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Puri: College girl gangraped; 3 held

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Three months after a girl was sexually assaulted by 10 persons on Gopalpur beach, a 19-year-old college girl was allegedly gangraped near Baliharchandi temple under Brahmagiri police station in Puri, police said Monday. Three persons have been ar-

rested in this connection. The incident took place

around noon Saturday when the woman and her male companion had gone to a place near the temple to spend some time. A group of local youths clicked their pictures and asked for money from them. "When they refused, two persons raped the female student," Puri SP Prateek Singh said. Other members of the group had tied the hands of the male companion of the survivor before the gangrape, police said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If cricket can avenge terror. why waste time on surgical strikes or war?



CM Mohan Charan Majhi hands over an appointment letter to a new recruit at 11th Nijukti Mela in Bhubaneswar Monday. Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, SD&TE Minister Sampad Chandra Swain and FARD Minister Gokulananda Mallik are also seen

POST NEWS NETWORK

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The state government has filled over 30.000 posts in various departments over the past 15 months through 11 recruitment drives, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said here Monday.

The CM said this at the 11th Nijukti Mela (recruitment fair)

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: An

86-year-old woman, who was

presumed dead, was found alive

moments before her last rites

were to be performed at Swar-

The woman, P Laxmi, hailed

from Andhra Pradesh, and she

was presumed dead when she

was on a visit to her son-in-law's

house in Polasara area of Gan-

gadwar in Puri Monday.

organised at IDCO Exhibition Ground in the City wherein he handed over appointment letters to a total of 1,686 candidates who have been recruited across seven key government departments.

Health and Family Welfare department absorbed the largest number with 982 recruits, followed by Water Resources

jam district, a family member

said. "As she did not open her

eyes and there was no sign of

breathing, we thought she is

dead and informed others in the

locality. We arranged a vehicle

to carry the body to Swargad-

war," he added. However, she

was found alive by the securi-

ty guard and other staffers at

Swargadwar following which

she was shifted to Puri DHH

where her condition is critical.

'Dead' woman found alive

(413), Skill Development and Technical Education (136), Finance (61), Law (37), Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (34), and Fisheries and Animal Resources (23). Addressing the new recruits, the CM said government service is not just about job security but also about serving the people with dedication and integrity.

Maoist with ₹1 crore reward among 3 killed

Ranchi: Three Maoists, including Sahdev Soren of banned CPI (Maoist) carrying a Rs 1 crore bounty, were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district Monday. The encounter broke out in Pantitri forest around 6am. "Bodies of Soren, Raghunath Hembram and Birsen Ganjhu have been recovered," Jharkhand Police IG (Operations) Michael Rai S said.

30K posts filled in 15 months: CM Waqf law: SC stays **Collector's powers**

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 15: A little over five months after the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, received Presidential assent amid heated legal and political debate, the Supreme Court Monday put on hold some key provisions of the law. In a significant interim order, the apex court stayed the provision that empowered District Collectors to unilaterally decide whether a property qualifies as waqf, observing that such authority cannot extend to adjudicating private property rights. The bench also stayed the requirement that a person has to be a practicing Muslim for the last five years before he can dedicate a property as

'We have held that presumption is always in favour of constitutionality of a statute and intervention (can be done) only in the rarest of rare cases," a bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih said in its interim order on the intensely debated issue.

The SC pressed pause on the powers given to a District Collector to adjudicate the status of waqf properties and ruled on the contentious issue of non-Muslim participation in Waqf Boards, directing

that the Central Waqf Council should not have more than four non-Muslim members out of 20, and State Waqf Boards not more than three of 11.

The CJI said the bench has considered the "prima facie challenge" to each section in the new law and found that "no case was made out to stay entire provisions of the statute".

"However some sections need some protection," he said. The bench made it clear that

its directions were prima facie and interim in nature and they would not prevent the petitioners or the government from advancing full arguments on the constitutional validity of the law at the stage of final hearing.

The detailed judgement is awaited. CJI Gavai then referred to the provisions which have been interfered with or stayed by the interim order.

"The requirement that a person has to be a practicing Muslim for the last five years before he can dedicate a property as waqf (Section 3(r)) has been stayed until the state governments rules are framed for

Will reject Bihar SIR if illegality found: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said it is presuming that the Election Commission, being a constitutional authority, is following the law during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and warned that the entire exercise would be set aside in case any illegality is found at any stage.

examining whether a person is a practicing Muslim or not. Without any such rule/mechanism, the provision will lead to an arbitrary exercise of power,' the order said.

One of the most significant interventions came in relation to Section 3C, which had vested powers in designated government officers to determine the status of Waqf properties.

"Permitting the Collector to determine the rights is against the separation of powers; the executive cannot be permitted to determine the rights of citizens," it said.

The bench clarified that until the title to a property is finally adjudicated under Section 83 by the Waqf Tribunal, and subject to appeal before the High Court neither the possession of the Waqf nor its records would be disturbed.

DSPL-261



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ











ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ମେଦବହୁଳତାର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ଖାଦ୍ୟରେ ଚିନ<u>ି</u>, ଲୁଣ ଓ ତେଲର ବ୍ୟବହାର କମ୍ କରିବା



ଆଦ୍ୟ ଶୈଶବ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ସନ୍ତ ଓ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଜରିଆରେ 0-୩ ବର୍ଷର ଶିଶୁଙ୍ଗ ବୌଦ୍ଧିକ ବିକାଶକୁ ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟ ଦେବା



'ପୋଷଣ ବି ପଢ଼ାଇ ବି' ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରତିଟି ଶିଶୁକୁ ଉତ୍ତମ ପୋଷଣ ସହ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବା



ନବଜାତ ଓ ଶିଶୁଙ୍କୁ ଉତ୍ତମ ପୋଷଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ନନ୍ୟପାନ ଓ ସଠିକ୍ ଖାଦ୍ୟାଭ୍ୟାସ ବିଷୟରେ ସଚେତନ କରାଇବା



ଉତ୍ତମ ପୋଷଣ





ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମା' ଓ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ସନ୍ତୁ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ମହିଳାମାନଙ୍କ ସହ ପୁରୁଷମାନଙ୍କ ସହିଭାଗିତାକୁ ପାଧାନ୍ୟ ଦେବା



ସମନୃଯ୍ ମୂଳକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ସହିତ ଡିଜିଟାଲିକରଣ ଦ୍ୱାରା ସମୃହି ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା



ସ୍ୱଦେଶୀ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱର_୍ -ସଂଶକ୍ତିକର୍ଣ ଓ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି କିରିବାକୁ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେବା

୩0 ଦିନ ପାଇଁ ପୋଷଣ ମାସ କରିବା ପାଳନ ପୁଷ୍ଟି ବିଷୟରେ ଆମେ ହୋଇବା ସଚେତନ

ସହାୟତା ନମ୍ମର

ପୋଲିସ୍ ହେଲ୍ସ ଲାଇନ <mark>୧୧</mark>୨

ମହିଳା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ <mark>୧୮୧</mark>

ଚାଇଲ୍ଡ ହେଲ୍ସ ଲାଇନ ୧୦୯୮

ସୁଭଦ୍ରା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ ୧୪୬୭୮

ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



eisure



The Traitors US host Alan Cumming thinks US President Donald Trump would be good at the ultimate game of betrayal and deceit. Alan quipped to reporters in the event's press room: "I'm sure our president would be very good on the show."

The

ALAN CUMMING CALLS FOR PREZ

TRUMP TO JOIN THE TRAITORS US

PARIS HILTON OWNS 10K PAIRS OF SUNGLASSES

Hotel heiress and socialite Paris Hilton has revealed she's built a spa at her home and has a whole room dedicated to housing her extensive collection of 10,000 sunglasses.





Today, you may get to share

your ideas and opinions with ike-minded people. Ganesha says you may finally have a heartto-heart chat with your beloved, and express your deep commitment. You may even talk of your long cherished dreams.

TAURUS

Logic may be your forte today, but in the game of life, sometimes the heart wins and sometimes the head. Your analytical skills will help you understand things better, in turn, making you wiser. You may feel an urge to spend on music cassettes, CDs and electronic gadgets.

GEMINI

Your highly competitive nature will push you to perform better and better. . You don't even know what being second best means. Getting in touch with like-minded people will only make your resolve stronger. Your desire to be the best will make you take interest in everything that can help you improve. You may even study new subjects.

CANCER

Lack of support from family members will disable your efforts. Children also disappoint you.
Discord or difference of opinion in family is indicated. Beware of neighbours. Yet, says Ganesha, face circumstances with a smile

Motivating people through your own actions is one way; the other is to let your words do the talking. Both are equally effective, says Ganesha. With a bit of help from the stars, today, it is your words that shall hold more weight than your actions, as you make optimum use of your presentation skills. It seems like a good idea to keep an open mind and learn new things that will go a long way in improving your communication skills.

It is quite possible that you will love financial challenges that are thrown at you, as they whet your appetite for success. You will come up with innovative ideas and improved methods of problem-solving. Ganesha assures you that your current husiness ideas will work wonders.

Ganesha says the inner artist in you will come to the surface today and you will showcase your imagination powers too. You will be able to focus on topics of interest today. Those of you moving ahead. There may be signing of beneficial legal deals today for you.

SCORPIO

You will live the day in two dominant shades, feels Ganesha. One part of your day will be tinted in nostalgia and thinking, while the other will be spent in making up for the time you lost while star gazing and ignoring your work. Do not let the ghosts of your past haunt you because some things are best left behind while making a new beginning, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Suddenly, you discover that you are fully dedicated to your family. Kith and kins form the crux of your life, says Ganesha. Showing your love and affection to your kids will give you a feeling of satisfaction. Spend some quality time with your partner!

CAPRICORN It will be one of those

mundane days with nothing remarkable happening on any front. But don't be disheartened, advises Ganesha; planetary movements indicate there may be a change coming soon, most likely a good one. So, perk up and look forward to tomorrow.

AQUARIUS

You do have a way with words and today, you may succeed with your gift of the gab! But Ganesha says that your confused feelings may come in the way of your triumphant achievement. Also, sentiments may lead to a disastrous outcome. Sounds familiar?

PISCES

The fount of your creativity spurts today like there is no tomorrow. For lesser mortals, it takes inspiration, perspiration and a lot of desperation to come up with some thing creative. You, on the other hand, keenly remember the lessons from your past efforts, and use them today to scale new heights, says Ganesha.

EMMY AWARDS

The Studio scripts history with 13 wins

'The Pitt' and 'Adolescence' took home the Best Drama Series, Best Limited or Anthology Series honours



The Studio actors Dewayne Perkins, Keyla Monterroso Mejia, Kathryn Hahn, Chase Sui Wonders, Seth Rogen, Ike Barinholtz and Bryan Cranston

The

drama picked up

the award for Out-

standing Limited

Or Anthology Series,

and acting honours

for Stephen Graham,

Erin Doherty, and

Owen Cooper, with

the latter at 15 becom-

ing the youngest male

winner ever at the cere-

mony when he scooped

the Supporting Actor in

a Limited or Anthology

In addition, Philip Bar-

antini took Best Directing

for a Limited or Anthology

Series or Movie and Ste-

phen and Jack Thorne won

Best Writing for a Limited or

Anthology Series or Movie.

In the drama categories,

The Pitt was named Best

Drama Series, and its star

Noah Wyle was named Best

Actor in a Drama Series, with

Best Supporting Actress in a

Drama Series going to co-star

Tramell Tillman made his-

tory as the first black winner

of the Best Supporting Actor in

a Drama Series award, and his

Severance co-star Britt Lower won

Other notable wins at this year's

Emmy Awards - which were hosted

by Nate Bargatze - included *The Late*

Show with Stephen Colbert taking Best

Talk Series, and Best Variety Special

(Live) going to SNL50: The Anniversary

Special, with showrunner Lorne Mi-

chaels noting he had picked up his first

Emmy a staggering 50 years ago. AGENCIES

Best Actress in a Drama Series.

Katherine LaNasa.

Series prize.

Netflix

Los Angeles: The Apple TV+ show The Studio's debut season broke the all-time record for most wins for a comedy series, taking home three more prizes than when *The Bear* set the record in 2023 with 10 wins.

In addition, co-creator and star Seth Rogen tied for the record of most individual Emmy wins in one night, putting him on par with Moira Demos (2016), Amy Sherman-Palladino

MAJOR WINNERS

Cristin Milioti, The Penguir

(2018) and Dan Levy (2020). He scooped the Lead Comedy Actor prize and another for co-directing an episode titled *The Oner* with Evan Goldberg.

