panic and heightening tensions with Russia. The widespread fear of escalation in the West also applies to Eastern Europe; Poland's foreign ministry handed a protest note to the Russian embassy.

And yet this was an attack not just on Poland, but on NA-TO and EU territory. According to Marcin Ogdowski, a leading Polish defense journalist, Dutch F-35 aircraft scrambled to meet the threat, accompanied by an Italian-crewed tanker flying alongside them so that they could refuel and remain at the ready. Polish F-16s and AWACS reconnaissance aircraft also took to the skies, and German Patriot missile batteries, stationed in eastern Poland, were on the alert.

As this threat was being met. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen mentioned the drone attack in her State of the Union address to the European Parliament. She had recently visited Poland's eastern border with Tusk, and in her speech promised 6 billion (\$7 billion) for

wall in Europe (and 150 billion for the SAFE armament programme, from which Poland is set to receive 47 billion).

Poland also invoked Article 4 of the NATO treaty and convened an alliance meeting, initially at the level of NATO ambassadors, but intensive consultations among the heads of state of the key allies began

At the same time, the drone attack tests the unity of Polish leadership in the face of the Russian threat. US President Donald Trump and Polish President Karol Nawrocki are actively trying to keep Tusk's government away from the White House. Trump has long avoided contact with Tusk, a candid critic, and is insisting that only Nawrocki, a like-minded Right-Wing populist, may represent Poland in US talks with Russia. But Polish law says otherwise: Foreign policy is conducted exclusively by the government, and the president is bound by the government's policy.

In formulating Poland's policy, Sikorski is consulting widely, particularly with Ukraine. When asked by journalists whether Poland was considering Ukraine's proposal that it shoot down Russian missiles and drones over Ukrainian territory, Sikorski replied, "We will return to this topic. I don't want to jinx it.'

Such an act would be a real breakthrough, as the West has so far been unwilling to protect Ukraine's airspace. Sikorski stressed that Putin, by escasending drones into Poland, is "mocking Donald Trump's peace efforts.

Along with the drones has come a Russian disinformation blitz aimed at convincing Poles that "Ukraine is dragging Poland into war." This is perhaps even more dangerous than the drone attack, because the alliance between Poland and Ukraine is what prevents Russia from being able to change the borders in this part of Europe. Both countries treat the other's independence as a condition of its own. But this is not necessarily obvious to the wider Polish public. Germany, the Czech Republic, and other countries where anti-Ukrainian sentiment is growing should also intensify their efforts to combat disinformation.

Russia's drone attack is a test not only of Poland's combat capabilities and the West's unity, but above all of Trump. Europe certainly passed the test of unity and speed. Several countries immediately offered to send soldiers and equipment: France (several Rafale aircraft), the Czech Republic (a special unit of 100 troops), and the Netherlands (two Patriot systems, a NASAMS system. and 300 soldiers), with similar support offered by Germany, the UK, Sweden, and others. Against this backdrop, the lack of response from the US seems significant.

Russian President Vladimir Putin followed his red-carpet summit with Trump in Alaska by escalating attacks on Ukraine and provocations on NATO's eastern flank. So far, when questioned by journalists, Trump has either called such incidents a mistake or simply said that Russian drones are flying too close to Poland. But make no mistake: Putin is testing Trump, whose bias and servility toward Russia have never been more obvious.

The writer, founder of the Krytyka Polityczna movement, is a Mercator senior fellow.

SPECTRUM

SOCIETY

Prioritising student well-being over performance



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

FOR TOO LONG, **WE HAVE CELEBRATED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS** WHILE IGNORING THE HUMAN COST

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

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

n a country where academic success is often seen as the ultimate measure of a person's worth, the tragic and alarming rise in student suicides has forced a long-overdue reckoning. The Supreme Court, in a powerful and compassionate judgement, has shattered the silence surrounding this mental health crisis. By stepping in to mandate comprehensive mental health support in all educational institutions, the Court has not just delivered a legal ruling; it has issued a moral clarion call, signaling that the lives and well-being of our students are paramount. This landmark decision recognises a grim reality: the relentless pressure to succeed, particularly in competitive exams like the NEET. has created a pressure cooker environment where a young person's emotional safety is often an afterthought. The statistics are a stark in-

dictment of our collective fail-

ure, with thousands of young lives lost to a system that prioritises rote learning over resilience and grades over genuine happiness. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, between 2019 and 2021, the country witnessed over 35,000 student suicides, with numbers rising precipitously from 10,335 in 2019 to 13,089 in 2021. This translates to an average of 36 students taking their own lives each day. Each number is a story, a future extinguished, a family shattered, a community left searching for answers.

The Court's ruling is a direct and bold response to this epidemic. By mandating a uniform mental health policy, including the appointment of qualified counselors and mandatory psychological first-aid training for all staff, the judgement lays the groundwork for a more humane educational system. These are not just bureaucratic checkboxes; they are life-saving measures designed

to transform high-pressure environments into nurturing spaces. The move to hold institutions accountable through district-level monitoring committees and compliance affidavits is a crucial step, ensuring that these guidelines do not just exist on paper but become a practical reality. This is a clear message to schools and coaching centres alike: you are now responsible for the emotional and mental welfare of your students.

Beyond the broad policy directives, the Court's intervention in the specific case that prompted this ruling - the suspicious death of a young student, underscores its commitment to justice. The decision to transfer the investigation to the CBI is a vital act of restoring public trust. It acknowledges that when a student's life is at stake, no stone should be left unturned and no systemic failure can be ignored. This is a clear warning to institutions

that may have turned a blind eye to negligence and to law enforcement agencies that may have mishandled such sensitive cases.

Ultimately, this judgement is more than just a legal decree; it is a profound re-evaluation of what we value as a society. For too long, we have celebrated academic achievements while ignoring the human cost. The Supreme Court has now asked us to change that narrative. It is a powerful invitation for us to build an educational ecosystem where success is not measured solely by a student's rank, but by their ability to thrive, to seek help when they need it and to feel safe and supported. It is now up to all of us - educators, parents and policymakers to ensure this vision becomes a reality.

The writer is founder, Supporting Shoulders, an organisation striving for mental health of students.

Strategic stranglehold

Sir, This refers to "Resource rivalry," Orissa POST, Sept 14. China's overwhelming control over global supply chains is no longer seen as a concern restricted to the US and the EU. Every significant nation now views Beijing's dominance as a strategic threat, given its seamless integration into manufacturing, rare earth minerals, semiconductors, and technological ecosystems. The sheer depth of China's supply chain networks, coupled with its rapid strides in AI and machine learning, has elevated its influence to a point where complete isolation is impossible. This reality explains why Washington, despite its rhetoric, is reluctant to impose punitive tariffs on China akin to those slapped on India. The US cannot afford to rupture its economic interdependence with Beijing, knowing that industries, from electronics to pharmaceuticals, would face immediate disruption. The same logic restrains Europe, which continues to balance criticism of China with quiet dependence on Chinese goods and technologies. China's power rests not just in cheap labor but in its strategic stranglehold over critical global supply arteries. That dominance has left the world walking a tightrope—denouncing China's rise while

reluctantly acknowledging that decoupling is an illusion. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Political turbulence

Sir, Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro has been sentenced to 27 years in prison for his role in attempting a coup. Bolsonaro, often dubbed "Brazil's Trump," retains strong support—thousands marched in his favour. and even US President Donald Trump has voiced his solidarity with the former Brazilian president. The ruling has sparked political turbulence in Brazil, Latin America's largest democracy, with concerns of deepening polarisation. Adding to tensions, the US has imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Brazilian goods in response to the prosecution. For India, which enjoys strong trade ties with Brazil through the BRICS grouping and agricultural imports, this instability may disrupt supply chains and weaken Brazil's role as a regional partner, requiring cautious diplomatic balancing

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES





FROM DOORSTEPS TO COMPOST

How Kerala's 'Green Army' Barabanki, Lucknow emerge as changed waste forever narco-pharma hotspots in UP

The state government says Kerala no longer depends on landfills or centralised dumps; instead, it manages its waste at source, creating jobs and a cleaner environment along the way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 14: In Kerala, known for its high literacy rate and scenic backwaters, an unlikely force has taken centre stage in the battle against waste--women in green uniforms, knocking on doors with sacks and ledgers

They are the Haritha Karma Sena--women-led squads who collect and sort rubbish at household level. What started as a local experiment in composting has now grown into a full ecosystem of solid waste management.

The state government says Kerala no longer depends on landfills or centralised dumps: instead, it manages its waste at source, creating jobs and a cleaner environment along the way.

The approach is decentralised, and crucially, it is monitored digitally

Beyond household waste, Kerala has also begun to set up faecal sludge treatment plants under the national AMRUT programme--a move aimed at tackling the more intractable problem of liquid and sanitary waste.

Talking about the success of the solid waste management initiative, Kerala Local Self-Government Minister MB Raiesh said, "We have achieved self-sufficiency in solid waste management liquid will take more time, but we are confident about achieving it.

The minister emphasised that strict enforcement and active public participation were crucial in reaching the milestone.

"We amended our Panchayat Raj Act and Municipality Act

to give local bodies teeth to pe nalise offenders. So, those who don't hand over their non-bio waste will not get any services from local bodies, and those who are not ready to pay the user fee will have their user fee charged with the property tax, along with a fine," Rajesh said.

"Our door-to-door waste collection has doubled in the last two years, but still, civic sense has not improved correspondingly. People still throw away (waste)... so we have created facilities now, the focus will be on educating people," he added.

In the last five months. Rajesh said, the government has collected Rs 9.55 crore in fines for littering.

Though, at the heart of the decentralised system is the Haritha Karma Sena -- a network of more than 37,000 trained women workers, mostly from the Kudambashree mission, the minister said.

"The Haritha Karma Sena is a novel initiative. They work at the grassroots level, collecting non-bio waste from door to door. In 2024-2025, they

collected 1.52 lakh tonne of non-bio waste... 95 per cent of houses and shops are covered by them," Rajesh told reporters

during an interaction here. According to the officials, these "green soldiers" collect, segregate and transfer waste from households and institutions to local collection facilities.

They are not just sanitation workers, but also entrepreneurs, earning from user fees, compost sales and recycling contracts.

Complementing the sena's work is the Clean Kerala Company Ltd. which acts as an aggregator, transferring non-biodegradable waste to recycling agencies and cement factories for use as Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF), officials said.

While solid waste systems are maturing, liquid and sanitary waste remain a challenge.

'We are going to achieve a total treatment facility for sanitary waste. Within the next four months, four regional plants will be set up and 120 tonne of sanitary waste can be treated and processed," Rajesh said.