The show also saw Seth, Evan, Frida Perez, Peter Huyck and Alex Gregory win Best Writing for a Comedy Series for *The* Studio's pilot episode, and the top award, Outstanding Comedy Series, adding to the nine wins the programme had notched up at last weekend's Creative Arts Ceremony, including Best Guest Actor in a Comedy Series for Bryan Cranston and awards for casting, cinematography, music supervision, sound editing and sound mixing.

Elsewhere at the ceremony, Adolescence was another hig winner, taking a total of eight awards, with six from Sunday's ceremony and two from the Creative Arts Em-

BHUBANESWAR:

Sarala Puraskar, given annually by the IMFA Charitable Trust (IMPaCT) for the best literary achievement, will be presented this year to the famous poet and writer Devdas Chhotray for his shortstory collection ${\it Matinee Show}$ published by Timepass Publication in 2023.

The award ceremony will take place in Bhubaneswar October 26, wherein the writer will be presented with a citation, plaque and a cash award of Rs 7 lakh.

MUMBAI: Actress-sing-

er Saba Azad, who has

smoothly moved from

Mujhse Fraaandship

Karoge to Songs of

Paradise, Rocket Boys

and Bandar, said

that versatility in

her career has been

more of a natural

progression than a

Boys to Bandar.

she has tackled

drastically differ-

ent genres and

eras. Asked if

versatility is a

conscious choice

in her career.

or something

that's natur-

ally unfolded,

Saba told this

agency: "I've

tried to do pro-

jects that ex-

cite me and

I'm thankful

each differ-

ent from

the other

cause I get

to apply my-

with each."

self and learn

Saba, who is dat-

tival (TIFF).

lywood superstar Hrithik

artist, actor and performer.

are

they

Rocket

forced plan.

From

Besides this, the Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman, given every year by IMPaCT for lifetime excellence in the field of art, has also been announced for the year 2025. Famous painter Baladev Maharatha and renowned Guru Ramhari Das will be given the award this year. As part of the award, both will be given a certificate and a plaque with a cash award of Rs 2.5 lakh each. The jury members for the awards were Dr. Adyasa Das,

Sujata Mohapatra, and Sangi-

Saba

works for

the joy of

creating

worn many creative hats such as a singer, indie

Talking about how she has managed to

retain her individuality in an industry that

often tries to box people into categories, Saba said: "I try not to follow trends. I work for the

The actress' film Bandar (Monkey in a

Cage)" has been showcased at the Special

Presentations section at the 50th edition

of the Toronto International Film Fes

joy of creating above anything else.'

Devdas Chhotray to get Sarala honour for *Matinee Show*

Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman will be conferred on painter

Baladev Maharatha and Odissi music Guru Ramhari Das



ta Panda for the performing arts section, and Panchami Manoo Ukil, Sudarshan Patnaik, and Pradosh Swain for the visual arts section.

The IMPaCT, founded by Ila Panda and Dr. Bansidhar Panda in 1980, has been instrumental in promoting Odia literature and the state's rich cultural heritage of art, music, and dance. IMPaCT also instituted the Ekalabya Puraskar in 1993, which has become one of the most prestigious sports awards in Odisha, drawing parallels with several national awards.

Elli's holistic lifestyle

MUMBAI: Actress Elli AvrRam has talked about her approach to fitness and shared the importance of mental well-being and "lifting heavy weights". Elli shared: "I start my

day with a 30-minute meditation session, which I practice every day. If I miss it, the entire

day feels quite different compared to when I do it." She added: "Earlier. I enjoyed doing lates, but at a certain stagemaybe age-related

notably in the drama or just a natural progres sion-I realized the importance of lifting heavy weights,

clude that in my routine as well." She talked about how she com-

especially for women. So now I in

bines different forms of exercise to achieve a holistic lifestyle. "Along with meditation and

weight training, I mix in yoga and Pilates. These elements together allow me to work on both my mind and body, which I believe are deeply interconnected."

'Yoga, for me, is not just about maintaining a lean body-it's much deeper... it's about holistic well-being, nurturing both physical and mental health, she said. Elli has al acted in Sweden, most

> Forb. juden Frukt, played Selen, the girlteen friend It was in 2012, when the 35-vearold tress moved to Mumbai sue her

crime-

dustry.

SUDOKU

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

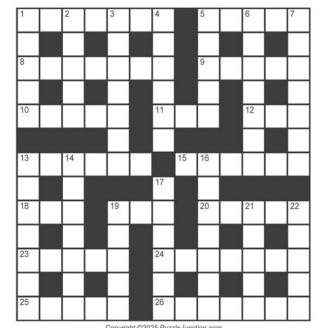


BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**

Roshan, has



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19 Pastoral

setting

ocean

23 Swagger

24 Theatre

20 Speck in the

Across

1 Winter wear

5 Grocery section 8 Boat race

9 Poppy product

10 Underground

worker

11 Shack

12 Infomercials, e.g.

13 Shrewdness

15 Ebb

18 Egyptian boy

1 Assembly 2 Vacuum tube

filler

Down

companies

25 Marsh plant

26 Top-notch

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

14 Pronounced 16 TV installment 17 "Praying" insect

19 Strong espresso 21 Place for a pin

3 Bitter hickory,

e.g. (3,4)

5 Up in the air

6 Chinese black

mushroom

13 Illustrators

7 In one group (2,5)

4 Despise

22 Stun gun

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

CAQUESTOVE

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

SUDOKU

owntown



27 PROJECTS TO CREATE 52K JOBS



CM Mohan Charan Majhi virtually performs the groundbreaking ceremony for 27 industrial projects in Bhubaneswar, Monday. Among others, Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and Development Commissioner Anu Garg are seen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday virtually performed the groundbreaking ceremony for Rs 25,308-crore worth 27 major industrial projects which, he said, are expected to generate 52,000 jobs.

Majhi asserted that Odisha is moving from 'promise to performance, potential to prosperity'.

The projects would come up in 12 districts – Angul, Rayagada, Jajpur, Cuttack, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Khurda, Puri, Bhadrak, Koraput, Jharsuguda

"Our industrialisation is inclusive as 27 of the 30 districts of the state now have industries,' Majhi said.

Majhi, who became the Chief Minister 15 months ago, claimed that his government in the last 165 days laid the foundation stones for 84 industries and attracted investments to the tune of Rs 5 lakh crore, of which Rs 2 lakh crore has been materialised so far. He also claimed that employment opportunities have been created for 77,894 people,

Odisha offers everything that an investor dreams of getting for establishing his project. We have natural resources, skilled manpower, liberal bureaucracy, stable government and peaceful

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI I CHIEF MINISTER

industrial climate

of whom 56,859 or 80 per cent

"No one can raise fingers at the state government and say that Odia people are not getting

employment in the industries being set up in the state," he said. He said Odisha's new wave of industrialisation reflects a deliberate strategy to balance conventional mineral-based industries with new-age sectors, encourage fresh entrants alongside industry leaders, ensure revival of sick units, and drive regional

balance in industrialisation. The sectors represented include renewable energy equipment, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, steel, and advanced

downstream industries. The flagship projects for ceremony included SRF Ltd (Gopalpur SEZ), Epsilon Ltd (Jharsuguda), Bajrang Steel and Power Ltd (Khurda), Sova Solar (Angul), and Greenply Industries (Koraput).

In his address to the industry leaders, Majhi said Odisha is consciously moving up the value chain from being recognised for its mineral wealth and primary industries to becoming a hub for high-value manufacturing and globally-competitive products.

'Odisha offers everything that an investor dreams of getting for establishing his project. We have natural resources, skilled manpower, liberal bureaucracy. stable government and peaceful industrial climate," the Chief Minister said. He said the state government has been aggressively positioning Odisha as a major destination for investment.

The state received 593 investment intents worth over Rs 16.73 lakh crore during the Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 held in January this year.

Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain said, "With progressive policies, responsive governance, and worldclass infrastructure, Odisha today offers unmatched opportunities for investors. These 27 projects reaffirm our state's competitive advantage and our resolve to deliver sustainable industrial growth and largescale employment.

Join Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0: CM to entrepreneurs

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Noting that development and environment should complement each other, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday urged entrepreneurs and industrial houses operating in Odisha to join Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 campaign and plant

maximum number of saplings as part of the noble initiative.

Majhi made this appeal at a gathering of industrialists while performing the groundbreaking of 27 major projects in the "I urge all en-

trepreneurs and industrial institutions to plant as many saplings as possible in their respective areas. Develop-

ment and environment should complement each other," he said. Stating that the industries get a good amount of open space in their project sites, the Chief Minister said creating greenery is part of their agreement with the government. Therefore, they should make extra efforts to create greenery in their plant site and periphery areas, which rendra Modi had launched Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign

"Odisha government has decided to plant 7.5 crore saplings under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 campaign. Odisha is likely to set a world record by planting 75 lakh saplings in one

Odisha government

has decided to plant

7.5 crore saplings

under Ek Ped Maa Ke

Naam 2.0 campaign.

Odisha is likely to set

a world record by

planting 75 lakh

saplings in one

day - September 17,

the birth anniversary

of the PM

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI

CHIEF MINISTER

day – September 17, the birth anniversary of the PM," he said.

Majhi said he was optimistic that industries would certainly go for plantation because they had come to Odisha under 'Modi guarantee' for investment. "I hope the industries will go for massive plantation. They have responded to the PM's call and invested in the state," the Chief

Minister said. Besides, Majhi said the people of Odisha have decided to plant 75 lakh saplings on the 75th birth anniversary of the PM in recognition of his devo tion towards the development

of the state. "Planting 75 lakh saplings by the people of Odisha will be a gift to him (Modi). I invite the industrialists to join this campaign," he said.

₹1.45cr worth contraband seized

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The special enforcement personnel of Excise department have made a seizure of Rs 1.45 crore worth drugs banned under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the last 24 hours, an official said Monday.

"On the 14th day of the special enforcement drive, Excise officials across Odisha reported seizures worth nearly Rs 1.45 crore, reflecting the department's intensified crackdown on illicit liquor and narcotics trade," according to an official statement.

As many as 167 cases were detected, leading to the arrest of 40 individuals. The enforcement personnel seized 12,388 bulk litres of illicitly-distilled liquor and 328 bulk litres of duty-paid liquor. Besides, it destroyed more than 1,16,975 litres of wash, it said.

Around 5,720 kilograms of mohua flowers were also confiscated, along with 21 vehicles engaged in illegal transportation.

gence and Enforcement Bureau (Southern Division) busted a racket near Balisira Chhak, Aska in Ganiam district, Officials arrested six persons, seizing 50 kilograms of ganja, a car, two motorcycles used for trafficking, and five mobile phones. Investigators believe the consignment was routed from Baliguda to Bhubaneswar, with more arrests expected.

In another NDPS case, enforcement teams recovered 85 grams of heroin, further tightening the state's grip on drug

Parida launches Subhadra grievance module

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Monday launched the The Enforcement Intelli-Subhadra Grievance Redressal Module to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of assistance under the Subhadra

> Yojana. Parida, who is also in the charge of the Women and Child Development (W&CD) department, reiterated the government's commitment that no eligible beneficiary will be deprived of Subhadra assistance and said the module will ensure transparency, accountability, and timely resolution of grievances under the scheme.

"Through this module, complaints from Subhadra Yojana applicants, such as rejection of



applications and non-receipt of assistance, will be examined promptly and necessary decisions will be taken," Parida

Parida, who is also in the charge of the Mission Shakti department, said complaints received online through the Subhadra portal or offline at various government levels will be sent to the block-level or urban-level scrutiny committees in the first instance. "If required, field verification will be conducted, and the matter escalated to the district-level or municipal corporation-level scrutiny committees for final decisions," she added.

"Importantly, beneficiaries will be able to track the status of their complaints in real-time through the Subhadra portal,

1st anniv celebration

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Monday said that special programmes will be held across Odisha to mark the first anniversary of Subhadra Yojana September 17. "As a gesture of gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 'Thank You Modi' programmes will be held at 338 CDPO units across the state on the first anniversary of Subhadra Yojana," Parida said. During these events, beneficiaries will share their Subhadra journey and success stories, showcasing how the scheme has brought positive changes to their lives, she said. At Anganwadi level starting September 17, 'Poshan Maah' (Nutrition Month) will be launched celebrated along with the first anniversary of Subhadra Beneficiaries will share their experiences, discuss the benefits of Subhadra, and participate in nutrition awareness activities. In addition, at group health centres, during the 'Sustha Nari, Sashakta Parivar' programme, Subhadra help desk staff at dedicated stalls will provide complete information about Subhadra and distribute awareness leaflets

to spread knowledge about the scheme.

enhancing public confidence in the grievance redressal process," the Deputy CM said. Among others, W&CD de

nartment Director Monisha Ba nerjee attended the grievance redressal module launch event As of now, over 1.09 crore

applications have been registered under the Subhadra Yojana, with more than one crore women having already received the assistance. A to tal of 2.83 lakh grievances are currently under consideration and will be resolved through the new grievance module, of ficial sources said.

tious women-centric welfare scheme of the BJP government, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday (September 17) in 2024.