"It is estimated that 100 tonne of waste is generated every day, but the plants will be able to handle 120 tonne," he added.

Furthermore, Kerala's waste management strategy insists that biodegradable waste must be processed as close to the source as possible, like at homes, institutions, or community centres, with the state promoting bio-bins, compost pits, ring composts, and community facilities like biogas plants.

As of June 2025, more than 25 lakh households have installed source-level devices, while 271 community biogas plants and 1,303 composting facilities treat organic waste daily.

"Also, we are promoting source-level treatment of bio waste and have announced a five per cent tax exemption to all households that have source-level treatment at home," Rajesh said.

Talking about the 2023 Kochi dump yard blaze, Rajesh said in the aftermath of the incident, it was decided to clear all the garbage from the site and claimed that the government was just a month away from achieving its goal.

"We announced in the assembly that we will convert this (blaze) into an opportunity and that area (dump site) will be converted into a garden--a modern waste management destination. Now, we can very proudly claim that 90 per cent of that dumpsite has been cleared. Out of 9 lakh metric tonne, more than 8 lakh metric tonne of waste have been cleared... Within one month, the remaining waste will be cleared," he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sent 14: Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a spurt in seizures of psychotropic substances over the past two years, with state capital Lucknow and its neighbouring Barabanki emerging as the epicentres of the crackdown official data shows.

From consignments of Alprazolam running into lakhs of tablets to recoveries of Tramadol, Buprenorphine, Codeine and even raw powder used for tablet-making, officials of the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) said the seizures point to an organised illicit pharmaceutical network that has spread in parts of UP.

Such drugs are seized as ille gal trade can cause dependency and addiction in some, and in worst cases overdose and death.

Alprazolam, Tramadol, Buprenorphine and Codeine are controlled under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, which empowers agencies like the CBN to intercept, seize, and prosecute offenders involved in their diversion, trafficking, or illicit manufacturing.

According to official data accessed by PTI, Barabanki has repeatedly turned up as a major hub. In 2024 alone, multiple raids led to the seizure of huge stocks of Alprazolam and NRx medicines, often in the range of 60,000 to 3.2 lakh tablets at a time.

The trend continued into 2025, with the district also recording recoveries of Alprazolam powder, indicating its use in clandestine processing and tablet manufacturing.

Lucknow, meanwhile, has emerged as the centrepiece of the state's drug seizures in 2025. A single raid July 16 led

FROM ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MAMKOOTATHIL TO CUSTODIAL TORTURE



to the recovery of over 18.47 lakh Alprazolam tablets, along with 2.19 lakh Tramadol tablets, 13,175 ampules of Buprenorphine injections, 700 Pentazocine ampules and 5,355 Codeine bottles, in the biggest such haul by the CBN in the capital yet.

"The seizures reflect the growing scale of diversion of pharmaceutical drugs and the need for continuous monitoring and crackdown, as seen in recent times," a senior officer aware of the matter told PTI.

Enforcement records also show that the problem is no longer confined to a few pockets.

In 2024, seizures were logged from Barabanki (January, April and May), and once each in Bijnor (September) and Varanasi (December).

However, the number of seizures have more than doubled till August this year only with successful raids reported twice from Barabanki (January, August), thrice from Lucknow (May, two times in July), and once each in Bareilly (February), Varanasi (June), Agra (June).

Tramadol tablets and Codeine bottles were seized from Varanasi and 1 kg of Alprazolam powder was recovered from Bareilly, suggesting a pipeline of raw material feeding into the

Officials point out that the

nature of the seizures has al so diversified. While 2024 was dominated by tablets, mostly Alprazolam and NRx, the following year saw consignments that included powders, injections and syrups.

"The variety of substances being trafficked indicates both growing demand among users and adaptability by suppliers to plug into multiple markets, the official said.

In the latest breakthrough following intelligence inputs from Madhya Pradesh, CBN's regional team nabbed a suspect from UP-Bihar border after an overnight operation September 11-12, busting a Ketamine supplying racket allegedly linked to the poll-bound state. Officials believe diversion

from legitimate supply chains, coupled with illegal processing units, is feeding the racket. The discovery of Alprazolam

powder consignments, in par ticular, has triggered concern that tablet pressing is being carried out in hidden facilities within the state. Senior officers maintain that

the heightened seizures reflect "improved policing and in ter-agency coordination". Yet they concede that the sheer volume and spread of recoveries indicate that traffickers have ramped up their operations.

"Each big seizure is both a success and a warning -- it shows how much has already penetrated into the system,' said another officer who was part of the crackdowns.

Officials said as Uttar Pradesh and the Centre move to tighten their monitoring of controlled medicines, the chal lenge for enforcing laws lie in "keeping pace with the evolv ing methods" of traffickers who are "increasingly diversifying" both substances and routes.

Baghpat cops take exam on new criminal laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baghpat/Lucknow Sept 14: Around 260 examinees hunched over trying to answer 75 questions in an hour under a tight vigil. Only that these were not students, but police inspectors and sub-inspectors testing their reasoning capacity vis-à-vis their knowledge of the three new criminal laws.

The idea of the one-hour ob-

jective test held at Baghpat Police Lines September 7 came to Superintendent of Police Suraj Kumar Rai upon noticing that the investigation officers were unable to effectively pursue cases and ensure conviction before the court.

"To overcome this shortcoming, we planned the 'Baudhik Kshamta Pariksha' (Reasoning capacity test)," Rai told PTI. adding that those who cleared the test with high scores would be tasked with the responsibility of key cases.

The first-of-its-kind test was aimed at assessing their knowledge of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Bharatiya



Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, the

Krishna had ordered officials to ensure that cops were handed assignments that matched their aptitude in areas like forensics, cybercrime, knowledge of law, outdoor policing, and drafting.

"Those candidates who didn't perform well would be trained in our training cell," Rai said, adding that he was checking the answers himself to have a first-hand idea of the performance of the 260 personnel.

They included 42 women police personnel. "We plan to hold such tests regularly," Rai said.

ing on social media, purportedly showing examinees adopting unfair means during the exam, the SP said, "We are looking into it."



He said that DGP Rajeev

Asked about a video circulat-



Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 14: The 12-day-long Kerala Legislative Assembly session, set to begin here Monday, is likely to be stormy as both the ruling LDF and Opposition UDF may target each other over a host of issues ranging from police atrocities to sexual misconduct allegations against Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil.

The House is being convened at a time when the CPI (M)-led government and the Congress-headed Opposition are facing some embarrassing matters.

Though the UDF was basking in their remarkable victory in the Nilambur bypoll and was looking ways to sharpen their attack against the ruling front in the House, the multiple sexual misconduct allegations surfaced against Mamkootathil became an unexpected blow for

Though the Palakkad legislator had resigned as Youth Congress state president and had been suspended from the party, the Congress is still struggling to find a convincing narrative to tackle the questions of polit-



ical opponents.

As Mamkootathil had been in the forefront of protests against the state government and CM Vijayan inside and outside the Assembly, he is likely to face sarcastic comments and protests in the House if he attends the session.

Neither Mamkootathil nor the Congress has confirmed about his participation so far.

However, Assembly Speaker AN Shamseer Sunday said he received a letter from Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan requesting him to change his seat from the opposition bloc as the

Palakkad MLA was suspended from the Congress parliamen

The recent suicide of two Congress leaders in Wayanad district and a sucide attempt by a family member of one of them are also likely to haunt the UDF during heated arguments in the At the same time, the Con-

gress-led UDF is likely to attack the Left government vehemently over a host of incidents of alleged police atrocities in various places across the state.

They have already been staging state-wide protests after CCTV visuals of the custodial torture of a Youth Congress leader in Kunnamkulam police station two years ago came out recently.

LoP Satheesan questioned the continuing silence of CM Vijayan, who also holds home portfolio, over the matter and said that the opposition would make him speak in the House on the matter.

The allegations of corruption and financial irregularities raised against some senior CPI(M) leaders by a DYFI leader in Thrissur, the purported audio of which was leaked recently, are also likely to be taken up by the Opposition in

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB)'s move to organise Global Avvappa Sangamam. hosts of allegations against the state Health Department, the spread of amoebic meningoencephalitis, a brain fever which claimed several lives in the state in the last two months, and alleged delay in the rehabilitation initiatives in landslide-hit Wayanad are likely to trigger intense debate.

The financial constraints of

the state and the situation at ter the GST reformation are expected to be raised by the finance minister and the opposition is likely to counter it by pointing out the alleged extrav agance of the state government.

Speaker Shamseer said the 14th session of the 15th Kerala Assembly would be held in three phases from September 15 to October 10. The House would be adjourned after obituary ref erences to former Chief Minis ter VS Achuthanandan, former speaker PP Thankachan, and Peerumedu MLA Vazhoor So man Monday.

He said the upcoming session is exclusively dedicated to law-making -- nine days for legislation and two days for

private members' bills. Four bills, to be presented in the House, have been finalised and 13 other bills are also expected to come up during the session.

The discussion and voting in connection with the supplemen tary grants for the budget of the financial year 2025-26 would be held October 6, he said adding that the House would be adjourned on October 10.

UP govt charts roadmap for \$6 trillion economy by 2047

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 14: The Uttar Pradesh government is envisioning and preparing a concrete action plan to realise the vision of "Viksit Uttar Pradesh Samarth Uttar Pradesh

The Yogi Adityanath-led government aims to make Uttar Pradesh a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 and a \$6 trillion economy by 2047.

A special focus has been placed on future-oriented industries, including artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology, green energy, and agritech

for achieving this objective. A blueprint is also being prepared across 12 key sectors, including agriculture, IT and emerging technology, health, education, industry, social welfare, rural and urban development, tourism, hospitality, livestock, sustainable development, and governance.

The framework rests on three missions - 'Samagra Vikas' (allround development), 'Aarthik Netrutva' (economic leadership), and 'Sanskritik Punarjagran' (cultural renaissance) and three themes of Arth Shakti, Srijan Shakti, and Jeevan Shakti.

Notably, the state has long been counted among the "Bimaru" states due to weak law and order, poor infrastructure, and lack of investor confidence.

However, in recent years, Uttar Pradesh has seen significant improvement in the security landscape through police modernisation, command-and-control centres, and Operation Conviction, which boosted conviction rates.

This has restored investor trust, leading to record investments of more than Rs 45 lakh crore at the 2023 UP Global Investors' Summit, of which Rs 15 lakh crore has already been Moreover, the state govern-

ment is focusing on employment generation through Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and IT hubs. Renewable energy, smart city infrastructure, and supply chain development are

also expected to generate millions of medium- and low-skilled jobs. In rural areas, agritech and cold chain projects are expected

reduce urban migration. Skills development schemes and private partnership initiatives will make this employment roadmap practical and achievable.

to boost local employment and

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has set itself a target of \$6 trillion economy by 2047.