Subhadra Yojana, an ambi-

BJD takes out rally over fertiliser 'scarcity'



BJD workers try to enter Raj Bhavan during their protest in Bhubaneswar, Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) workers Monday took out a protest rally here to highlight the 'acute scarcity' of fertilisers in the state.

A scuffle ensued when the protesters attempted to break the barricade and enter the Raj Bhavan, and police stopped them. The police used mild force to disperse the crowd. However, the police later allowed some selected BJD leaders to enter the Raj Bhavan premises and submit a memorandum to Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati.

During the rally, the protestors raised 'anti-government' slogans and blamed the administration

for 'failing' to provide required fertiliser to the farmers.

However, the government in Odisha claimed that there was no shortage of fertilisers in the state. The BJD rally was led by party

vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra and the party's deputy leader in the Assembly, Prasanna Acharya. Apart from MPs and MLAs, farmers, students, and youths participated in the protest and demanded proper supply of fertiliser to the agrarians.

BJD MLA Ganeswar Behera alleged that the Odisha government is playing politics at the cost of farmers' interests. He said the government has turned a blind eye to their problems and remains self-absorbed instead of addressing the ground reality.

'We demand immediate action and urge the Governor to intervene, as the government has failed to manage the situation,' Behera said.

Party leaders warned that if the demands are not met soon, the agitation would be intensified and extended to block levels across

"While one bag containing 45kg of urea fertiliser costs ₹249. It is sold at the rate of ₹800 to ₹1,000. Though the government is aware of the market situation, the farmers are left to the mercy of unscrupulous traders," Mishra said, alleging that instead of supplying subsidised fertilisers to farmers through recognised dealers, the government has handed over the nutrients received from the Cen-

tre to unscrupulous traders. Mishra said BJD president Naveen Patnaik's letter to Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, urging him to take necessary steps for adequate supply of urea to Odisha during this Kharif season, has been ignored, leading to such a situation.

Mishra warned that the anger of the farmers may spill onto the roads and create a law and order

"We have sought the Governor's intervention into this farmers' problem, as they constitute 70 per cent of the state's population," Acharya said.

Cooperation Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta reiterated the government's claim that there is no shortage of fertilisers in Odisha.

"So far, 10.85 lakh tonnes of fertiliser have already been sold as against last year's 8.5 lakh tonnes (up to the previous month), 1.8 lakh tonnes of fertilisers are available with the state government," he said.

The minister also stated that the demand for fertiliser this year was more than last year due to a good rainfall during the ongoing monsoon and an increased area of paddy cultivation. He added that strict action is being taken against black marketing and hoarding of fertilisers.

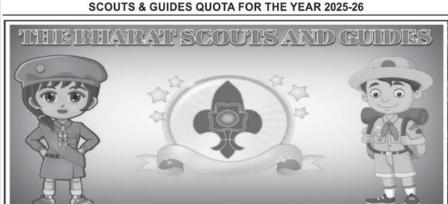
spokesperson Surath Biswal rejected the BJD's allegation and claimed that there was no scarcity of fertiliser in any part of the state. He instead blamed the BJD for instigating some groups of farmers to launch agitation.

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RECRUITMENT AGAINST



EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO. RRC/WR/02/2025 (S&G QUOTA) **DATE OF ISSUE: 18.09.2025**

Opening Date and Time	24-09-2025 10.00 hrs.				
Closing Date and Time	24-10-2025 18.00 hrs.				

1. Western Railway invites ONLINE applications from eligible Scout & Guide candidates for filling up the following Posts against Scout & Guide Quota for the year 2025-2026.

Sr. No.	Post	Quota	Distribution		
1 Level 2 (PB-2, Rs. 19,900- 63,200)		02	Anywhere on Western Railway		
2	Level 1 (Erstwhile Gr.D,PB-1, Rs.18,000-56,900)	12	02 Posts each for BCT, BRC, ADI, RTM, RJT & BVP Division (*)		

(*) BCT - Mumbai, BRC - Vadodara, ADI - Ahmedabad, RTM - Ratlam, RJT - Rajkot, BVP -

1. Only those Scout & Guide candidates who are active member of a Scouts Organization for the last 5 (Five) years i.e. 2020-21 onwards will be eligible to apply for appointment against above posts under Scout & Guide Quota.

2. For further details, refer Employment Notification No. RRC/WR/02/2025 (S&G Quota) dated 18.09.2025 uploaded on RRC/WR's Website https://www.rrc-wr.com on 18.09.2025.

CHAIRMAN (RRC)



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Guv urges EV push, green drive

Governor Kambhampati urges OSPCB to set ambitious decade-long targets on green technologies, zero-waste industries and digital environmental monitoring

PNN & AGECIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Monday urged citizens to adopt electric vehicles (EVs) in the state's rapidly expanding cities, stressing their importance in reducing pollution and dependence on fossil fuels.

Speaking at the 42nd Foundation Day of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSP-CB), Kambhampati emphasised the need for collective action to safeguard the environment and secure a healthier future.

He pointed out that the Raj Bhavan's official fleet has already been converted to EVs, substantially reducing its carbon footprint and setting an

example for others to emulate. The Governor also encouraged the installation of rooftop solar systems, noting that such initiatives lower electricity costs, promote clean energy,



Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati launches the Odisha State Pollution Control Board's website and publications on its 42nd Foundation Day in Bhubaneswar, Monday

and enable residents to benefit from government subsidies under renewable energy schemes.

Reflecting on OSPCB's four-decade journey, Kambhampati praised the Board for serving as a regulator, guide, and partner in balancing industrial growth with ecological responsibility.

'This day is not just a milestone, but a celebration of the Board's holistic and progressive approach to protecting Odisha's environment," he said.

Highlighting the state's upcoming plantation drive September 17, under which 75 lakh saplings will be planted across Odisha, the Governor urged citizens and students to participate Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati calls for adoption of rooftop solar to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels

He praised OSPCB's 42-year journey in balancing industrial growth with ecology, while highlighting its role in air, water, and waste management

Governor launched OSPCB's website, presented awards, and called for active participation in Odisha's upcoming 75-lakh sapling plantation drive

actively. He said the initiative would expand green cover, improve air quality, and mitigate the effects of climate change. Kambhampati also comair quality improvement, river restoration, and real-time monitoring of industries and water

He lauded the government's promotion of e-buses, EV subsidies, interest-free loans, and wider rooftop solar adoption under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana.

Calling pollution a grave threat to health, livelihoods, and future generations, the Governor urged people to reduce plastic use, manage e-waste, conserve water, plant trees, and embrace renewable energy. He further encouraged the OSPCB to set bold targets for the next decade, focusing on green technologies, zero-waste industries, youth engagement, and digital tools for environmental monitoring.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja stressed that tackling pollution and ensuring sustainable development demand collective responsibility. On the occasion, the Governor launched the Board's website and publications, felicitated sand artist Manas Kumar Sahoo, presented Pollution Control Excellence and Appreciation Awards, and honoured women for their contributions to nature conservation and green entrepreneurship.



SAND ART: Students from Chitkara University, Chandigarh, learn sand art from renowned artist Manas Kuma Sahoo at Puri Sea Beach, Monday

GST reform to boost state's growth: Singh

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: BJP MP Arun Singh Monday said GST Reform 2.0, aimed at boosting self-reliance and domestic production, will accelerate economic growth in states like

Addressing reporters here, Singh hailed it as a historic Modi government decision. He said the new GST slabs, effective September 22, have been welcomed across society and will benefit ordinary citizens the most.

Farmers' conditions are expected to improve, handicrafts will grow, and zero tax on health insurance will aid families. Singh noted GST on tendu leaves has been cut from 18 per cent to 5 per cent, helping tribal collectors, while yarn tax reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent will support weavers and boost Odisha textiles.

As Odisha is agriculture-dominant, reduced GST on equipment like tractors, parts and tyres will cut production costs and strengthen farmers' livelihoods, Singh added

Crackdown on stunts & reckless driving



POST NEWS NETWORK

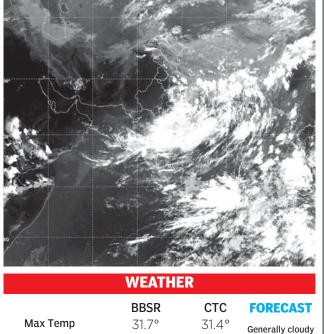
Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The Odisha government has launched a statewide crackdown on dangerous driving and social media stunts. Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena has directed all Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) to take strict action against offenders, including vehicle seizure, suspension of driving licenses, cancellation of registration certificates, and fines.

The enforcement, led by Principal Secretary Usha Padhee and Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, comes amid a rise in accidents caused by reckless behaviour, including viral stunt videos and unattended driving.

Notable incidents were re ported from districts including Khurda, Puri, and Koraput. In Khurda, a driver filmed a reel while leaving the steer ing wheel unattended near a school, while in Bhubaneswar. two people performed stunts on a bike. In both cases, vehicles were seized and license suspen sion proceedings initiated.

Authorities will now monitor social media alongside on-road checks to identify offenders The government has warned that violations will attract action under both the Motor Vehicles Act and the Bharativa Nvava Sanhita (BNS). Citizens, particularly the youth, are urged to prioritise road safety and avoid life-threaten-

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PHW trails Ayurvedic legacy

Puri: The 13th Puri Heritage Walk (PHW) was held Sunday, drawing over 40 heritage enthusiasts from across the state to explore Puri's Ayurvedic legacy and the monasteries along Clarke Road.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Ganeswar Mohanty (also known as Ganeswar Behera by adoption), Son of Late Lokanath Mohanty, Resident of Lenkudipada, Nayagarh, Odisha, declare that my official and legal name for all purposes is Ganeswar Mohanty. Objections, if any, may be sent within 15 days of this publication. Sd./- Ganeswar Mohanty

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate. Rayagada 385/Dated 12th September 2025, I Aishwarjya Sahoo of R.K.Nagar 2nd line, Rayagada, PO/PS/Dist -Rayagada (Odisha), PIN - 765001 declare that I have changed my name from Aishwarya Sahu to Aishwarjya Sahoo. Henceforth I shall be known as Aishwarjya Sahoo for all purposes. Aishwarjya Sahoo

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Kutra, No.1533 date 15.09.25, I, Mahendra Ekka, S/o. Baiju Ekka, R/o. Village-Rajabasa, PO. Latalaga, Ps. Kutra, Dist.Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770018 declare that I have changed my name from Mahendra Kachua to Mahendra Ekka. Henceforth I shall be known as Mahendra Ekka for all purposes. Mahendra Ekka

Community-led revival restores Nuamunda Tank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Bolangir,

Sept 15: A forgotten water body in Khagasikana village, Deogaon tehsil, Bolangir, has been revived. The 1.1-acre Nuamunda Tank near the sacred Swapneswar Mahadev Temple, long valued for its cultural and religious significance, has been renovated and brought back to life.

For generations, the tank served as a site for rituals and community gatherings. Over time, however, it fell into neglect-choked with silt, weakened by eroded embankments, and abandoned by formal maintenance. Though villagers and

SHATADRU CHATTOPADHAYAY

n Balasore, Mahesh Prad-

han, a smallholder, tried

something simple. On the

land left idle after the Kharif

rice harvest, he sowed mustard.

That one decision added about

₹45,000 to his seasonal income.

One farmer's outcome is not a

trend, but it signals a practical route to scale. Odisha's 11.7

lakh hectares of suitable rice

fallows represent the state's

most immediate, lowest-cost

acreage for oilseeds, and a fer-

tile ground to launch an Edible

India produces around 44%

of the edible oil it consumes,

roughly 56% is imported. Price

shocks in wartime and periodic

export curbs have shown how

global tremors become retail

pain. By 2030, this demand-

supply gap could reach 141

lakh tonnes. Traditional oilseed

belts in western India have lim-

ited room to expand. Eastern

states must carry the load, and

Odisha has the ingredients: 10

agro-climatic zones, the coun-

try's fifth-largest rice output

(abundant fallows), rising cot-

ton production for cottonseed

oil, and proximity to ports and

The "Seeds for Change" re-

port by Solidaridad Asia sug-

gests policy should sequence

least half of the 11.7 lakh hect-

ares of suitable rice fallows un-

der short-duration oilseeds in

Rabi, while prioritising ground-

nut, mustard and sunflower.

Add another 3.9 lakh hectares

through intercropping: ground-

Track 1: Acreage. Bring at

consumption hubs.

growth on two tracks.

Oil Mission.



vouths made sporadic revival attempts, a complete transformation remained elusive.

The local administration identified Nuamunda Tank under the Amrit Sarovar Mission, turning its revival into a model of community-driven development. Guided by technical experts and geo-spatial tools, and with active participation from

members, and local sarpanch Jibani Dash, the plan was to restore the tank not just for practical use but also as a cultural and ecological landmark. The rejuvenation project re-

ceived ₹10 lakh under MGNRE-GA and an additional ₹5 lakh from Finance Commission grants. Led by the Panchayat Samiti, the tank was desilted and deepened to its full 10,000 cubic meter capacity, with reinforced embankments and stabilised slopes. Encroachments were cleared to restore its original expanse, while ornamental and shady trees, seating, and lighting transformed the area into a vibrant space for recreation and spiritual activities.

Odisha's rice fallows as oilseed belts mation, the report advocates the state government consider

designing a dedicated, five-year

Edible Oil Mission with a pro-

posed outlay of ₹1,525 crore. It

Constitute a small, empowered programme unit with joint ownership of agriculture and industry departments, and a results-based dashboard tied to budget releases.

Back 100-150 FPOs in priority clusters to act as end-to-end managers—from seed and services to aggregation, primary processing and sales.

Classify edible oils as a 'thrust sector' under the state's industrial policy, with single-window clearances via IPICOL and investor outreach through roadshows linked to the Utkarsh Odisha platform. Establish a Centre of Excel-

lence and an Incubation Centre for oilseeds to drive varietal improvement, climate-smart agronomy, post-harvest technologies and agri-tech startups.

This investment is project ed to catalyse a total economic output of approximately ₹49,410 crore over five years-a 32-fold return. Furthermore, the mission is expected to contribute around ₹6.770 crore to the state exchequer while boosting Odi sha's GSDP by an additional 0.2% to 1.3% annually.

The writer is the Managing Director of Solidaridad Asia and works with farming communities for sustainable development in agriculture. Views expressed in this article are of the writer and not of Orissa POST.

pea; sunflower with mung. It enond paddy. The average return

sures vegetable oil growth does not displace food staples but intensifies existing systems. A cluster-wise MSP for peanuts, mustard, and sunflower should help farmers feel more secure.

Track 2: Productivity, Odisha's oilseed yields trail frontier states by 58%. Closing that gap requires seed, know-how and timely water. A five-year plan should fund decentralised seed multiplication through seed entrepreneurs and farmer producer organisations (FPOs), paired with location-specific varietal pipelines via Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, ICAR institutes, and private breeders. Give FPOs more credit so they can pay for seeds, gathering, and first-mile logistics. Extension must move from sporadic advisories to hands-on demonstrations for line sowing, seed treatment, balanced fertilisation and moisture management. Oilseeds need far less water than a second paddy crop, but they do need it on time. The priority is to convert "irrigation potential created" into irrigation actually used in oilseed clusters.

Oilseeds are more beneficial to a farm's economics than sec-

might be up to 2.3 times the cost of cultivation, whereas for paddy, it is about 1.7 times. Adding oilseeds to fallows or intercrops and following fundamental agricultural practices can increase a farmer family's average revenue from ₹60,000 to ₹1.21-1.85 lakh annually. Employment gains are significant: an estimated 363 lakh additional per-

son-days on farms per year. A bumper harvest requires a robust post-harvest ecosystem. To handle the projected increase, the state will need at least 4 lakh tonnes of dedicated oilseed storage capacity by 2030. The plan should, therefore, be to upgrade 318 existing warehouses operated by PACS and MARKFED, and incentivise 30 new, strategically located cold storages in oilseed clusters. To process this output, the state needs a mix of large-scale, 300-tonnes-perday (TPD) units run by FMCG companies and smaller, 20 TPD village or block-level units run by entrepreneurs or FPOs. This industrial activity is expected to create an additional 0.8 lakh man-days of employment annually in the processing sector.

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Lecturer dismissed for using fake certificate to secure job

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balikuda, Sept 15: A lecturer of Balikuda College in Jagatsinghpur district has been dismissed from service after he was found guilty of securing the job with a fake certificate. Acting on the direction of the sub-collector, the college principal removed lecturer Santosh Satapathy from his post.

Satapathy was appointed to the Commerce department of Balikuda College in 2019 through a governing body nomination. However, a complaint was later lodged at the chief minister's grievance hearing, alleging that he had used a forged certificate to obtain the post. Following this, his educational documents were verified and found to be forged.

The sub-collector wrote to the college principal directing Satapathy's dismissal Monday. The letter stated that the certificates he had submitted did not match those issued by Utkal University. It further noted that Satapathy had presented a forged certificate from Sikkim University, purportedly obtained in 2014.

1,325 bottles of cough syrup seized; 4 held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sohela, Sept 15: Sohela police in Bargarh district Monday seized 1,325 bottles of cough syrup, arrested four accused on charge of smuggling and produced them in court.

The accused were identified as Laxman Kumbhar, alias Baba, 37, of Kapasila village and Ganesh Meher, 34, of Jamla village under Padampur police limits; Gauri Narayan Tripathy, 38, of Tendapadar village under Buden police limits; and Dayanidhi Parua, 32, of Ranisarda village under Tarbha police station in Subarnapur

Apart from 1,325 bottles of cough syrup, police seized a car, and two mobile phones from their possession, Padampur SDPO Pandab Sabar said at a press conference.

According to police, the seizure was made at Chichinda Square during a patrol, when officers stopped a Maruti car (OD 17 V 6111) and found the contraband inside. A case (276/25) was registered at Sohela police station. Police said Laxman Kum-

bhar has one case registered against him at Buden police station and two at Padampur, while Gauri Narayan Tripathy has one case pending at Buden. Both had earlier been booked in different cases. Sohela IIC Harishankar

Bhoi and complainant Sub-Inspector Rabinarayan Pradhan were also present at the press conference.

HATI SABHA AT RAMAJEE COLLEGE

Students take pledge to protect elephants



Digapahandi/Patapur, Sept 15: Students of Ramajee Degree College at Bhismagiri village under Digapahandi block in Ganjam district took a pledge to protect elephants and forests during Hati Sabha, a special awareness meeting on elephant conservation, Monday.

The programme was organised by Dharitri, Orissa POST, Tree Foundation, Sheragada and Bikash Saathi. Students

vowed never to harm elephants, engage in poaching or destroy forests, stressing that saving elephants means saving nature. and saving nature means sav ing humanity.

Chief guest Principal Nihar Ranjan Kar highlighted the ecological and social importance of elephants. Dharitri reporter Asheshnath Mishra briefed the gathering on the impact of elephants in the local area.

Secretary Nirakar Bishoi of Tree Foundation noted that

which in turn safeguard water

and soil, ultimately sustain ing human life. Faculty members, including Kanhu Charan Padhi, Itiprabha, Priyadarshini Pradhan and Rashmita Kumari were present in the Hati Sabha

Over 120 students active ly participated in the dis cussion and oath-taking Faculty member Debabrata Panda coordinated the event and gave away the vote of thanks. Office bearers of Bi kash Saathi Tushar Behera Achyuta Bishoi and Chan drasekhar Das assisted in conducting the programme



Chaos, road blockades over fertilizer shortage

Chhendipada/Digapahandi/Polsara, Sept 15: A severe shortage of urea fertilizer has sparked chaos among farmers in Chhendipada block of Angul district, forcing many to line up overnight outside cooperative societies in hopes of securing

The matter came to the fore after large crowds gathered outside the Bagadia Cooperative Society Monday. Farmers said they rushed to join the queue as early as 2am Sunday after hearing a shipment had arrived. With the crowd growing unmanageable, many resorted to leaving their Aadhaar cards in line to hold their place while they sat nearby.

Despite heavy rain lashing the area around 11am Monday, drenched farmers stood in the queue with many saying their Aadhaar cards were soaked. They alleged that the cooperative society was not distributing fertilizer properly and the supply reaching the block was far below demand.

Meanwhile, unscrupulous traders were reportedly buying fertilizer at the government rate of ₹270 per bag and selling at inflated prices of ₹600 to ₹700. Tensions rose when farmers accused the cooperative society of irregularities in distribution, leading them to lock its gates in protest. On being informed, Bagadia police station Inspector-In-Charge Biplab Sahu rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the crowd but failed. Left with no option, he halted the sale of fertilizer. As a result, many farmers

who had waited for more than 11 hours overnight in harsh weather returned home empty-handed. Local farmer leaders including Purusottam Sahu, Jenamani Pradhan, Pradip Dash and Duryodhan Behera and hundreds of farmers have



demanded immediate and adequate supply of fertilizer. Road blockades in Ganiam

In Ganjam district, farmers

staged road blockades Monday after alleging that fertilizer was diverted to traders instead of being distributed to cultivators through cooperative societies.

Farmers at Siddheswar village under Digapahandi block discovered that the cooperative society (PACS) secretary had allegedly sold fertilizer illegally to traders and associates late Sunday night instead of distributing to farmers.

Angered by the incident, farmers from Siddheswar, Digapahandi, and Sahaspur areas gathered at Ganianal Square around 9:30am and blocked State Highway 17 by burning tyres. The road blockade disrupted traffic on both sides of

On being informed, Digapahandi Tehsildar and ExecuSiddheswar sarpanch Bijay Pradhan, Digapahandi IIC (in-charge) Raj Kishore Patra, and SI Sofia Mishra reached the spot and assured farmers that sufficient fertilizer would be provided. Following the assurance, the blockade was lifted, and later, cooperative secretary Gopal Jena began distributing fertilizer to farmers in the presence of the tehsildar.

A similar protest erupted near Sahaspur Hatapada under Sanakhemundi block, where farmers blocked the Digapahandi-Aska main road. The blockade was withdrawn after Sanakhemundi Tehsildar Ramachandra Pattnaik and Patapur IIC Deeptiranjan Behera promised early supply.

Meanwhile, in Gochhabadi panchayat under Polsara block, farmers complained they waited for hours at the local high school for fertilizer but returned empty-handed. Shortages were also reported in other panchayats of Polsara block, leaving farmers anxious. They have urged the government to ensure immediate and adequate fertilizer supply.

Chaos in Koraput

Long queues of anxious farmers were witnessed in Narayanpatna block of Koraput district Monday as thousands rushed to the cooperative society (LAMPS) to receive fertiliser. The heavy crowd spilled onto the roads, bringing traffic to a grinding halt for several hours.

According to reports, nearly 3,000 farmers gathered in front of the Narayanpatna LAMPS office as early as 5am to secure their share of urea bags. However, only 2,500 sacks of the fertiliser were available, falling far short of the demand. Just last week, the cooperative had received 2,200 bags. However, as more than 5,000 farmers had applied, the shortage led to widespread dissatisfaction.

Farmer critical after

contracting scrub typhus

Bargaon: A farmer from Salepali village in Sundargarh district is in critical condition after contracting scrub typhus, health officials said. Kailash Sahu, 55, was reportedly bitten by an insect about 20 days ago. Believing it to be a mosquito or some other common bug, he did not seek treatment at that time. When he later developed high fever and severe headaches, he first went to Bargaon hospital. After his condition failed to improve, he was taken to District Headquarter Hospital (DHH) in Sundargarh and then referred to a private hospital in Sambalpur, where doctors confirmed scrub typhus diagnosis. Family members said Sahu's condition is serious and that his body has turned dark. This is the second scrub typhus case reported from Bargaon in two years. Last year, another resident had also become critically ill with the disease. Health workers warned that the ongoing farming season, when weeds and creepers spread in fields, heightens the risk, as the mites that carry scrub typhus are difficult to detect. Farmers have been advised to remain cautious during farmworks.

Aditya Aluminium honoured for excellence in pollution control

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 15: Aditya Aluminium has been honoured with the prestigious Pollution Control Excellence Award-2025 for its outstanding efforts in reducing and controlling industrial pollution through strong and effective environmental practices. The award was presented

during the 42nd Foundation Day celebration of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Odisha, held at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar.