Cricketer KL Rahul, PETA India donate mechanical elephant to Kerala temple PRESS TRUST OF INDIA manabhan is the thirteenth "Given the recent tragic in

Thrissur (Kerala), Sept 14: Cricketer KL Rahul and animal rights group PETA India Sunday donated a life-size mechanical elephant to a temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu in central Kerala.

symbolic elephant, The Padmanabhapuram Padmanabhan, was dedicated to Sree Padmanabhapuram Mahavishnu Kheeram, an ancient temple near Guruvayur, PETA India said in a statement.

On the occasion of Sree Krishna Jayanti, Sai Sanjeevani Trust President Swami Hari Narayanan unveiled the mechanical elephant, which will be used to conduct temple ceremonies in a safe and cruel-



ty-free manner. The initiative was facilitated by PETA India in recognition of the temple's decision to never own or hire live elephants

Padmanabhapuram Pad-

mechanical elephant donated to temples by PETA India and the eighth in Kerala, the statement said.

"By embracing mechanical elephants in temples, we honour both our spiritual duties and the elephants. These engineering marvels allow us to truly worship the earthly representatives of Lord Ganesha by letting them live in peace in their natural habitats," Rahul

"Mechanical elephants show that devotion, innovation, and compassion can coexist," he added. MN Narayanan Namboothiri, president of the temple committee, welcomed the donation and urged other temples to adopt the technology.

cidents involving captive elephant attacks during festivals in Kerala, we request other temples to consider mechanical elephants for the safety of devo tees and the animals," he said.

According to figures compiled by the Heritage Animal Task Force, captive elephants killed 526 people in Kerala over 15 years, PETA noted. Since early 2023, PETA In

dia has promoted the use of mechanical elephants in tem ples, and at least 20 are now deployed across South India The mechanical elephants are three meters tall, weigh 800 ki lograms, and are constructed with rubber, fibre, metal, mesh, foam, and steel, powered by five motors, the statement added.

national



Opposition party leader Rahul Gandhi had termed the GST a Gabbar Singh Tax, but after the GST was introduced, the number of businesses which were paying taxes has been increased to 1.5 crore in the last 8 years as they realised that they would be able to benefit from it

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

PM MODI TO LAUNCH WOMEN'S **HEALTHCARE CAMPAIGN SEPT 17**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will September 17 launch the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' and the 8th 'Poshan Maah', marking a historic step towards strengthening healthcare and nutrition services for women, adolescent girls, and children, the Union health ministry said Sunday



political world with 14 crore members. In India, we have the NDA governments in 20 states and the BJP governments in 13 states. We are the largest representative party in the country. We have 240 MPs (Lok Sabha). We have around 1,500 MLAs. We have more than 170 MLCs

JP NADDA | BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Women are contributing immensely to the making of Viksit Bharat with their vision and leadership, playing a crucial role in shaping



and spread it globally, become partners in its development and make it the most effective language of the digital age

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT **TAKES**

PM greets people on Hindi Diwas

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday greeted the people of the country on Hindi Diwas and urged them to take a pledge to enrich all Indian languages, including Hindi, and pass them on to the coming generations with pride. Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year September 14 to mark the adoption of Hindi as the official language by the Constituent Assembly September 14, 1949. "Infinite best wishes to all of you on Hindi Diwas. Hindi is not just a medium of communication. but a living heritage of our identity and culture," Modi said in a post in Hindi on X.

Maoist killed in gunfight

Medininagar: A Maoist was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Palamu district Sunday morning, police said. The deceased was identified as Mukhdev Yadav (40) alias Toofan ji, a self-styled sub-zonal commander of the banned Maoist splinter group Tritiva Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC), SP Reeshma Ramesan said. The encounter broke out in a forest area bordering Manatu and Tarhasi in the district, IG (Operations) Michael Raj S told PTI.

K'taka: Police bust child-lifting gang

Ballari: Police have busted a child-lifting gang operating in the district hospital and rescued a one-and-a-halfmonth-old baby within 24 hours of the abduction, officials said here Sunday. Ballari Superintendent of Police Shobha Rani said the accused-Shameem, her husband Ismail, and an accomplice Basha-allegedly kidnapped the child Friday and later sold the infant to Basavaraj Mahantappa of Toranagallu.

Prisoner dies in jail

Kochi: A 49-year-old remand prisoner was found dead at Kakkanad District Jail Sunday, police said. The deceased was identified as Rajesh P R, a resident of Kureekkad in Chottanikkara, Ernakulam district. Rajesh was arrested by Ernakulam South police September 3 for allegedly possessing 5.5 litres of liquor at Kadavanthra junction and was remanded by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate the same day.

are constitutional trust, not charity



The top court said the failure to ensure humane conditions in such homes does not merely amount to maladministration; it constitutes a constitutional

> breach of the fundamental right to life with dignity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: A beggars' home maintained by the state is not a discretionary charity and its administration must reflect the values of constitutional morality, the Supreme Court said while issuing a slew of directions to ensure that dignified living conditions are maintained continuously at such centres.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said all the states and Union Territories are required to institutionalise reforms in beggars' homes and analogous institutions under their control, so that the constitutional guarantee of life with dignity is meaningfully secured for this most vulnerable section of society.

The top court said the failure to ensure humane conditions in such homes does not merely amount to maladministration; it constitutes a constitutional breach of the fundamental right to life with dignity.

"This judicial articulation leaves no doubt that the state's responsibility towards indigent persons is affirmative and nonderogable. A beggars' home, maintained by the state, is thus a constitutional trust, not a discretionary charity. Its administration must reflect the values of constitutional morality - ensuring liberty, privacy, bodily autonomy, and dignified living conditions," the bench said.

The apex court said every individual admitted to a beggars' home shall mandatorily undergo a medical screening by a qualified medical officer within 24 hours of admission.

"Monthly health check-ups shall be conducted for all inmates by a designated medical team. A disease surveillance and early warning system shall be established at all beggars' homes, with special protocols for prevention, detection, and containment of communicable and waterborne diseases.

"All the state governments/ UTs shall frame, notify, and strictly enforce minimum hy-

giene and sanitation standards at beggars' homes, which shall mandatorily include continuous access to potable drinking water, functional toilets with proper drainage system, and regular pest control and vector management measures,' the bench said.

The directions came in a case arising out of an incident at a beggars' home in Lampur in North Delhi district, where contamination of drinking and cooking water with coliform bacteria resulted in an outbreak of cholera and gastroenteritis among the inmates.

The top court directed that all the state governments/UTs shall conduct an independent third-party infrastructure audit of every beggar's home within their jurisdiction at least once every two years.

Occupancy in each beggar's home shall not exceed its sanctioned capacity, so as to prevent overcrowding and the spread of communicable diseases, it said.

"Adequate provisions shall be made for safe housing, ventilation, and access to open spaces, consistent with human dignity. Every beggar's home shall appoint, or designate from an associated government hospital, a qualified dietician to regularly verify the quality and nutritional standards of food served to the inmates. Standardised dietary protocols shall be framed, ensuring nutritional adequacy.

"All beggars' homes shall establish or expand vocational training facilities aimed at skill development and economic self-reliance of inmates. The state governments/UTs shall explore partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and private institutions to introduce diverse trades and employment-oriented training programmes," the bench said.

Periodic assessments shall be conducted to monitor the effectiveness of rehabilitation initiatives and to facilitate the reintegration of released inmates into the society, it added.

The inmates shall be informed about their legal rights, including the right to contest detention orders, in a language they understand, the apex court said.

The state legal services authorities shall designate panel lawyers to visit the beggars' homes at least once every three months to provide free legal assistance and facilitate access to bail, release, or appeal

SC: Beggars' homes PM Modi launches projects worth ₹18,530cr in Assam September 2025

Guwahati, Sept 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday launched projects worth 18.530 crore in Assam, including the world's first bio-ethanol plant using bamboo as raw material, along with major health and infrastructure projects at programmes in Darrang and Golaghat districts.

In Darrang district's Mangaldoi town, the PM laid foundation stones for three major projects with an investment of ₹6.300 crore. These include the Darrang Medical College and Hospital, along with a GNM school and nursing college at a cost of ₹570 crore, the Guwahati Ring Road (Rs 4,530 crore) and the Kuruwa-Narengi bridge over Brahmaputra (Rs 1,200 crore), officials said.

The PM, after inaugurating the projects, said that his government is working with the vision of making Assam a growth engine of India's development.

"Both the Union and state governments are developing Assam as one of the most connected states and as a leading healthcare hub. These projects will further strengthen our resolve," he said. The Darrang

Numaligar L Assam

Medical College will be the 24th such facility in the state and will admit 100 students each year into the MBBS programme. The 121.43 km Guwahati Ring Road, divided into three sections, will decongest the capital city and ease the movement of vehicles, including trucks from West Bengal Bihar, and other states. The 55 km-long first section will stretch from Baihata Chariali to Sonapur via Kuruwa and Chandrapur. It will include a

four-lane road along with several six-lane bridges, including the 2.9 km Kuruwa-Narengi bridge over the Brahmaputra, as well as five other bridges. three flyovers, and three road over-bridges. The second sec

tion will see the upgrade of the existing four-lane road into a six-lane stretch from Jayanagar underpass on NH-27 to Jorabat and will feature two flyovers.

The third section will upgrade the four and six-lane road of National Highway 27 from Baihata to Sonapur. In Golaghat district, the PM

inaugurated a ₹5,000-crore bamboo-based ethanol plant and laid the foundation stone for the ₹7,230-crore Petro Fluidised Catalytic Cracker Unit at the Numaligarh Refinery. The "world's first, second-generation" bioethanol plant is a 'zero-waste' facility, which will utilise all parts of the bamboo plant, and is expected to give a ₹200-crore boost to the rural economy in the state, officials said.

WAQF AMENDMENT ACT

SC to pronounce interim order today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: The Supreme Court is slated to pronounce Monday 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 Waqt (Amendment) Act, 2025.

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

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

One of the issues relate to the power to denotify properties declared as "waqf by courts waqf-by-user or waqf by deed' prescribed in the Waqf (Amendment) Act. 2025. Before reserving the interim 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.