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati presented the award in the



presence of distinguished dignitaries including Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, SPCB Chairman; Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change department; Suresh Pant, PCCF; and Uma Nanduri, Member Secretary, SP-CB. Vibhu Mishra, Advisor; Saubhagya Tripathy, AVP, Corporate Affairs; and Ranjan Jena, GM Environment Department represented Hindalco industries. This recognition reinforces Hindalco industries' dedication to environmental management and its leadership in promoting sustainable industrial development in Odisha.

Unsafe complexes identified in Koraput; admin orders action

Koraput, Sept 15: Days after a two-storey shopping complex collapsed claiming the life of a shop owner, the district administration has launched a comprehensive inspection of all commercial complexes in Koraput town to ensure public safety. The decision comes after concerns were raised over the condition of several ageing structures

A special independent team has been formed to carry out the inspection. Starting Sunday, the team started examining all old shopping complexes across the town to assess their safety and structural stability.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Tapan Kumar Nayak Sunday evening confirmed that the drive identified unsafe complexes and stated that all such structures deemed unsafe would be immediately shut in order to prevent any untoward incident.

"The safety of the public is our top priority. Any commercial complex found to be structurally weak or unsafe will be sealed without delay. At the same time, we will make alternative arrangements for shopkeepers and business owners affected by these closures." the ADM assured.

(ii) Construction of Integrated Building for Hotel Management and Catering, Institute of Hospitality & Tourism Management and for Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, (iii) Construction of Girls hostel 1000 Seater, (iv) Construction of Boys Hostel 1000 Seater, (v) Construction of Health Centre, (vii) Construction o Exam cum Computer Lab/IT Cell/Online Centre, (viii) Construction of Multipurpose Convention Centre at Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar. Details car

DOCTOR HARISINGH GOUR VISHWAVIDYALAYA, SAGAR (M.P.)

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) Name of Work: Expression of Interest (EoI) is invited from Central/State Publi-Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/State/Central Govt Department under rule 133(3)

of GFR 2017 for appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC

for (i) Construction of Building for Institute of Engineering and Technology

(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)

be downloaded from the websites <u>www.dhsgsu.edu.in</u> or <u>www.eprocure.gov.in</u>. **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION. BHAWANIPATNA Kalahandi, PIN - 766002, e-mail : eephbhpt@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No. ACEPH-BHPT-27 of 2025-26/Dt.12.09.2025

e-Procurement Notice 1No. Work

01. Name of the Work 02. Type of Bid 03. Approx. Estimated Cost

No.CAD-1781

Period of Completion

Rs.24.63 Lakh 02 (Two) Calendar Months 05. Date & Time of availability of : From 11.00 AM of dt. 16.09.2025 to 5.00 bid document in the Portal 06. Last date / time of receipt of : 5.00 PM of 25.09.2025

oids in the Portal 07. Date & Time of opening of : At 11.30 AM of 26.09.2025

technical Bids

08. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid

Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Division,

Single Bid System

Bhawanipatna, Railway Station Road, At/PO - Parmanandpur, 766002, Dist -Further details can be seen from the website http://tenders.ori.nic.in or

Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer

OIPR-13059/11/0043/2526 P.H. Division, Bhawanipatna

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL

E-mail: eedklpwd@gmail.com INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No.SEDKL (R&B) 22/2025-26

Invitation for Bids

1 The Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Double cover system in ONLINE MODE only for construction of Building works as detailed

below Nature of work 2 Nos. Building works No. of work Bid Cost Class of Contractor From 10.00 A.M. of Availability of Bid

Documents in the website 17.09.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of 04.10.2025 7 Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 06.10.2025 at 11:00 A.M. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.

in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can

also be seen in the said website only. Sd./- Superintending Engineer, OIPR-34016/11/0055/2526 Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal

CAREER COUNSELLING CAMP HELD FOR GIRLS

Loisingha, Sept 15: A career counselling camp for adolescent girls was held Sunday at the community centre in Pandesara village under Nuniapali panchayat in Agalpur block of Bolangir district.

The camp, jointly organised by Palli Aloka Library of Nagaon (Kha) and the Azim Premji Foundation, brought together 65 students studying in Class X, Plus II and Plus III from various villages under Nuniapali, Badatika and Jharanipali panchayats. Resource persons Sandeep Kuanr, Ashok Kumar Pradhan and Hiralal Mishra guided the girls on education, health, entrepreneurship and career opportunities, stressing the importance of self-reliance. Organisers said similar training programmes will be conducted in the coming days to promote empowerment.

The event was coordinated by Prahallad Pradhan and Sushanta Sa, Govind Chandra Bishi, Pintu Pradhan, Prashant Kuanr, Barsha Jued and Namita Pradhan among others

Youth killed in accident; CCTV footage goes viral

Nagar. Sources said, Sheikh, who was riding a motorcycle, collided with another biker approaching

spotting the speeding bike near the busy square, he tried to avoid a head-on collision by applying

College and Hospital, but doctors declared him brought dead. The incident has sent shockwaves

has gone viral on social media, triggering widespread discussion on rash driving, helmet use, and

across the local community. CCTV footage from a nearby establishment capturing the collision

sudden brakes. However, he lost control of his vehicle due to the crash and fell on the road,"

Koraput Town police station IIC Satyananda Patra said. The fall caused a serious head injury,

leading to profuse bleeding. Locals immediately rushed him to Sahid Laxman Nayak Medical

from the opposite direction around 10pm. "Pintu was returning home when the mishap occurred. On

KORAPUT: A tragic road accident at Kala Niketan Square in Koraput town claimed the life of a

young man late Sunday night. The deceased has been identified as Sheikh Pintu Babu of Nehru

Missing man's body found near rly tracks; murder suspected KORAPUT: A 60-year-old man was found dead near

railway tracks close to Mohanpada village under Koraput block Monday, raising suspicions of murder The deceased has been identified as Gangadhar Maihi a resident of the same village. Majhi had been missing for the past two days. Villagers first spotted the body near the tracks early morning and immediately alerted the police. Initial inputs suggest that Majhi was recently involved in a land dispute, which police are treating as a possible motive. However, some locals speculated that the death could also be linked to accusations of witchcraft. Police personnel from Dumuriput and Sunabeda rushed to the scene, while a scientific team from Koraput arrived to carry out forensic analysis. The body has been seized and sent for post-mortem. Speaking to the media, Sunabeda IIC Sushma Kahanr said, "We have recovered the body near the railway tracks and initiated an investigation. Both land dispute and sorcery-related angles are being verified. The post-mortem and forensic reports will give us clarity on the cause of death, and appropriate action will be taken against those responsible.'

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

|ROURKELA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. ROURKELA : (0661)-2500224, Email ID : secretaryrda@c **NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. 02/Rkl. RDA/2025-26 Dt.15.09.2025

01. Name of the Work 1 No. work 02. Estimated Cost

Period of Completion 04. Date & Time of availability of bid

document in the Portal 05. Last date / time of receipt of

bids in the Portal Date & Time of opening of Bids : At 11.00 AM of 24.09.25 Name and Address of the

Officer Inviting Bid

36.86 Lakhs 15 (Fifteen) days : From 11.00 AM of dt.16.09.25

to 5.00 PM of 23.09.25

5.00 PM of 23.09.25 Secretary, Rourkela

Development Authority,

Uditnagar, Rourkela-769012

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR-13250/11/0103/2526 Rourkela Development Authority, Rourkela

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, SUNDARGARH**

TENDER CALL NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-EERKL-08 of 2025-26

	1. Name of the work: Bridge cum Bandhara Work, 2. Total No. of work: 01 (One) No, 3. Estimated Cost: Rs.93.22 lakhs, 4. Class of Contractor: 'B' Class, 5. Period of Completion: 06 (Six) Months, 6. Type of Tender: Double Cover, 7. Other details:							
	Procurement Officer	Bid Identification	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification			
- 1		No.	From	То		render		
- 1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	
	Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Sundargarh	Online - EERKL-08 of	17.09.2025 from 10.00 AM	09.10.2025 upto 05.00 PM	08.10.2025 upto 1.00 PM	10.10.2025 at 11.00 AM	Will be intimated separately	

traffic discipline. Police have registered a case and are analysing the CCTV footage for further Sd./- Executive Engineer investigation. Meanwhile, residents have urged authorities to enforce stricter traffic regulations at OIPR-25193/11/0085/2526

Kala Niketan Square and other busy junctions to prevent similar tragedies in the future.



power post





Pain is the hammer of the Gods to break a dead resistance in the mortal's heart.



SRI AUROBINDO

Degrading Democracy

t is the sign of the times, transcending geographical frontiers, that democracy is being grotesquely distorted giving a raw deal to the ordinary citizens for whom this form of government was supposed to be the best conceived as of now. The ruling class in several Asian and European countries has let down the people by not improving their lot, but serving the interests of the super-rich and in the process feathering their own nests too. This has prompted the people suffering from privations and colossal governmental neglect to take to the streets, resort to violence when their patience wears thin and remove by force politicians perceived to be corrupt from their high offices. Those who swear by democracy but line their own pockets and their cronies have been taking the people for granted for far too long using them only for their votes that give them the passport to state power and pelf. Now, some of them are being compelled to work for the people or else not only face the music but getting killed in the process. In Nepal after Bangladesh and earlier Sri Lanka, the people used violence to effect change of government. The severe violence engulfed politicians and also bureaucrats. In France the protesters who had launched fierce and violent street protests with a call for "Block Everything," have sent the clear message to the government to adopt immediate corrective measures for the survival of democracy. In the face of violence organised by irate mobs, a new Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu has been appointed to replace the unpopular Francois Bayrou. He is the fifth since the start of President Emmanuel Macron's second term and the third since the disastrous 2024 dissolution of the Assemblée Nationale. His first few words as PM only underline the rapid loss of prestige of the democratic system in place in France.

Experts are sceptical about the success of the new man entrusted with the task of restoring the people's faith in the efficacy of democracy as is being practiced. The reason for this is the mess that the existing political parties have made in the name of democracy. A veritable political circus is going on in France. The frequent permutations and combinations of political alliances made to prop up a government have created more problems than solving them. The fragile alliance between Macron's Centrists and the traditional right is tottering, while the new appointee's profile does not seem to inspire any degree of confidence among the Socialists, whose support is now essential for even passing the budget. The 39-year-old new PM, whose name was announced on 9 September, is a product of the old Center-Right party. the UMP (now known as Les Republicains). His main qualification for becoming PM is his closeness to Macron, while he is little known to the French public. The Left does not trust him either as he was seen hobnobbing with Far-Right leader Marine Le Pen.

However, the Socialist leader Olivier Faure, who initially fired salvos at the new PM, does not rule out tough negotiations, which is a euphemism for hard bargaining for the benefit of the party rather than for the people. In contrast, the radical Left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon is trying to cash in on the political chaos by pushing for fresh legislative elections. He believes his party can upstage the Far-Right Rassemblement National which is now leading in opinion polls.

Democracy in France is now dangerously poised. Realising the gravity of the situation, Lecornu in his first speech as PM adopted a posture of humility and accommodation stressing the freedom the President had given him to engage in open, broad discussions - without a fixed timetable – with any political forces and social partners willing to work with him. At the same time in order to win back the people's trust he has declared he would not pursue the policy of his immediate predecessor Bayrou who endlessly harped on debt that only deepened his unpopularity. Mere posturing is not enough. The new PM has to convince the people whether he would dump Bayrou's draft budget, which is widely rejected in its current form. While the Right, with whom he hoped to strengthen ties, remains unyielding on tax issues, the Socialists will only agree not to censure the government if they secure real concessions on taxing the wealthiest households.

As in the case of the Asian countries that saw the spectacle of people forcing the rulers to listen to their voice, the French public, it appears, will accept a new arrangement only if they perceive it as fair. While the immediate trigger for the explosion of people's anger in Nepal was the ban on 26 social media platforms, the case of France was that it was the proposed elimination of two public holidays which meant more work and less pay for the working people. As stand alone, these could be seen as small reasons but the resultant anger surely came from deep seated frustrations. Democratic countries like France, UK, Germany, Japan, India and so many others across the goal need to have their leaders sit up and get their ears to the ground. If they pursue the current path of neglecting people's day to day needs, they too could end up in complete disarray and maybe even dismemberment.

WISDOM CORNER

I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened.

The first step in solving a problem is to recognize that it

ZIG ZIGLAR

Being at ease with not knowing is crucial for answers to

ECKHART TOLLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1620:** Mayflower's departure for America. On this date in 1620, English colonists aboard the Mayflower set sail for America, where they founded Plymouth, Massachusetts, after 41 men, including William Bradford and Myles Standish, signed the Mayflower Compact.
- **1810:** A local revolt in Mexico was sparked by Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a parish priest in Dolores, who uttered the Grito de Dolores ("Cry of Dolores"), calling for the end of rule by Spanish peninsulars, for equality of races, and for redistribution of land.
- **1908:** General Motors Corporation is founded in Flint, Michigan by William C. Durant and Charles Stewart Mott. The company, also known as GM, was one of the world's largest manufacturers of cars and trucks. Most notably, the company manufactured Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Pontiac, and Hummer brand cars.
- 1963: Malaysia is created. The Federation of Malaya united with Sabah, Sarawak, and Singapore to create Malaysia. Singapore left the arrangement two years later.
- **1982:** Members of a right-wing Lebanese militia massacre 1500-3000 people in two Beirut-area refugee camps. The killings took over three days in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila and were led by the Lebanese Christian Phalangist militia.



\$ SOFTNESS, ₹ SOFTNESS

debted country in the world. The annual budget deficit is close to \$2 trillion. This is the net borrowing requirement of the US Treasury for this year. On top is the need to repay older debt that is maturing in this year. That is another \$9 trillion. Hence the gross borrowing requirement is in excess of \$10 trillion this year. It is funded by American and foreign investors, including the foreign exchange reserves of the world. Imagine the stress this puts on global dollar surpluses and savings. To attract the financial flows toward the US bonds, the risk free interest rate offered is quite high, currently close to 5%.

For any other country such a high debt load would have led to a downgrade of its sovereign rating. But this is the US and its currency is still the king of the world. It still attracts capital from the rest of the world. The allure of dollar assets however is waning over time. The share of global foreign exchange reserves held in the form of dollar assets has gone down from 72% to 58% in the past 20 years. The trend is clearly downward.

That is why the world is talking about "de-dollarisation." This year there are visible effects. The dollar index which is a measure of the dollar's strength, fell 11% in the first half of 2025. This is its steepest six-month slide in 50 years. The other big news is that of the rise of gold. For the first time, the value of the fraction of reserves in gold now exceeds that in dollar assets. This headline hides a subtler truth. According to the International Monetary Fund, 58% of the disclosed global forex reserves are still in dollars as of 2024, far ahead of any rival currency. But thanks to a historic gold rally, the market value of official gold holdings has gone above the holdings of US Treasuries presently in global reserves. That's not the same as gold overtaking all dollar assets in reserve portfolios but it's still symbolically powerful.

The political catalyst that kicked many reserve managers



Even as the dollar has weakened against a basket of major currencies, the rupee weakened against the dollar hitting record lows near 88.7. This means that the rupee lost even more ground to the euro and the yen

into rethinking about holding dollar assets was the freezing of Russian sovereign dollar assets after the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, followed by the G7 and EU moves to harness profits from those assets to finance Ukraine. Even without outright "seizure," the message is clear: dollar-centric reserves carry geopolitical risk. That has pushed diversification not only into other currencies but, more visibly, into gold.

All the three pillars of dollar power —trade invoicing, cross-border clearing, and reserve management—are seeing real, if uneven, diversification. Politics has amplified the trend. When BRICS leaders aired non-dollar invoicing ideas early this year, President Trump publicly threatened tariffs as retaliation—essentially using trade policy to defend dollar primacy. The SWIFT network is still the backbone for dollar clearing via New York, but alternatives to dollar centric messaging and settlement are scaling. China's CIPS has expanded volumes and participants; BIS-backed experiments like mBridge have already run live cross-border CBDC transfers among central banks in Asia and the Gulf.

India has tried to translate the de-dollarisation mood into concrete trade plumbing. New Delhi and Moscow spent much of 2023-24 exploring rupee settlements. But progress was halting because Russia did not want to sit on large, non-convertible rupee balances. The RBI has since given more leeway, by recently allowing surplus in vostro accounts to be invested fully in Indian government securities to give partners like Russia a safer home for their rupee stock. The main problem for India to scale up rupee trade and invoicing is the partner's appetite for Indian exports and rupee assets.

India is also experimenting with the RBI's e-rupee pilot projects, and to extend UPI to foreign shores. If we can stitch together compliant, bilateral CBDC or local-currency settlements with key energy and import partners, some share of trade can circumvent dollar invoicing, clearing and settlement. But this is work in progress. The main reason that rupee trade will expand only gradually is because of heavy reliance on the US market as an export destination. The US is India's single largest buyer of merchandise goods. It also remains central for services exports. That concentration makes it rational for Indian firms to keep dollars at the core of pricing, hedging, and funding-even as they experiment with local-currency deals elsewhere.

Even as the dollar has weakened against a basket of major currencies, the rupee weakened against the dollar hitting record lows near 88.7. This means that the rupee lost even more That tells you two things: global dollar softness can coexist with rupee softness, and India's external price signals are being driven by country-specific forces (tariffs, portfolio outflows, oil) as much as by the global dollar cycle. Trump is pressuring India to cut down the purchase of Russian crude. This is the main reason for the penal tariffs of 50% on Indian goods. And he is asking G7 too to follow suit and penalise India. Hence the rupee slid to fresh lows, as markets have factored in weaker export earnings and persistent dollar demand from importers.

For India, the strategy of de-dollarisation is not to wage a crusade against the dollar; it is to build resilience and bargaining power. In practice, it means: (1) targeted local-currency invoicing where counterparties truly want Indian goods or rupee assets; (2) wider, safer channels for holding and deploying rupees abroad (the RBI's vostro tweaks are an example); (3) continued reserve diversification. including gold and high-quality non-dollar assets; and (4) investing in payment rails (including CBDC-based ones) that let Indian banks and firms route around chokepoints when geopolitics turn rough. None of this eliminates the dollar's centrality any time soon. But it does chip away at single-point fragility.

There's a final paradox worth stating. A weaker dollar helps US exporters, something Trump publicly wants, yet Washington has also redoubled efforts to defend dollar centrality—invoicing, clearing, and reserves-sometimes via trade threats, which makes the dollar stronger. For countries like India, the correct response isn't ideological. It is to keep options open, deepen domestic capital markets, and make the rupee useful to foreigners-by offering scale, liquidity, and predictable rules. De-dollarisation, done right, is not about abandonment; it's about options.

> The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM

DE-DOLLARISATION,

DONE RIGHT,

IT'S ABOUT

OPTIONS

IS NOT ABOUT

ABANDONMENT:

WORLD OZONE DAY

Preserving Earth's protective umbrella



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

THE **CONSEQUENCES** OF THE THINNING **OF OZONE LAYER ARE FAR-REACHING AND CATASTROPHIC FOR VARIOUS LIFE FORMS**

ver since an enormous this direction to safeguard this the US, was discovered in the Antarctic ozone layer by members of the British Antarctic Survey team in 1985, scientists are increasingly concerned about the protection and preservation of this fragile natural atmospheric layer. We are now conclusively convinced about the role of this layer to help preserve life. Located at a height of nearly 20 to 40 km in the lower stratosphere, the ozone layer serves as an umbrella by shielding us from the harmful UV radiations showered by the Sun. However, this delicate layer is now at risk of damage mainly because of certain chemical substances released due to human activities. Although many nations have shown their commitments through various international treatises like the Montreal Protocol (1987) to phase out all Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), our goal for a secured ozone layer is not yet achieved and a lot more has to be done in

The consequences of the thinning of ozone layer are far-reaching and catastrophic for various life forms. In humans, increased UV radiations lead to impairment of the body's immune system, the risk of skin cancer including its most lethal form of malignant Melanoma and an eye disorder named Cortical Cataract resulting in the opacity of the eye lens. An increase of UV radiation directly affects plant growth by altering their physiological and developmental processes and also affects the cyanobacteria living in the roots of certain economically important plants like legumes and pulses that help in fixation of nitrogen required for the plant growth. In marine ecosystem, it adversely affects the operation of the carbon cycle and the phytoplankton population of the sea which are at the base of the oceanic food chain. UV radiation also affects the developmental stages of fish, shrimps, crabs and

other commercially important aquatic animals that play a key role in maintaining the health and equilibrium of the

entire marine ecosystem. The various ODSs identified by scientists are chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), halons, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform. CFC is the most potent source of Ozone depletion. Commonly known as freons, these are colourless, oduorless, stable, non-inflammable and non-toxic substances found applications mainly as coolants in refrigerators and air-conditioning systems, solvents in cleaners for electronic circuit boards and computer components and propellants in aerosol sprays like body deodorants. Ever since their discovery in 1923 by American chemist Thomas Midglev, these substances have replaced many toxic chemicals in industries and household applications and contributed significantly in transforming our lifestyle by providing many reliable products for our comfort and enjoyment. However, once let loose, these are rents to the upper atmosphere where they interact with UV rays and are broken down to release free chlorine atoms that eventually destroy and deplete ozone molecules

Formation of ozone in the lower stratosphere is a slow and natural process and the layer will heal itself if left unhindered. By avoiding products and practices that damage the ozone layer and by lobbying for more action from government and industries to curb on ODSs, we can help to plug the hole. At personal levels, we should be careful that any deodorant, spray, solvent or cleaner we buy is CFC free. We should also replace our old refrigerators and air-conditioners having higher CFC emissions with CFC substitute systems. We should understand the fact that an Earth without ozone layer is like a house without roof.

> The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar.

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Science & global action

Sir, It is truly remarkable to reflect on the moment forty years ago when nations united under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, taking bold steps to shield humanity and the planet from harmful ultra violet (UV) radiation. This unprecedented global collaboration led to the adoption of the Montreal Protocol, phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—the chemicals in refrigerators, aerosol sprays, and foams that were wreaking havoc on the ozone layer—and putting it firmly on the path to recovery. On World Ozone Day on 16 September, we celebrate this extraordinary achievement and renew our commitment for the future. The Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention continue to be indispensable in monitoring ozone, UV radiation, and the gradual elimination of ozone-depleting substances, including hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment. These historic treaties exemplify the power of science transforming into global action. They serve as a shining example of what the world can achieve when it unites for a common purpose, inspiring generations to confront environmental challenges boldly and decisively.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Glimmer of hope

Sir, Severe poverty and forced displacement push men and women to beg for alms. According to the 2011 census, there were more than four lakh beggars in India. Laws regulating begging like the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 have done more harm than good. Moreover, intent of banning begging to criminalise the act has not exactly passed the muster in courts. Additionally, beggar homes have not served their intended purpose. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's recent verdict that beggar homes in India be treated as "Constitution trust" and not charity houses offers a beacon of hope to the begging community in despair. The Court has, among other directives, made medical tests within 24 hours of admission to beggar homes and monthly check ups mandatory besides nutritional adequacy and safety of women inmates.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



TWO STATES





TN aims tech-savvy generation

The state launches pilot AI, robotics programme in govt schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 15: Exposure to Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics and digital tools is no longer confined to private schools. In a significant step towards bridging the technological divide, the Tamil Nadu government has rolled out a pilot programme this academic year to train government school students in AI applications, coding and interactive online tools.

The initiative, titled Tamil Nadu Schools Programme for AI, Robotics and Knowledge of Online Tools (TN SPARK), is currently being implemented for Classes 6 to 9. It aims to create a tech-savvy generation that can keep pace with emerging trends irrespective of socio-economic background. In Coimbatore

alone, 85 government schools have been included in the first phase. These comprise 78 middle schools, four high schools and three higher secondary schools. Dedicated bilingual textbooks in English and Tamil have been prepared for the new curriculum, and trained mathematics and science teachers are



With TN SPARK, Tamil Nadu is setting a model for integrating advanced technology training into government schools, ensuring that students from all sections of society gain equal exposure to the tools that will shape tomorrow's world

handling the sessions.

Each school has allocated one or two periods a week for TN SPARK classes. Around 880 hi-tech lab computers are being used to deliver the programme.

While the modules began with introductory sessions,

the syllabus will move into full swing from October after quarterly examinations.

The curriculum introduces students to the foundations of computer science, including algorithms, flowcharts, word processing and data visualisa-

'Anbu Karangal Scheme' to support education of orphaned children

The Tamil Nadu government has launched a new initiative, 'Anbu Karangal Scheme (Arms of Love)', aimed at ensuring that children who have lost their parents are able to continue their education without interruption. Chief Minister Stalin formally inaugurated the scheme at a function held at 'Kalaivanar Arangam' in Chennai Monday and distributed scholarships and laptops to beneficiary students. Under the programme, children who have lost both parents, or those who have lost one parent and are unable to receive support from the surviving guardian, will be provided with a monthly stipend of Rs 2,000 until they complete their school education. The objective is to prevent children from dropping out of school due to financial distress and to provide them with a secure path to higher learning and skill development.

tion. It also integrates online educational tools that offer interactive lessons across subjects such as science, geography, anatomy and languages.