Earthquake of 5.8 magnitude hits parts of northeast, Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 14: An earthquake of 5.8 magnitude shook parts of the northeast region and West Bengal Sunday, officials said. There was no immediate re-

port of any loss of life or damage to property, they said. The epicentre of the earthquake that struck at 4.41 pm, was in Udalguri district, the officials The depth of the quake was 5

km. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Assam earlier in the day, where he launched projects worth over ₹18,000

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in a post on X, said, "The epicentre (of the earthquake) was near Udalguri. So far, there has been no report of any major damage or loss of life. We are actively monitoring the situation.'

Residents of Udalguri, Sonitpur, Tamulpur, Nalbari and several other districts in Assam felt the tremors, the officials said.

Panic-gripped people were seen rushing out of their residences in Guwahati. People in the western parts of Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh also felt the jolt. Residents in Arunachal Pradesh capital Itanagar could also be seen scampering out of their houses and shops in panic. According to state disaster management secretary Dani Sulu, no reports of structural damage or casualties have been reported from the state so far. A report from West Bengal said the tremors were also experienced in parts of north Bengal – Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Dooars, Alipurduar,



A farm worker dries the harvested onions at an agricultural field near Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka

SNIPPETS

7 of two families killed as car falls off Ring Road

Jaipur: Returning from Haridwar after performing the last rites of a deceased relative, seven people of two families were killed after the car they were travelling in lost control and fell off the Ring Road into a waterlogged underpass in Jaipur. police said Sunday. The accident occurred in Shivdaspura police station area near Prahladpura late Saturday night, when the speeding car hit a divider before plunging about 16 feet below the Ring Road, officials said. The mangled vehicle was spotted Sunday by the locals, who alerted the police. Subsequently. the car was pulled out with the help of a crane.

Bengal: Medical student's boyfriend held after her mysterious death

Kolkata: The boyfriend of a final-year female student of RG Kar medical college in Kolkata, who died under mysterious circumstances in a hospital in West Bengal's Malda, was arrested Sunday and remanded to six-day police custody. The family of the deceased had earlier lodged a complaint at Englishbazar police station, accusing her boyfriend, a junior doctor at Malda Medical College, of being responsible for her death. A senior police officer said Ujjwal Soren, named in the FIR as the accused in the unnatural death of 24-yearold Anindita Soren, was arrested Sunday.

Senior Finance Ministry official killed as BMW hits motorcycle

New Delhi: A senior official of the Union Ministry of Finance died and three people, including his wife, were injured after a BMW allegedly hit his motorcycle near Delhi Cantonment metro station on Ring Road here Sunday, police said. The deceased was identified as Navjot Singh, Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and a resident of Hari Nagar, according to police. Police said three PCR calls were received in the afternoon about a traffic jam near metro pillar number 67 on the Dhaula Kuan-Delhi Cantt metro station stretch.

Denial of marriage after consensual sex not an offence: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj (UP), Sept 14: Merely refusal to get married by a man after a consensual physical relationship for four years would not constitute a cognisable offence, the Allahabad High Court has said while rejecting the plea of his live-in partner who had accused him of rape.

"In our view, if two able-minded adults reside together as a live-in couple for more than a couple of years and cohabit with each other, a presumption would arise that they voluntarily chose that kind of a relationship fully aware of its consequences," Justice Arun

Kumar Singh Deshwal said.

Therefore, the allegation that such a relationship was entered into because there was a promise of marriage is, in the circumstances, unworthy of acceptance, particularly when there is no allegation that such a physical relationship would not have been established had there been no promise to marry, the court said in its order dated September 8. The counsel for the man,

Sunil Choudhary, submitted that from the statement of the woman, it is clear that he and his client were in a relationship and initially they were also ready to get married.

"Subsequently, because of certain reasons, the opposite party backed out of a promise

to marry the applicant and a complaint was made by the

applicant to SDM and other

departmental officers. Subsequently, both parties also settled their dispute before

In our view, if two able-minded adults reside together as a live-in couple for more than a couple of years and cohabit with each other, a presumption would arise that they voluntarily chose that kind of a relationship fully aware of its consequences.

JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR SINGH DESHWAL

department officials. Therefore, no cognisable offence is made out against my client,' he contended.

The court noted that "it is not in dispute that the applicant and opposite party (both employees of Tehsil) were in a relationship for four years and this fact was known to all

employees as well as officials of Tehsil". "Subsequently, on refusal

by the opposite party to get married to the applicant, the applicant made a complaint to the SDM (sub-divisional magistrate) as well as to the police.'

"However, during enquiry by the SDM and also by the police officers on the complaint, both parties settled their dispute and the applicant decided not to pursue the case," the court noted.

The plea was filed by the woman challenging the August 17, 2024, order of the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mahoba, who had rejected her complaint.

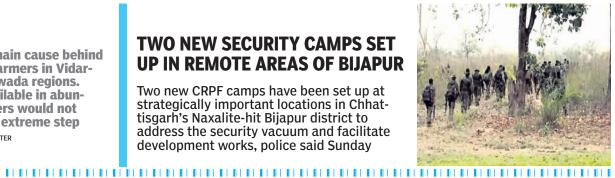
national



Water was the main cause behind the suicides of farmers in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. If water was available in abundance, the farmers would not have to take the extreme step NITIN GADKARI I UNION MINISTER

TWO NEW SECURITY CAMPS SET **UP IN REMOTE AREAS OF BIJAPUR**

Two new CRPF camps have been set up at strategically important locations in Chhattisgarh's Naxalite-hit Bijapur district to address the security vacuum and facilitate development works, police said Sunday



has now been exposed.

votes. Now, SP cadres across Uttar Pradesh, ... all 75 districts, will stop this theft and defeat the BJP. The people have lost faith in the BJP

SHIVPAL SINGH YADAV I SP NATIONAL GENERAL SECY

To realise Prime Minis ter Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047, the edu-



NAYAB SINGH SAINI I HARYANA CM



then how can we play. We want to ask the BJP and RSS: What is the price of those 26 lives? The BJP and RSS are not seeing the lives lost - only (how to earn) the money ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT





didn't file tax returns - gets 6 months iail Woman in Mangalore died from a pothole

If this doesn't make you hate the system, nothing will! @talk2anuradha

SHORT **TAKES**

Justice M Sundar new **CJ of Manipur HC**

New Delhi: Justice M Sundar of the Madras High Court has been elevated as the chief justice of the Manipur High Court, the law ministry said ministry said justice Sundar will assume charge following the retirement of incumbent chief justice Kempaiah Somashekar Sunday. High court judges demit office on attaining the age of 62 years, while Supreme Court judges

Tribal girl's body found near river

Pakur: The body of a 14-yearold tribal girl was found in a mysterious condition near the Bansaloi river in Jharkhand's Pakur district Sunday, police said, Amrapara Police Station Officer-in-Charge, Madan Sharma, told PTI that they received information about the body of a girl near the Bansaloi river and rushed to the spot.

Man killed for opposing tree cutting

Jamshedpur: A 26-yearold man was killed Sunday when he objected to some people cutting trees in his land in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, a police officer said. The victim has been identified as Jagdish Hembram of Sirkatola Baridih village on the outskirts of Jamshedpur town. The police officer said an altercation broke out between the victim and some people over the cutting of trees in his land on Sunday morning, which turned violent, and Jagdish was attacked with lathis and axe. Officer-in-Charge of MGM police station Sachin Kumar Das said a police team rushed to the spot and recovered the body, which was sent to MGM Hospital for post-mortem.

Losing local support, J&K terrorists shift to bunkers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 14: In a change of tactics, terror outfits in Jammu and Kashmir are now constructing elaborately-designed underground bunkers deep inside thick forests and elevated ridges instead of taking shelter in local houses, officials said Sunday.

This tactical shift, fuelled by eroding local support, presents a new challenge to the Army and other security forces.

This came to fore last week during an encounter in the higher reaches of Kulgam district, where two terrorists were killed. As the operation progressed, security forces found a secret trench with rations, miniature gas stoves, and pressure cookers, as well as weapons and ammunition.

One senior security officer, requesting anonymity, said the trend has become widespread in the Kulgam and Shopian districts, as well as south of Pir Panjal in Jammu region where thick forests provide a perfect camouflage for terrorists.

'Parrikar who?' asks **Ajit Pawar about** former Goa CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Sept 14: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar found himself in an embarrassing position with his "who Parrikar?" remark after a woman spoke about how former Goa chief minister late Manohar Parrikar, widely hailed for his administrative skills, used to make surprise visits to check civic

The exchange took place when Pawar, along with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) chief Naval Kishore Ram and other officials, was visiting various parts of the city Saturday to interact with residents to understand their problems.

During his visit to Keshav Nagar in Hadapsar assembly constituency, citizens raised complaints about traffic congestion and other civic problems, to which Pawar said the administration was aware of the demand for better facilities.

While apologising for coming late for the interaction, the Deputy CM said all efforts were being made to resolve issues speedily.

It was at this point that a woman asked Pawar to take a cue from the late Parrikar and make surprise visits to check the traffic problems for himself.

"The way Parrikar saheb used to make surprise visits (in Goa), you or somebody should visit the area during traffic peak hours," she said.

A visibly stunned Pawar interrupted her by asking "who Parrikar?", after which the woman had to tell him she was referring to the late BJP leader from the neighbouring coastal state.

The woman, agitated by then, said people in the area were so frustrated with traffic woes that many were mulling to shift elsewhere.

Parrikar, with an engineering degree from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, was chief minister of Goa for three terms and was Defence Minister between October 2014 and March 2017 in the first term of the Narendra Modi government.

This tactical shift, fuelled by eroding local support, presents a new

challenge to the Army

and other security

forces

Though security personnel have managed to trace a few of these new hideouts, officials are becoming increasingly worried, especially after getting intelligence inputs that terrorists have been asked to stay in higher and middle of ridges and carry out attacks when directed from across the border.

According to retired Lt Gen D S Hooda, who led the successful 2016 surgical strikes. these high-altitude trenches and bunkers are reminiscent of tactics used by terrorists in the 1990s and early 2000s. Lt Gen Hooda, who commanded the strategic Northern Command, also flagged a major issue of absence of human intelligence now, which was one of the main

rorism operations.

Retired Director General of Puducherry Police, B Srinivas, who spent three decades with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, echoed this assessment and said terrorists are being forced to build these bunkers because they can no longer rely on shelters in towns and villages.

With the local people increasingly turning their back on their separatist ideology, infiltrating terrorists are now utilising these secret trenches to evade detection by locals, who they now presume to be informers.

This would be a repetition of what was witnessed in 'Operation Sarp Vinash' back in 2003. when forces were able to target concealed terror camps in the

To counter this new challenge, security agencies are planning to employ technology to counter the threat and are seeking to deploy ground-penetrating radar (GPR)-equipped drones and seismic sensors for deployment during anti-terror operations.