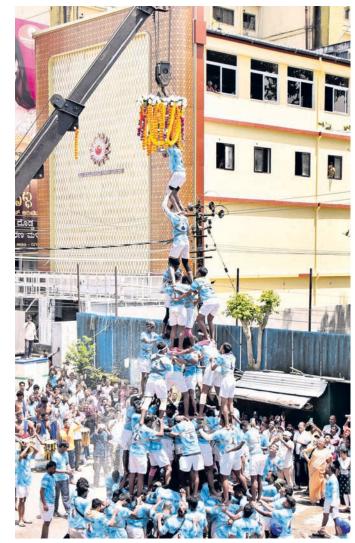
Artificial Intelligence modules familiarise students with creative applications like textto-image generation, text-tospeech, doodling, digital art, translation and animation.

Coding is introduced through beginner-friendly platforms such as Blockly, Turtle Art and Scratch, along with basics of HTML and lessons in cyber safety. Teachers report that

students are showing keen interest in these classes, often preferring them to conventional lessons

Hi-tech labs are being effectively utilised to nurture curiosity and improve learning

The programme, officials said, is designed not only to provide access to advanced technology but also to equip children with problem-solving abilities and digital literacy that will prepare them for future academic and career op-



Mumbai's 'Alare Govinda' troupe form a human pyramid to break the 'dahi handi' on the occasion of 'Vitla Pindi', in Udupi, Karnataka, Monday рті рното

2026 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Sasikala calls for AIADMK unity

NDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 15: Ousted former AIADMK interim general secretary VK Sasikala Monday made a fresh appeal for the unification of AIADMK factions before next year's Assembly election, asserting that party workers across Tamil Nadu longed to see a united front.

Speaking to reporters at her Poes Garden residence, Sasikala — once the closest aide of late J. Jayalalithaa — stressed that the party's electoral prospects depended on reconciliation.

Everyone in the AIADMK wants the factions to unite before the 2026 Assembly elections. I also want it," she said, adding that unification must happen before the polls, not after.

Admitting that reconciliation would not be easy, she observed, "It is very easy to reject someone, but accepting one into the fold is a very difficult task.

This takes time. Sasikala underlined that the ultimate goal of the party was to end the DMK's rule and restore the "Amma" era under

Jayalalithaa's legacy. "My work will be oriented towards merger and the party's victory," she said.

Urging members to move forward, she added, "Let what occurred in the past be considered as over. Let what unfolds from now on be on a good note."Her remarks found resonance with senior AIADMK leader KA Sen-



Let what occurred in the past be considered as over. Let what unfolds from now on be

VK SASIKALA | OUSTED FORMER AIADMK INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

gottaiyan, who has been vocal about reconciliation.

Reiterating his earlier call for unity, the former minister said in Erode, "Let us forget and forgive. I have already said that AIADMK should be unified in order to become stronger."

Sengottaivan had earlier set a ten-day deadline for party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami to take steps towards re-admitting expelled

Meanwhile, Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazagam (AMMK) general secretary TTV Dhinakaran, who was also expelled from the AIADMK, struck a more cautious note.

While welcoming unity, he categorically ruled out accepting Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2026 polls. Dhinakaran had recently severed ties with the BJP, which continues to project Palaniswami as its preferred Chief Ministerial face.

However, BJP state president K Nainar Nagendran indicated a willingness to explore a broader alliance, expressing openness to negotiations with Dhinakaran and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam to bring them back under the NDA umbrella.

With the Assembly elections just months away, the growing chorus for unity within the AIADMK underscores the high stakes — not only for the party's survival but also for Tamil Nadu's political landscape in 2026.

Canadian vlogger shames civic authority into pavement cleanup

In the 30-minute video shot Thursday, **Youtuber Caleb Friesen documented** the difficulty in walking a 2.4 km stretch on Bengaluru's pedestrian paths, from Majestic bus stand to a coffee shop, capturing its alleged poor and neglected condition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 15: A viral video recorded by a Canadian vlogger, highlighting the "neglected and poor condition of pavements in the city, has prompted a swift response from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which joined a cleaning drive organised by an NGO.

In the 30-minute video shot Thursday, Youtuber Caleb Friesen documented the difficulty in walking a 2.4 km stretch on Bengaluru's pedestrian paths, from Majestic bus stand to a coffee shop, capturing its alleged poor and neglected condition.

nities designed to accommodate

large numbers of devotees and

To install the statue, the HR



The clip drew widespread public criticism against the civic authorities for the alleged negligence.

In the aftermath of the viral clip, the civic authorities, GBA jumped into swift action to repair the stretch.

Along with private volunteers, they organised a foot-

Colossal Lord Muruga statue to adorn Coimbatore

path-cleaning drive. To show support and motivate the team, Bengaluru Central City Commissioner Rajendra Cholan joined the volunteers on Saturday and shared snacks with

them after the restoration work. On September 12, the Greater Bengaluru Authority took to 'X', sharing pictures of intensive cleaning drive in and around Majestic surroundings.

"Intensive cleaning drive was carried out around Majes tic surroundings by Bengaluru central city corporation team focusing on the footpaths to en sure a clean and safe pedestrian space," it said in a post on 'X'.

Responding to the post Friesen thanked the authorities for taking rapid action and shared the before and after pictures of the same footpath he had shot earlier.

"Thank you for listening and taking rapid action @GBAoffic no more parkour over barbed wire required by pedestrians,

According to official sources, at the very spot where the for eign national had shot the video, allegedly complaining about the poor state of footpaths, after participating in the cleaning and painting drive organised by an NGO on Saturday, Ben galuru Central City Commis sioner, Cholan sat down and had snacks with the volunteers who helped restore the footpath

and motivated the team.

The Canadian man who high lighted the state of the footpath was also invited to the spot where he recorded another clip praising the authorities for the swift action in undertaking the initiative to clean and clear the footpath, making it feasible for pedestrians to use.

Woman poisons hubby, blames tiger attack to claim compensation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mysuru, Sept 15: A shocking incident of a woman killing her husband and falsely claiming he died in a tiger attack to seek compensation money was reported from Mysuru district of Karnataka Friday

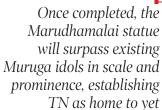
The incident took place in Chikkahejjur village in Hunsuru taluk of the district. The accused wife has been identified as Sallapuri, and the deceased husband is 45-year-old Venkataswamy. Police investigation revealed that the woman had poisoned her husband and later confessed that she killed him to obtain the hefty compensation provided by the government for deaths caused by wild animal attacks.

The police stated that the couple worked as labourers in areca nut fields. On Monday, a tiger was sighted in the Hejjur village. The accused claimed that her husband went missing and that the tiger might have killed him and dragged the body away to an undisclosed location.



The police and forest department sleuths launched a joint operation to track Venkataswamy's body. Since it was raining, the sleuths could not detect any tracks in the area where the deceased was last seen, as claimed by the woman. While searching in the vicinity of Venkataswamy's house, they found his body hidden in a cow dung pile behind the house.

After grilling the wife, Sallapuri confessed to the murder. She also admitted that while working at the areca nut farm, she overheard a conversation stating that the government provides Rs 15 lakh as compensation for victims of wild animal attacks, which prompted her to plan the murder.



another world-class religious attraction

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 15: The Tamil Nadu government is moving forward with an ambitious plan to install the world's tallest statue of Lord Muruga at the Subramaniaswamy temple in Marudhamalai, with the project expected to give a major push to spiritual tourism in the region.

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department has proposed a 184-foot-tall statue to be constructed at a cost of about Rs 110 crore.

The overall project, which includes allied facilities, is estimated at Rs 146.83 crore. Officials said the initiative will be funded primarily through do-



nations. Preliminary works for and CE Department has been the project began in May 2025. scouting suitable land in the Alongside the statue, a sprawlfoothills of Marudhamalai. ing hexagon-shaped complex is planned, featuring a museum, parking space, and other ame-

After multiple rounds of consultations, the department has zeroed in on 2.5 acres of vacant land located behind the local bus stand. Since the project requires additional space, plans are also in place to acquire another 2.5 acres from the adjoining area.

On Friday, senior officials from the HR and CE Department inspected the identified site. They confirmed that a formal meeting will be convened at the Coimbatore District Collectorate in the coming days to finalise land acquisition procedures. "The statue is

The Hindu Religious and Charitable **Endowments Department has** proposed a **184-foot-tall statue** to be constructed at a cost of about ₹110 crore

envisioned not just as a monumental religious symbol, but also as a cultural landmark that will draw pilgrims and tourists from across the globe," a senior official said.

Authorities believe the proj ect will also generate signifi cant local employment opportunities during the construction phase and boost ancillary economic activities linked to

With plans firmly underway the Marudhamalai foothills are set to host a towering tribute to Lord Muruga, reinforcing Coimbatore's place on the coun try's spiritual and cultural map.

national

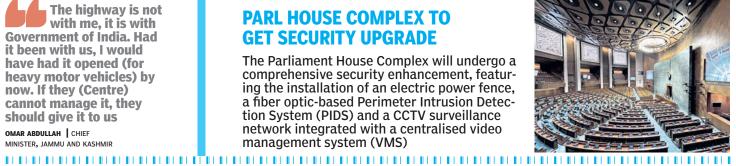


The highway is not with me, it is with **Government of India. Had** it been with us, I would have had it opened (for heavy motor vehicles) by now. If they (Centre) cannot manage it, they should give it to us

OMAR ABDULLAH | CHIEF

PARL HOUSE COMPLEX TO GET SECURITY UPGRADE

The Parliament House Complex will undergo a comprehensive security enhancement, featuring the installation of an electric power fence, a fiber optic-based Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) and a CCTV surveillance network integrated with a centralised video management system (VMS)



ation, Naxalism has been completely eradicated from the Bokaro region in

northern Jharkhand. Soon, the entire country will be free from the problem of Naxalism

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

It was the JD(U)-BJP combine which had formed a government in Bihar, for the first time, in November, 2005. For one or two times, I went to the other side, upon prodding of some of my own party colleagues, one of whom is sitting here

NITISH KUMAR | CHIEF MINISTER, BIHAR





beneficial to the entire Muslim community. The misuse, including encroachment of property through Waqf Board, will now be stopped with the new leg-

KIREN RIJIJU | UNION MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Chargesheet against ex-CM Baghel's son

Raipur: The Enforcement Directorate Monday filed a fresh prosecution complaint in a multi-crore 'liquor scam' in Chhattisgarh in a court and alleged Chaitanya, son of Congress leader and former CM Bhupesh Baghel, "handled' over ₹1.000 crore worth of "proceeds of crime". The 7,039-page supplementary prosecution complaint (chargesheet) was filed in the court of 6th district and additional sessions judge Damarudhar Chouhan in Raipur naming Chaitanya Baghel, a businessman, as an accused The alleged ₹2,100-crore liquor scam took place when a Congress government headed by Bhupesh Baghel was in office in the state

Tejashwi to launch 'Bihar Adhikar Yatra'

Patna: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, who is expected to lead the INDIA bloc charge in the upcoming assembly polls, will Tuesday kick off a "Bihar Adhikar Yatra". Yadav, the leader of the opposition in the state assembly, will launch the Yatra from Jehanabad, an RJD statement said. The 35-year-old leader is likely to cover strongholds of the ruling NDA like Nalanda, the home district of JD(U) supremo and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and Begusarai, the constituency of firebrand BJP leader and Union minister Giriraj Singh, in the "first leg" of the Yatra which will conclude September 20

Heavy rains pummel

Maharashtra, 4 dead Mumbai: Heavy rains pounded several areas in Maharashtra, including Pune and Mumbai, causing widespread inundation, necessitating the airlifting of 11 villagers by an IAF chopper and the evacuation of 40 others by an Army unit in Beed district Monday. Four people have died in rain-related incidents since Sunday in the worst-hit members of a family were stranded in Sheri Khurd hamlet near Kada village in Ashti taluka (Beed district). They were airlifted on Monday by an Air Force helicopter summoned from PTI. The Army unit deployed in Ashti successfully evacuated 40 people with the help of an NDRF team and other agencies.

'Tight slap' on Modi govt: Oppn

The Supreme Court Monday put on hold several key provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 including the clause that only those practising Islam for the last five years can dedicate a property as Waqf, but refused to stay the entire law outlining the presumption of constitutionality in its favour

New Delhi, Sept 15: Political parties Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's order on the new Waqf law with the Opposition including the Congress saying it has put on hold controversial clauses that "infringed" on the rights of Muslims and the BJP contending that the court has upheld the constitutionality of the law by not staying it.