Drones can reach the hardto-access areas, whereas GPR and seismic sensors can identify underground voids and structural changes in the earth, thus making it possible to identify the location of such underground bunkers.

The immediate objective of the security grid becomes obvious, which is to improve intelligence in these forest belts and employ these fresh



A worker during preparations at a community Durga Puja pandal themed 'Dahan', that depicts the struggles and resilience of acid-attack survivors, ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata, West Bengal

'EC should probe vote theft claims, not insult Rahul Gandhi'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: Coming down hard on the Election Commission for its response on 'vote theft" allegations, former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi Sunday said the poll body should have ordered a probe into Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's charges instead of "houting" at him in a language that was "objectionable and offensive"

In an interview with PTI, Quraishi said many of the terms used by Gandhi while making the allegations, such as likening them to a "hydrogen



plaints that he was raising need to be investigated in detail.

The former chief election commissioner slammed the Election Commission (EC) over the manner in which it carried out the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, and said it is not only "opening a Pandora's box" but the poll body has put its hand in the "hornet's nest" which will

Sunday summoned former Trinamool Congress MP Mimi Chakraborty and Bollywood actress Urvashi Rautela in connection with a case of alleged money-laundering linked to an illegal betting app, official sources said.

New Delhi, Sept 14: The En-

forcement Directorate (ED)

ED summons ex-TMC

MP Mimi Chakraborty.

actor Urvashi Rautela

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chakraborty has been asked to depose before the agency Monday at its Delhi headquarters regarding the case tied to the app 1xBet, while Rautela is set to appear Tuesday, sources

On September 4, former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan was questioned for approxi mately eight hours by the ED in relation to the same case In August, another former cricketer, Suresh Raina, was also interrogated by the federal probe agency regarding these allegations.

The ED is probing multiple cases involving illegal betting apps that are alleged to have duped numerous people and investors worth crores of rupees or have evaded a huge amount of taxes

The Union government recently introduced legislation banning real-money online gaming. According to estimates by market analysis firms and probe agencies, there are approximately 22 crore Indian users in various such online betting apps, out of which half (about 11 crore) are regular

The online betting app market in India is worth over USD 100 billion, which is growing at a rate of 30 per cent, according

1,524 orders between 2022 and June 2025 to block online betting and gambling platforms.

instruments to neutralise the bomb", were "political rhetoremaining terrorists. ric", but asserted that the com-

OPPN PARTIES HIT STREETS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 14: Opposition parties Sunday staged protests across the country to oppose the India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match in Dubai, urging people to boycott the contest with a nation that sponsors terror.

Shiv Sena (UBT) organised protests in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu, while Aam Aadmi Party members staged a demonstration in Delhi. In the south, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi slammed the Centre, asking whether the money earned through the match was more than the value of the lives of those killed in Pahalgam.

Traditional rivals India and Pakistan are facing off, in the first match between the two sides since India launched 'Operation Sindoor' in May to hit terror bases in Pakistan-controlled territories following the killing of 26 persons in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The Indian government has allowed the national team



the Centre, Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut mocked the governing party's nationalism and love for the country. "Its (BJP) Hindutva is a big

farce. In the past, India has withdrawn from such cricket matches," Raut said.

The Rajya Sabha member said AAP has vowed to make

public the names of the restau rants screening the match and would give a call to boycott those outlets.

"The names of the restaurant, where the cricket match will be shown, will be made public. This trend will also be followed in Maharashtra," Raut said. He said BJP minister Ashish Shelar should have quit on moral grounds from the Asian Cricket Council rather than working under Pakistan Cricket Board's Mohsin Nagyi, who

(UBT) would "see what can be done in its own style".

in the dark.

Had Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackerav been alive, the Dubai match too would not have taken place, he said.

Raut's party colleague An-

il Parab said that if hotels do

not heed the warning, the Sena

Sena (UBT) secretary and Mumbai Cricket Association member Milind Narvekar claimed the decision over the match was taken by keeping

The party also protested in Pune. Thane and other places in the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

On Saturday, Sena (UBT) Thackeray chief Uddhav termed the match an insult to national sentiments and appealed to people to ignore it. He said his party's women workers will collect 'sindoor (vermilion) and send it to the PM's Office. The Sena (UBT) Sunday also organised a 'Majha Kunku Majha Desh' campaign in Mumbai.

to experts. Additionally, the government recently informed the Parliament that it has issued

'Develop solutions to counter AI-based fake news'

The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, in its draft report, called for a balanced approach for deploying AI to curb fake news, noting that the technology is being used to detect misinformation but can be a source of misinformation as well

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: A parliamentary committee has asked the government to develop concrete legal and technological solutions for identifying and prosecuting individuals and entities responsible for spreading Artificial Intelligence-generated fake news

The Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, in its draft report, called for a balanced approach for deploying AI to curb fake news, noting that the technology is being used to detect misinformation but can be a source of misinformation as well. The draft report of the committee, headed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, was recently submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

It will be tabled in Parliament during the next session.

The Committee also urged for "close coordination between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and other ministries and departments concerned to develop concrete legal and technological solutions for identifying and prosecuting individuals and entities responsible for disseminating AI-generated fake news", according to sources The Committee has recom-

mended inter-ministerial coordination for exploring the feasibility of licensing requirements for AI content creators and mandatory labelling of AI-generated videos and content.

The committee's suggestions are not binding on the government. However, the government often looks to implement them as parliamentary committees are representative of Par-



liament, and their recommendations often carry the weight of bipartisan spirit

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Committee noted, has constituted a nine-member panel to examine problems related to the "issue of deepfakes" Two projects to detect fake

news currently underway are:

speech detection using a deep learning framework and design and development of software for detecting deepfake videos and images, it said.

While stating that advances in technology, particularly in AI, offer promising solutions to address concerns over fake news, the Committee highlighted the related ministries' stand that AI is evolving and works on the use of pre-existing information available on the internet.

In its present state, it cannot be used for a subject as complicated as fact-checking, the ministries told the Committee.

But AI could be used to flag potentially fake news and misleading content for review by human intervention as a second layer of monitoring, the Committee added.

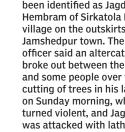
The Committee said various research projects and initiatives are exploring AI's use in combating fake news. "AI and machine learning

(ML) technologies are in-

creasingly being employed to enhance the ability to detect verify, and prevent the spread of misinformation and disinfor mation," it said.

The Committee, made wide-ranging recommendations following months of interactions with different stakeholders, called fake news a "serious threat" to public order and democratic process, and called for amending penal provisions, increasing fines and fixing accountability to deal with the issue. It also favoured mandatory

presence of a fact-checking mechanism and an internal ombudsman in all print, digital and electronic media or ganisations. The Committee, however, has added that this should involve and emerge from a consensus-building ex ercise among media bodies and relevant stakeholders.



international



60 years ago might have been making four to six times more than what the workers are receiving ... 600

RISING INTEREST IN HINDI ACROSS RUSSIA

Three decades after the Soviet Union collapse, Russia is witnessing a growing interest in students wanting to learn Hindi and the government is increasing the number of institutions teaching the language. Russia's Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education Konstantin Mogilevsky said "we want more of our students to learn Hindi"



SHORT TAKES

■ Nepal Police re-arrest 3,723 jail inmates

Kathmandu: More than 3,700 inmates, who had escaped from different jails during the violent anti-government protests in Nepal last week, have been arrested again, police said Sunday. Deputy Inspector General Binod Ghimire, spokesperson of Nepal Police, said that 3,723 inmates have been brought to jails till Sunday afternoon. However, as 10,320 prisoners are still at large, he urged the public to remain alert. Some of the prisoners returned voluntarily while Indian police also helped to arrest those who tried to escape to India,

Ukraine attacks major **Russian refinery**

Moscow: Ukraine launched a big attack with at least 361 drones targeting Russia overnight, sparking a brief fire at the vast Kirishi oil refinery in Russia's northwest, Russian officials said Sunday, reporting no injuries. As big powers talk about how to end the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two the drone war has escalated, with Russian drones downed in NATO-member Poland and attacks by Ukraine against oil refineries and pipelines in Russia, the world's second biggest oil exporter. Russia's defence ministry said at least 361 drones had been shot down by Russian air defence systems, including four guided aerial bombs and a US-made HIMARS missile. It did not give details about the location of the attacks.

China's military warns Philippines

Beijing: China's military said Sunday it had conducted routine patrols in the South China Sea and warned the Philippines against any provocations. The two countries have been engaged in a long-running maritime standoff in the strategic waterway that has included regular clashes between coast guard ships and massive naval exercises. A spokesperson for the Chinese military's Southern Theater Command said the Philippines must immediately stop provoking incidents and escalating tensions in the South China Sea.

Israel intensifies Gaza bombing as Rubio arrives



Cairo/Jerusalem, Sept 14: Israeli forces destroyed at least 30 residential buildings in Gaza City and forced thousands of people from their homes, Palestinian officials said, as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived Sunday to discuss the future of the conflict.

Israel has said it plans to seize the city, where about a million Palestinians have been sheltering, as part of its declared aim of eliminating the militant group Hamas, and has intensified attacks on what it has called Hamas' last bastion.

The group's political leadership, which has engaged in on-and-off negotiations on a possible ceasefire and hostage release deal, was targeted by

- Israel presses on with Gaza City and West Bank plans
- Rubio to hold talks with Netanyahu during visit
- Arab states to hold emergency meeting Monday

Tuesday in an attack that drew widespread condemnation.

Qatar will host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit Monday to discuss the next moves. Rubio said Washington wanted to talk about how to free the 48 hostages - of whom 20 are believed to be still alive - still held by Hamas in Gaza and rebuild the coastal strip.

'What's happened, has happened," he said. "We're gonna meet with them (the Israeli leadership). We're gonna talk about what the future holds,'

Israel where he will stay until

ABRAHAM ACCORDS AT RISK

He was expected to visit the Western Wall Jewish prayer site in Jerusalem Sunday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and hold talks with him during the visit.

US officials described Tuesday's strike on the territory of a close US ally as a unilateral escalation that did not serve American or Israeli interests. Rubio and US President Donald Trump both met Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani on Friday.

Netanyahu signed an agreement Thursday to push ahead with a settlement expansion plan that would cut across West Bank land that the Palestinians seek for a state - a move the United Arab Emirates warned would undermine the US-brokered Abraham accords that normalised UAE relations with Israel.

Aid agencies say an Israeli takeover of Gaza City would be catastrophic for a population already facing widespread malnutrition. Two more Palestinians have died of malnutrition and starvation in Gaza in the past 24 hours, the territory's health ministry said Sunday, raising deaths from such causes to at least 422 people, includ-

ANTI-MIGRANT MARCH

People have a right to peaceful protest: Starmer



Far-right activist Tommy Robinson organised a march attended by around 110,000 people Saturday

REUTERS

London, Sept 14: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said people have a right to peaceful protest after more than 100,000 demonstrators joined an anti-immigration march through London Saturday, but he condemned assaults on police and said Britain was built on toler ance and diversity.

Far-right activist Tommy Robinson organised a march attended by around 110,000 people Saturday. Police said 26 officers were injured, while it made an initial 25 arrests with more expected to follow.

"People have a right to peaceful protest. It is core to our country's values," Starmer said on

"But we will not stand for assaults on police officers doing their job or for people feeling intimidated on our streets because of their background or the colour of their skin." Immigration has become

the dominant political issue in Britain, eclipsing concerns over a faltering economy, as the country faces a record number of asylum claims. More than 28,000 migrants have arrived in small boats across the Channel so far this year. Many of those attending the

march waved red and white English flags as well as the Union Jack flag representing the whole of the UK.

"Britain is a nation proudly built on tolerance, diversity and respect. Our flag represents our diverse country and we will never surrender it to those that use it as a symbol of violence, fear and division,"

China rejects US push for tariffs on **Russian oil imports**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 14: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has rebuffed the US call to G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia, saying that war cannot solve problems and "sanctions only complicate them".

"China does not participate in or plan wars, and what China does is to encourage peace talks and promote political settlement of hotspot issues through dialogue," Wang Yi said in an apparent reference to US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's call to G7 ministers to impose sanctions on countries importing oil from Russia to stop the Ukraine war.

A US Treasury Department statement said Saturday that Treasury Secretary Bessent during a call with G7 finance ministers, reiterated President Donald Trump's call to G7 countries that if they are truly committed to ending the war in Ukraine, they should join the US in imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia



"China is a responsible major country and also a country with the best record on peace and security issues," Wang said during talks with his Slovenian counterpart Tanja Fajon Saturday, official media here reported. "War cannot solve problems, and sanctions will only complicate them," Wang said, adding that China insists on resolving international disputes through dialogue and consultation, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Bessent's statement did not name any country. But the US has often blamed India and Chi na for purchasing Russian oil even when there are no tariffs on Beijing for it.

"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,' Bessent said.

ARAB-ISLAMIC SUMMIT TO BACK QA'

REUTERS

Doha, Sept 14: An Arab-Islamic leaders summit in Doha Monday is expected to rally support for Qatar in the wake of last week's Israeli attack targeting the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gulf state

A draft of the resolution that will be considered by heads of state condemned Israel's attack as a destabilising escalation and said the states opposed Israel's "plans to impose a new reality in the region.'

The draft, which was seen by Reuters, did not mention any



against Israel. The resolution may change before the leaders meet in Doha Monday.

The attack, which Hamas says killed five of its members but not its leadership, has prompt-

ed US-allied Gulf Arab states to close ranks, adding to strains in ties between the United Arab Emirates and Israel, which normalised relations in 2020.

The emergency summit, bringing together members of alone and that Arab and Islamic states stand by it," Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit told Asharq al-Aw-**NETANYAHU KEEPS UP PRESSURE**

the Arab League and the Orga-

nization of Islamic Cooperation,

began with a meeting of foreign

ministers Sunday to craft the

draft resolution. The gathering

is a message that "Qatar is not

Hitting back at global condemnation of the September 9 attack, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has kept up pressure on Qatar over the presence of Hamas leaders on day to either expel Hamas officials or "bring them to justice, because if you don't, we will". Qatar, a key mediator in ef-

its soil, warning Doha Wednes-

forts aimed at ending the nearly two-year Gaza war, has accused Israel of sabotaging chances for peace and Netanyahu of practicing "state terrorism". A member of Qatar's internal security forces was among those killed.

US President Donald Trump has signalled unhappiness over the Israeli attack, saying it did not advance Israeli or US goals, calling Qatar a close ally working hard to broker peace.

WEEK'S BEST PICS



People attend a vigil at Orem City Center Park, in Orem, Utah, September 11



Palestinians react, as smoke and flames rise while a residential building collapses after an Israeli air strike, in Gaza City, September 7



Oliver Strumpfel attempts to break the world record for beer-mug carrying with 31 mugs, but he drops some mugs along the way, at the Hofbrauzelt tent in Gillamoos festival, in Abensberg, Germany, September 7



Participants ride Criollo horses as they compete in the Freio de Ouro, Brazil's main competition for handling Criollo horses, a breed native to the South American pampas, in Esteio, Brazil,



'Sadhvis' at the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday, Sept. 14. As the security situation in the Himalayan nation gradually returned to normal following anti-government protests, President Ram Chandra Paudel announced that fresh elections will be held March 5 next year

business



India's economy and security are deeply reliant on US software, cloud, and social media platforms, creating a major vulnerability in times of geopolitical tension

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

TATA TECH ACQUIRES ES-TEC

Global product engineering and digital services firm Tata Technologies said it will acquire 100 per cent stake in Germany-based ES-Tec Group and its subsidiaries for a total cash consideration of 75 million euros (over Rs 775 crore)





because of capacity constraints, the

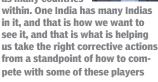


TARUN GARG | WHOLE-TIME DIRECTOR AND COO, HMIL

One of the problems in India we have is that we have put all Alcho-Bev as one thing (for taxation). Beer is natural, has less than 6 per cent alcohol, and is compared with (whisky and other products have







VARUN BERRY | VICE CHAIRMAN & MD,

SHORT **TAKES**

Over 6crore income tax returns filed so far

New Delhi: More than six

crore income tax returns for Assessment Year 2025-26 have been filed so far, the Income Tax department said. The last date to file ITRs without penalty is September 15. "Thank you taxpayers & tax professionals for helping us reach the milestone of 6 crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) as of now and still counting," the I-T department said in a post on X. To assist taxpayers for ITR filing, tax payment and other related services, our helpdesk is functioning on a 24x7 basis, and the department is providing support through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions & Twitter/X, it added. It also asked taxpayers who haven't filed ITR for AY 2025-26 to file at the minute rush. The Income Tax department in May

the due date for filing ITRs

2025-26 (for income earned

for Assessment Year (AY)

in financial year 2024-25)

by individuals, HUFs and

entities who do not have to

get their accounts audited

from July 31 to September

record 7.28 crore ITRs were

filed up to July 31, 2024,

registering a 7.5 per cent

compared to 6.77 crore

year-on-year growth.

in AY 2023-24,

15. For AY 2024-25, a

Mcap of 8 of top-10

most valued cos rises New Delhi: The combined market valuation of eight of the ton-10 most valued firms jumped by Rs 1,69,506.83 crore last week in tandem with an optimistic trend at the Dalal Street, where Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest gainer. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,193.94 points or 1.47 per cent. From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel. ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys and Bajaj Finance were the gainers, while Hindustan Unilever Ltd and LIC faced erosion from their valuation. The market valuation of Bajaj Finance jumped Rs 40,788.38 crore to Rs 6,24,239.65 crore. Infosys added Rs 33,736.83 crore taking its valuation to Rs 6,33,773.30 crore. Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti

Airtel, ICICI Bank, State

Bajaj Finance, Hindustan

Bank of India, Infosys,

Unilever and LIC.

GST cut triggers car loan cancellations

As the cancellation charges are very low compared to the benefit that the customers will get after Sept 22, borrowers are opting for a fresh loan process once

the rate cuts kick in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: Banks are receiving requests for cancellation of approved car loans, in view of the implementation of GST rate cut, which will lower the price of passenger vehicles and also lead to subsequent reduction in the amount needed to purchase them.

It is to be noted that the 56th GST Council meeting earlier this month, approved substantial reduction in the GST rate for cars for up to 1,200 cc to 18 per cent from the existing 28 per cent.

Nearly 400 products - from soaps to cars, shampoos to tractors and air conditioners - will cost less when the rejig of the GST is effective from the first day of Navaratri September 22.

In a run up to September 22, some of the customers who had their car loan approved, are now contacting the concerned branch for cancellation, as they want to purchase after the GST cuts are implemented, a senior official of a public sector bank said.

It is to be noted that many banks have waived-off their processing charges on vehicle and home loans to attract customers during the mon-



According to a senior official of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the old GST rate would be applicable on cars if the invoice has been issued to customers by the car dealer.

Customers can avail new GST rate, if the invoice has not been issued by a car dealer.

Another official said there has been a delay in offtake. as borrowers are now waiting for the rate-cut and also due to Shradha period which is till September 21. Some of the customers are

now opting for the better version of the car under the 1,300 cc category, as they are getting a 10 per cent benefit, the officer added. Meanwhile, an estimated Rs

2.500 crore accumulated compensation cess on the books of auto companies will lapse September 22, when the new GST rates come into effect Currently, automobiles are

subject to GST at 28 per cent,

which is the highest slab, and on top of it, a compensation cess ranging from 1 per cent to 22 per cent is levied, depending on the type of vehicle

The total tax incidence on cars, depending on engine capacity and length, ranges from 29 per cent for small petrol cars to 50 per cent for SUVs.

Effective September 22, petrol and diesel cars with engine capacities of up to 1,200 cc and 1,500 cc will attract 18 per cent GST, while those above that will attract the highest 40 per cent.

Compensation cess on automobiles will cease to exist effective September 22.

CBIC Chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal said industry concerns about the accumulation of cess have been raised in various representations, "Compensation cess was imposed for a particular purpose... Once the levy is gone, whatever credit is lying, it will remain lying in their books," Agarwal had said last week.

Gold rally may pause as investors eye US Fed policy decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: Gold prices are expected to maintain their upward momentum though some consolidation could set in ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision September 17, analysts

Traders will focus on the trade inflation data to gauge the impact of tariffs, inflation numbers from major economies including UK and Euro zone, along with monetary policy meetings of Bank of England and Bank of Japan which will provide more guidance for bullion prices, they added.

"Gold prices continued their positive momentum and closed higher for the fourth straight week, however, the pace of upward momentum slowed with some consolidation seen during mid-week. The price moves of more than 10 per cent over past four-weeks has pushed investors/ traders on the back-foot as they have turned cautious and are reluctant to add fresh longs at current prices.

"However, the ongoing developments related to geo-political issues in the middle-east/ Russia-Ukraine and political devel opments happening in Europe/ Asia are keeping the bullion supported," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services, said.

The Fed's two-day meeting is scheduled to begin September 16, and will conclude September 17, with a policy decision, followed by Chair Jerome Powell's press conference, set to draw attention amid rising tensions between the US President Donald Trump's administration and

TURBULENCE AHEAD

Salary delays hit SpiceJet staffers

The airline reported a net loss of ₹238cr in the June quarter this year



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 14: Budget carrier SpiceJet has been delaying salary payments to a sizable number of its employees for the past few months, according to a source.

SpiceJet employees drawing a salary of up to Rs 55,000 per month have received payment for August, while the rest of the staff has not been paid yet.

"SpiceJet has once again started delaying salary payments to its staff. While employees drawing up to Rs 55,000 per month are getting payments on time, the rest of the staff, mostly Assistant Managers and above level, are getting payments with a delay of 10-15 days," the source said. SpiceJet did not respond to a

query sent on this issue.

The Gurugram-based Spice-Jet had a total of 6,484 employees, including 4,894 permanent ones, according to its annual report for FY25

During 2024-25, SpiceJet provided an interest-free advance to Ajay Singh, who is the Chair man and Managing Director, an amount of Rs 32 crore for a five vear period in accordance with the Nomination and Remuner ation Committee and board-ap proved policy of the company, as per the annual report.

"The company has adjusted the advance from the salary of sub sequent months (April and May 2025), as per the company's policy

Further, this advance is not

prejudicial to the interest of the company," the report said. The airline reported a net loss of Rs 238-crore in the June

quarter this year. SpiceJet had 18 aircraft in operations, as September 13, out of the total fleet of 53 planes

as per fleet tracking website Planespotter.com. This is despite the fact that in the last one year the carrier

has announced its plans thrice to expand its fleet, each time by at least 10 planes. At the end of July last year

SpiceJet had 18 operational aircraft and 38 on ground of the total 56 planes in the fleet

IFC to book hefty gains from Tata Capital IPO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: The International Finance Corporation is set to pocket hefty returns from Tata Capital's upcoming \$2 billion (Rs 17,000 crore) initial public offering, as the World Bank Group arm looks to trim its stake in the non-banking finance company.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) will offload 3.58 crore shares in the offering, exiting part of an early bet on Tata Capital's cleantech business made in 2011, according to the updated draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Tata Capital is likely to launch its \$2 billion initial public offering (IPO) in the first half of October after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted an extension to list its shares on bourses, people familiar with the matter said.

IFC, the World Bank Group's private sector arm, partnered with Tata Capital in 2011 to set up Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd (TCCL), with the mandate to finance renewable and sustainable infrastructure projects. At the time, clean energy in India was still regarded as a subsidy-reliant sector.

Over the past decade, TCCL has emerged as a key green financier, backing over 500 renewable projects across solar. wind, biomass, small hydro, water treatment, and electric

FII flows likely to drive Sanctions halt Nayara's **MARKET OUTLOOK** Sensex, Nifty this week access to non-Russian oil

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 14: The coming week is expected to be crucial for Indian stock markets as investors look ahead to key global and domestic developments.

The US Federal Reserve's policy meeting, progress on India's trade deals with the US and the EU, and the trend of foreign institutional investors (FIIs) will likely set the tone for market movements.

Market experts believe that the US Fed may cut interest rates by 25 basis points in its upcoming meeting.

A deeper cut of 50 basis points, however, would be a surprise and could boost sentiment in global markets, including India.

Updates on India's trade negotiations will also be closely tracked. Last week, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that discussions on an India-US trade deal are ongoing and that the first phase

could be finalised by November. He also noted that talks on the India-EU trade deal are at an advanced stage. FII activity will be another key driver for the markets.

Out of the last five trading sessions, FIIs were net buyers in two, with inflows worth Rs



129.58 crore on Friday alone. This indicates that the FII trend is slowly turning positive.

The previous week was strong for Indian equities. The Nifty gained 373 points, or 1.51 per cent, to close at 25,114, while the Sensex climbed 1,193.94 points, or 1.48 per cent, to end at 81,904.70.

Looking ahead, experts maintain a positive stance on equities. They suggest focusing on domestic cyclicals such as autos, metals, and consumer discretionary, while keeping a balance with defensives like select FMCG and pharma stocks.

On the technical front, analysts at Religare Broking said the Nifty has tested its previous swing high near 25,150.

"While some consolidation cannot be ruled out, the outlook remains positive with the next upside target seen in the 25,250-25,500 range," Ajit Mishra said.

"On the downside, immediate support lies at 24,800, with the 100-DEMA around 24,650 acting as a stronger cushion, Mishra added.



sian oil giant Rosneft PJSC and blacklisted by the European Union in July - is facing difficulties in securing non-Russian crude supplies for a second month in a row as western

ferry oil for it, ship tracking data showed. Nayara, which has already cut down the run rate of its 4,00,000 barrels a day oil refinery at Vadinar in Guiarat. remains heavily reliant on

Russian barrels since August. The company got about 2,42,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil, possibly in ships arranged by Moscow, in August, and another 3,32,000 bpd in the first half of September, preliminary data by global trade analytics firm Kpler showed.

It did not get any crude oil, which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel at the refinery, from other key sources such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia, in both August and September. Iraq and Saudi Arabia had supplied about 1.20,000 bpd of crude to Nayara in July.

"Nayara's situation remains challenging under the weight



Indian refiners are unlikely to suddenly abandon Russian supply. Greater diversifica-

tion is expected, as refiners balance affordability with energy security

SUMIT RITOLIA | LEAD RESEARCH ANALYST

of ongoing sanctions, which have reinforced its reliance on Russian barrels. Post-sanctions, the refinery has struggled with compliance, shipping, payment channels, and lower crude imports," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst (Refining & Modeling) at Kpler.

These issues, however, "are gradually being resolved, and we expect operations to move closer to its economical or rated capacity", he said.

In July, the EU banned imports of petroleum products

made from Russian crude starting in January 2026 and lowered its oil price cap. It sanctioned Russian and international companies managing shadow fleet vessels, traders of Russian crude oil, and a major customer of the shadow fleet the Vadinar refinery, where Rosneft holds a 49.13 per cent

The sanctions meant that the non-Russia-backed shipping fleet refused to transport oil and Western insurance compa nies declined to provide cover for the barrels.

EU sanctions had led to nearly half a dozen top executives of Nayara, including the CEO, resigning from the company.

Russian barrels continued to flow to India in September despite growing pressure from the US to shun supplies from Moscow to get President Vlad imir Putin to agree to end the Ukraine war.

Supplies from West Asia, including Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE, remained strong September, indicating India's efforts to balance be tween discounted Russian grades and reliable traditional supplies to ensure security and avoid overexposure to geopolitical shocks.

Over a dozen firms eye ₹10K-cr amid policy push, favourable liquidity

The pipeline adds to an already strong year for IPOs. So far, 55 companies have floated their maiden public offerings, raising nearly Rs 75K-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: Over a dozen companies are gearing up to launch their IPOs over the next two to three weeks, aiming to raise nearly Rs 10,000 crore. buoyed by supportive policy measures, including GST 2.0 reforms, and the RBI's monetary

policy easing through rate cuts. Among the firms preparing to tap the primary markets are iValue Infosolutions, Saatvik Green Energy, JinKushal

IPOs are coming in sectors backed by strong tailwinds. These sectors include financial services, retail, renewables, manufacturing, and healthcare VAQARJAVED KHAN | SENIOR FUNDAMENTAL

Industries, Atlanta Electricals, Park Medi World, Solar-World Energy Solutions, Jain Resource Recycling, CIEL HR Services, GK Energy, Ganesh Consumer Products, Anand

Rathi Share and Stock Brokers, and Seshaasai Technologies, merchant bankers said

All these companies are expected to announce their price bands in the week begin-

ning September 15 and plan to launch their IPOs before September 30, they added

Merchant bankers further indicated that this will be followed by offerings from Anantam Highway InvIT (Alpha Alternatives), Epack Prefab Technologies, Pranav Construction, and TruAlt Bioenergy. These firms are likely to announce their price bands during September 22-30, with launches slated for the end of September or early October.

Together, these companies are aiming to mobilise nearly Rs 10,000 crore. All of them have already se-

cured clearance from the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)

The robust activity comes on the back of a solid 2024, when

91 public issues collectively mobilised Rs 1.6 lakh crore supported by resilient retail participation, a booming economy, and strong private capital expenditure.

GOLDEN GLOVES

Boxers rule the ring

Jaismine, Minakshi crowned world champions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Liverpool, Sept 14: Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda cemented their place in Indian boxing history here, clinching World Championship titles with gritty wins as the country capped off its best-ever campaign in the women's section on foreign soil.

Jaismine outclassed Paris Olympics silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland in the 57kg summit clash late on Saturday night, prevailing 4-1 on the judges' scorecards (30-27, 29-28, 30-27, 28-29, 29-28) to end her stupendous campaign with a golden flourish.

Debutant Minakshi followed suit a day later Sunday, out-punching Paris Olympics bronze medallist Nazvm Kvzaibay of Kazakhstan by the same margin in the 48kg final to exact revenge for her World Cup loss in July.

Adding to the glory were Nupur Sheoran (80+kg) and the seasoned Pooja Rani (80kg), who signed off with silver and bronze medals respectively, in non-Olympic weight categories.

With their victories, Jaismine and Minakshi joined an illustrious list of Indian world champions featuring six-time winner Mary Kom, two-time champion Nikhat Zareen, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, Lekha KC, Nitu Ghanghas, Lovlina Borgohain and Saweety Boora. Jaismine shines bright

Competing in her third World

Championships, the 24-year-old Jaismine grew steadily into the bout. After a relatively sedate start where both pugilists sized each other up, it was Szeremeta who drew first blood, prodded into action by the referee.



I have no words to de-

I had got out in the

quarterfinals in the previous

two Worlds, but I got the

boost from the World Cup

and game

JAISMINE LAMBORIA

win and I decided I want to

win one-sided matches. I just

concentrated on my strategy

The much shorter Pole, who

had lost the Olympic final to

gender-row boxer Lin Yu-ting.

was fast and precise, using

defensive manoeuvres to dart

in and out. She negotiated Ja-

ismine's long reach to win the

back in the second. Adjusting

her rhythm, she began con-

trolling the distance, evading

Szeremeta's advances, and un-

leashing crisp combinations

that swayed all the judges in

her favour. Jaismine employed

the jab with authority while de-

announced, the usually se-

rene Jaismine let out a brief

yell, raising her hand before

graciously embracing her

crestfallen opponent. At the

medal ceremony, her eyes

glistened as the Indian na-

When the final verdict was

But the Indian came roaring

opening round 3-2.

fending stoutly.

scribe how I am feeling.

tional anthem reverberated through the arena. Her's is the only medal that came in Olympic weight cat-

egory. Minakshi packs a punch

In her final bout, Minakshi made the most of her physical advantage, using her long reach to pepper Nazym Kyzaibay with sharp shots and keep the multiple World Championships medallist at bay.

The 24-year-old from Rurki looked composed on the back foot, landing clean straight punches, even as the more experienced 31-year-old Kazakh pressed forward with aggression. After dropping the opening round, Kyzaibay came out firing in the second, resorting to body blows and even pinning Minakshi to the ropes to edge the round 3-2.

But Minakshi was quick to respond. Sensing the shift, she raised her aggression in the third, lunging forward with authority and taking the fight

India ended the campaign with a haul of four medals, the best-ever in an overseas edition

Nupur walks away with silver

Nupur walked away with silver after a narrow 2-3 defeat to Poland's technically astute Agata Kaczmarska.

Despite enjoying a substantial height advantage, Nupur could not impose herself on the contest. She started brightlv but Kaczmarska countered with relentless aggression, weaving through her reach and landing body blows that wore the Indian down.

As the bout progressed, Nupur grew hesitant to throw punches. The defining moment of the bout came in the final round when the Pole unleashed a stunning uppercut, enough to tip the verdict 3-2 in her favour

Pooja signs off with bronze

Pooja signed off with a bronze medal after going down to local favourite Emily Asquith by a 1-4 split verdict in the 80kg semifinals.

Pooja began on the front foot, leading after the first round with her measured combinations. But Asquith adapted swiftly, changing her game plan to negate the 34-year-old's rhythm. The local star pressed forward with sharper counters and cleaner execution, reversing the tide of the contest.

SKY leads from front as India stamp authority on Pakistan

Men in Blue thrash Pakistan by 7 wickets, players refrain from shaking hands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 14: Kuldeep Yadav's craft and Axar Patel's discipline was way beyond comprehension for a clueless group of Pakistani batters as India displayed absolute dominance to register a convincing seven-wicket victory in a lopsided Asia Cup match here Sunday.

Despite calls for boycotting the match from certain quarters as a mark of protest for the Pahalgam terror attack in April, a near full-capacity crowd dominated by 85 percent Indian fans witnessed a clinical decimation of Pakistan -- one ball at a time.

And to rub it in, neither at the toss nor at the end of the match did the India players shake hands with their counterparts from Pakistan, even as they waited in a queue moments after skipper Suryakumar Yadav sealed the issue with a six. Spinners Axar (2/18 in 4 overs), Kuldeep (3/18 in 4 overs) and Varun (1/24 in 4 overs) were immaculate in terms of line and length as none of the Pakistani batters showed the wherewithal to play the troika from their hands.

The result was a lowly 127 for nine from Pakistan which was at least 50 runs below the par-score.

In reply, Abhishek Sharma (31 off 13 balls) flayed their biggest bowling hope Shaheen Shah Afridi (0/23 in 2 overs) with utter disdain, while Suryakumar celebrated his 35th birthday with a fine 47 not out off 37 balls in a chase that was completed in 15.5 overs.

Suryakumar finished it off in style and then walked straight back to the dug-out without shaking hands with the Pakistan players on the field.

The match was won in the first innings itself when Axar, Kuldeep and Varun delivered 40 dot balls between them and cumulatively took 6 for 60 in their 12 overs.

Add another 15 dot balls

from Jasprit Bumrah (2/28 in 4 overs), and one can understand the plight of the Pakistani batters, who played dot balls worth

Bumrah's greatness could be gauged by the fact that on the day he was hit for his first six in a limited overs international (T20Is and ODIs combined) by a Pakistani batter after sending down 400 legal deliveries.

Had Shaheen Shah Afridi (33 not out off 16 balls) not used the long handle, the score wouldn't have gone past 125 Earlier, Suryakumar lost the toss, didn't shake hands with his counterpart Salman Ali Agha, but never lost the plot as the opposition batters were all at sea from the very first legal delivery.

BRIEF SCORES

Pakistan: 127/9 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 40, Shaheen Afridi 33 not out; Kuldeep Yadav 3/18, Axar Patel 2/18) lost to India: 131/3 in 15.5 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 47 not Varma 31; Saim Ayub 3/35)



SHORT **TAKES**

Kushare scripts history

Tokyo: Sarvesh Anil Kushare Sunday became the first Indian to qualify for high jump final at the **World Athletics Championships** while national record holder Gulveer Singh finished 16th in the 10,000m race with a below-par performance here. The 30-yearold Kushare, who made it to the showpiece at the 34th spot among 36 competing athletes through world ranking quota, scaled 2.25m to finish joint seventh in Group B of the qualification round. He ended at joint ninth in the overall rankings across two groups. Those who touched the automatic qualifying mark of 2.30m or at least 12 best made it to the final round to be held Tuesday.

Aman disqualified

New Delhi: In a big setback to the Indian wrestling contingent, Olympic medallist Aman Sehrawat was Sunday disqualified from the World Championship in Zagreb after being found overweight. In an embarrassing development, Aman, who won a bronze at Paris Games last year, was found overweight by 1.7kg during the weigh-in ahead of the competition in men's freestyle 57kg. "It's unfortunate and surprising that Aman could not maintain his weight. He was overweight by 1700 grams when he stood in the weight scale. This is not acceptable, actually. How did he get so much extra weight is beyond us," a source within the Indian contingent told PTI from Zagreb.

EVES FALL TO CHINA, WC BERTH ELUDES



India bring home the silver medal at the women's Asia Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou (China), Sept 14: The Indian women's hockey team faltered when it mattered the most, losing 1-4 to China in the final of Asia Cup to miss out on direct qualification for next year's World Cup, here

India drew the first blood through a penalty corner conversion by Navneet Kaur in the very first minute itself before China came into their own, scoring through Zixia Ou (21st minute), Hong Li (41st), Meirong Zou (51st) and Jiaqi Zhong (53rd) to win their third

title in tournament and secure their passage to the 2026 World Cup, to be held in Belgium and Netherlands

India got their first scoring chance within 39 seconds of the start of the match in the form of a penalty corner and Navneet was on target to hand her side an early lead. Three minutes later, China

had a bright chance to draw level when they earned backto-back penalty corners, but the Indians defended brilliantly. Stunned by the early goal,

China went on the offensive mounted continuous raids on the Indian half, but the Salima Tete-led side held its ground stoutly.

The Chinese kept up their relentless pressure on the Indian citadel and earned another set of penalty corners two minutes

into the second quarter but failed to breach the resolute opposition defence.

China created chances after chances, keeping the ball almost in the Indian circle but were unable to find the equaliser.

The home team's relentless pressure finally paid off as it secured the equaliser in he 21st minute through a penalty corner conversion by Zixia Ou.

The equaliser seemed to have lifted the morale of China as they continuously pushed for the lead, keeping the India defence under tremendous pressure. However, both the teams went into half-time break locked at 1-1.

India will now have to go through the World Cup Qualifiers to seal their place in the top global event.

Close but no crown for Indian shuttlers

Satwik-Chirag, Lakshya finish runners-up at Hong Kong Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hong Kong, Sept 14: India squandered a golden opportunity to return with two titles as both Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty signed off with runner-up finishes at the Hong Kong Open Super 500 here

Lakshya could not blunt the attack of world No. 4 Li Shi Feng and went down 15-21 12-21 in a rather sedate men's singles final. Satwik and Chirag, who

bagged a second successive

World Championships bronze last month, let go of a one-game advantage before losing 21-19 14-21 17-21 to China's Olympic silver medallists Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in a tense 61-minute men's doubles summit clash.

The Indian held a slender 7-6 edge in the head-to-head, but the Chinese has dominated this season with wins at both the All England and China Open.

The 2021 World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya made a brisk start in the opening game, surging to a 4-0 lead before Li found his rhythm with sharp body attacks and flat exchanges to close in at 6-7. The Chinese drew level at 8-8 with an athletic net kill and then reeled off five straight points with a mix of tight net play and steep smashes to take control at 14-10.

Ningbo (China), Sept 14: India's Meghana Sajjanar clinched her first-ever World Cup medal, a bronze in the women's 10m air rifle, as the

ISSF WORLD CUP

Meghana clinches

maiden WC medal,

India finish fifth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



country finished fifth in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol.

In her first World Cup final in eight years, Meghana shot 230.0 to secure bronze behind Norwe gian Jeanette Hegg Duestad who won silver. On Saturday, Esha Singh gave India their first gold medal of the event in the women's 10m air pistol.

China topped the tally with three golds, while Norway came away second with two golds in their kitty, of the 10

Odisha runners-up in All-India T10 Cricket C'ship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 14: The third All-India T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship, organised under the aegis of the T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Association of India with support from Odisha T10 Tennis Cricket Association and Shree Jagannath Darshan Charitable Trust, concluded Sunday at the Shree Jagannath Cricket Stadium in Puri.

After Lucknow and Goa, Puri hosted the event, marking its third edition. Dignitaries including Puri MP Sambit Patra, BJP state vice president Golak Mohapatra and TBTCAI president Dayitapati Bhawani



Prasad Dasmahapatra attended the closing ceremony.

In the women's division, Jharkhand beat Goa and Odisha defeated Uttar Pradesh in the semifinals to set up the final clash. Jharkhand scored 41 runs for five wickets. while Odisha managed 26 runs

for eight wickets, securing Jharkhand the championship and Odisha the runners-up title. Jharkhand's Bubbly was named both player of the match and series, Ankita won best bowler, and Odisha's Sunita Das was awarded best

Atiqa first woman to win UAE karting race

History made as 10-year-old Indian **Atiqa Mir wins UAE** race from pole position

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 14: Indian racing's 10-year-old prodigy Atiqa Mir Sunday created history by becoming the first woman in UAE karting to win a race in the Minimax category.

In a competitive field of 14 drivers including seasoned European race winners. Atiga was the lone female but that was



hardly a factor as she completed a commanding victory from pole position in the prestigious

DAMC Championship opener at

the Dubai Kartdrome.

In the finals, Atiqa kept it clean and within track limits to cross the chequered flag

I'm so happy with this win. Dubai Kartdrome is where I started karting so this track will always remain close to my

before anyone else. The win makes her the first ever female to take a pole and a final win in the MiniMax category, marking a perfect start to her Middle Eastern Karting leg.

Recognising her rare talent, Formula 1 had signed her for its F1 Academy DYD program earlier this year, another first for an Indian driver.

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