Prominent Muslim bodies also welcomed the apex court order expressing hope of getting "complete justice" in the matter once the final verdict is pronounced. Both the All India Muslim

Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and the All India Shia Personal Law Board (AISPLB) termed the order a welcome step, even as the former said it expected the top court to stay the entire law, and not just certain key provisions.

The AIMPLB also expressed dissatisfaction over the top court's refusal to stay the entire law saying it leaves "numerous harmful provisions" in operation.

The Supreme Court Monday put on hold several key provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 including the clause that only those practising Islam for the last five years can dedicate a property as Waqf, but refused to stay the entire law outlining the presumption of constitutionality in its favour.

"Presumption is always in

SC ORDER ON WAOF ACT



favour of constitutionality of a statute and intervention (can be done) only in the rarest of rare cases," a bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih said in its 128-page interim order on the contentious issue.

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju welcomed the interim order on the law, saying it was a very good sign for democracy.

"I believe that whatever the apex court has ruled is a very good sign for our democracy, Riiiiu told reporters in Mumbai.

The provisions in the Act are beneficial to the entire Muslim community," he said.

The misuse, including encroachment of property through Waqf Board, will now be stopped with the new legislation, the minister said. The BJP welcomed the apex court's order and said it sends out a message to those who were playing "politics of fear" and building a "negative narrative" that the amendments made in the Waqf law "constitutionally correct".

"Certainly it's a welcome decision. The double bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai has accepted the amendments brought by the government and rejected the petition against it. There is no stay on the entire operation of the amendments. BJP national spokesperson Nalin Kohli told PTI

"The stay is only with effect to one or two areas where the court felt there may be an arbitrary exercise of powers, say by a district magistrate, because

it was not defined in terms of what would be the mechanism " he added

The Congress termed the court's decision as a win for constitutional values of justice, equality and fraternity, while asserting that it goes a long way towards undoing the "mischievous intentions" underlying the original statute.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the apex court in its interim order reaffirmed its resolve to protect the rights of minorities -- a cause for which the Opposition stood united against the Modi government.

The BJP had sought to bulldoze a divisive law, designed solely to inflame communal passions and reopen issues that India had long settled. The Congress party stands firm in defending the rights of every citizen, without fear or favour, as guaranteed by our Constitu tion," Kharge said on X.

The BJP, in contrast, thrives on dividing society for narrow electoral gains, he alleged.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the top court order on the Act represents a substantial victory not just for the parties that opposed this arbitrary law in Parliament but all those members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee who submitted detailed dissent notes which were then ignored but now stand vindicated.

'The Order is an important one because it goes a long way towards undoing the mischievous intentions underlying the original statute," Ramesh said on X.

Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said the interim order is a vindication of his party's stand that this law is 'blatantly unconstitutional" and designed to "target" a particular community.

This decision is yet another "tight slap" on the face of the government that is solely focused on "destroying" the Constitution, Venugopal said.

Syed Naseer Hussain, Congress general secretary and a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee that examined the Waqflaw, thanked the Supreme Court saying it has reaffirmed the constitutional safeguards that protect minority rights and struck a balance between reform and representation.

Welcoming the order, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said it is a major step towards "undoing the unconstitutional and illegal amendments made by the BJP government".

BJP leader Jagdambika Pal, who chaired the parliamentary panel that looked into the provisions of the Waqf Amendment Bill, said the government will examine certain provisions and take necessary action.

However, on the petitions filed by the Opposition seeking a stay on amendments, he said the Supreme Court has ordered that individuals can approach a high court or the apex court

Only Aadhaar users can book online tickets early from Oct 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: From October 1, the Railway Ministry will allow only Aadhaar-authenticated users to book reserved general tickets through the IRCTC website or app during the first 15 minutes af ter booking opens for any train Currently, this restriction applies only to Tatkal bookings. "With a view to ensure that

the benefits of the reservation system reach the common end user and are not misused by unscrupulous elements, it has been decided that with effect from 1.10.2025, during the first 15 minutes of opening of gener al reservation, reserved general tickets can be booked through the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)/its app only by Aadhaar authenticated users. a ministry circular said Monday. Ministry officials said that after 15 minutes, authorised ticket agents will be allowed to book online reservations.

"There shall, however, be no change in timing for book ing of general reserved tickets through computerised PRS counters of Indian Railways, the circular said.

It added, "There shall also be no change in the timing of restriction of 10 minutes of opening of general reservation during which authorised ticketing agents of Indian Railways shall not be allowed to book opening day reserved tickets. Officials clarified that the

railway ministry had already imposed a 10-minute restriction on agents to book general reservations from the counter.

'NO CONTRAVENTION OF LAW'

SC-appointed SIT gives clean chit to Vantara



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court Monday said there was "no contravention of law" while accepting a clean chit given by its special investigation team to Vantara, the zoological rescue and rehabilitation centre in Gujarat's Jamnagar.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and PB Varale took the SIT's report on record besides noting the probe team's satisfaction on the compliance and regulatory measures in

The top court August 25 con-

stituted a four-member SIT headed by a former apex court judge while hearing two PILs alleging irregularities against Vantara on the basis of reports in the media and social media hesides complaints from NGOs and wildlife organisations.

It came on record that the

SIT, after a thorough investigation in coordination with multiple agencies "clearly opined" and held no violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009, CZA guidelines, Customs Act, 1962, Foreign Trade (Regulation and development) Act. 1992. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 or the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora.

"The Court has no hesitation in accepting the conclusion so drawn in the report. Thus, as no contravention of law has been reported by the SIT, the complaints particularly those listed in Schedule A in the summary of the report stand closed," the bench said.

Will set aside Bihar SIR if illegality found: SC **Top court sets Oct 7** for final hearing on

pleas against validity of Bihar SIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court Monday said it was presuming that the Election Commission, being a constitutional authority, was following the law during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and warned that the entire exercise would be set aside in case any illegality is found at any stage.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, which fixed October 7 for hearing final arguments on the validity of Bihar SIR, refused to offer any "piecemeal opinion" on the exercise and said "our judgement in Bihar SIR will be applicable for pan-India SIR".

The court clarified it can't stop the poll panel from conducting a similar exercise for the revision of electoral rolls across the country. The bench. however, allowed petitioners against the Bihar SIR exercise



to also argue on the pan-India SIR October 7.

The top court also clarified that the publication of the final electoral roll September 30 will not make any difference to the adjudication of the case.

'What difference will the final publication of the electoral roll make to us? If we are satisfied there is some illegality, we can set it aside," the bench told the petitioners who have challenged the SIR exercise.

The top court, in the meantime, issued notice on a plea seeking the recall of the Sep tember 8 top court order directing the poll panel to include the

Aadhaar card as the 12th prescribed document in the Bihar SIR. At the outset, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the Election Commission, requested the bench that the court should defer the hearing till the final assessment of the SIR exercise is made.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, appearing for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), said that the ECI is moving ahead with the preparations for conducting the SIR exercise in other states.

"We have to address the court on the legal aspect of the exercise. If it is found that there is a perversion of a constitutional scheme, we may press that this may not continue. There is no question of proceeding with other states and establishing fait accompli," he submitted.

The bench told him that the court cannot stop the poll panel from conducting the SIR exercise. Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for some activists said no one should be denied a right to vote because of an illegal methodology.

The bench said, "Please take it from us. If we find any illegality in the methodology adopted by ECI at any stage of SIR in Bihar, the entire exercise will

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for several opposition political parties, in cluding the Congress, requested the court to take up the matter at the earliest as the ECI has announced the SIR exercise across the country.

The bench, while issuing notice on his interlocutory application, said the court will hear him October 7 and pointed out that Aadhaar was made acceptable as an interim arrangement Justice Bagchi told that "whether it would be disastrous or not will be decided by the ECI".

Arunachal schoolgirls march 65 km to highlight teacher shortage

The students, in their blue school uniform, embarked

on a foot march from Nyangno village Sunday, walked the entire night and reached Lemmi, the district headquarters, Monday morning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Sept 15: At least 90 students from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Nangnyo in Pakke Kessang district of Arunachal Pradesh marched around 65 km to highlight the alleged acute shortage of teachers in their institute.

The students, in their blue school uniform, embarked on a foot march from Nyangno village Sunday, walked the en-

tire night and reached Lemmi,

the district headquarters, this morning, an official said.

Video clips of their march at night and in the morning surfaced on social media. Several of the girls were seen in the video carrying umbrellas and backpacks

PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the Led by students of Class 11

and 12, the protestors demanded immediate posting of teachers in Geography and Political The students held posters

reading 'a school without a teacher (is) just a building'. They also raised slogans in support of their demand. The protestors claimed that they were left with no option

as their repeated pleas for the

subject teachers were left un-

answered by the school and the

higher education department

An official said that the school education department recruited teachers as demanded by the

students following the rally. "The students were protesting the acute shortage of teachers in the school," Pakke Kessang Deputy Director of School

Education (DDSE) Deepak

Tayeng said.

He said the students did not inform about their march to

the hostel warden of the school authorities.

The school's headmistress admitted there is a shortage of Geography and Political Science teachers, but it has adequate tutors for the remaining subjects.

The courses have already been completed for the

half-yearly examinations, she

Established in 2011-12, the school is being managed by an NGO, Sei Donyi Charitable Trust, and aims to provide education for girls from disadvantaged communities in educationally backward areas.

The school, at present, has over 90 students and has a headmistress, a warden and at least 13 teachers

The department is functioning as per norms and contacted the NGO chairman on this issue, said a senior department official.

Last month, the department had engaged two contractual teachers for the smooth functioning of the school, the official

Speaking about the shortage of teachers, the DDSE admitted that there is a shortage of subject teachers in the school.

Last month, a walk-in interview to recruit three teachers was conducted by the DDSE office, Tayeng said, adding that they are awaiting approval from higher authorities.

The midnight march, which sent shockwaves among parents, authorities and the general public, has yielded results with the authorities saying that the department has approved the recruitment of teachers.

The DDSE said that the department has approved the appointment of a Geography and Political Science teacher after the midnight shocker.

Tayeng said the officials explained the situation to the girls, who were doing fine even after completing such a long journey on foot.

The students were sent back to their school in two vehicles arranged by the department, he said.

Marathwada region. "Eleven Nasik," a senior official told

national



It is a revered institution where I imbibed the essence of true patriotism, discipline, camaraderie and a balanced lifestyle -- lessons that have indelibly shaped my personal and public lives

AKHILESH YADAV

INDIAN NAVY GETS ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHIP

The Indian Navy has received an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare ship that is expected to boost its maritime prowess against the backdrop of China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean. 'Androth', the second of the eight anti-submarine warfare-shallow water craft (ASW-SWC), has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata





establishment, HAM remains an unrecognised party. I have been helping the NDA for long. So, I am begging the NDA leaders (bheekh maang rahe hain) and not making

JITAN RAM MANJHI UNION MINISTER

The taxes imposed by America majorly hit shrimp exports. It is estimated that a loss of Rs 25,000 crore

would have occurred. Up to 50 per cent export orders have been N CHANDRABABU NAIDU I

CHIEF MINISTER, ANDHRA PRADESH



being created that is finished. This is affecting the psyche of OBC students DEVENDRA FADNAVIS |



FSSAI is a ioke. This department needs to be shut down & completely privatized. Every single

product should have OR codes showing how it's

emergency?

Hospitals across India are packed because there's ZERO quality control on our food. Why this is still not a national

@talk2anuradha

SHORT **TAKES**

4 dead as bus rams into truck

Jaunpur (UP): A bus rammed into a truck here Monday morning, leaving four pilgrims dead and nine others seriously injured, police said. The accident took place around 5 am on the Lucknow-Varanasi National Highway in Sihipur village, when the bus carrying devotees from Chhattisgarh was going from Ayodhya to Varanasi. There were 50 people on the bus, Jaunpur Superintendent of Police Kaustubh said, adding that the accident took place when the bus driver was unsuccessful in overtaking the truck and ended up colliding the bus with the truck from the side.

CBI searches premises of ex-Karnataka min

New Delhi: The CBI Monday conducted searches at the premises of former Karnataka minister B Nagendra and 15 other locations in the state and Andhra Pradesh in connection with the Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation 'scam', officials said. The case involves serious allegations of transferring government funds to personal accounts of Nagendra's relatives from the accounts of Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

5 killed after vehicle falls into deep gorge

Shimla: Five people were killed and two others suffered injuries when their vehicle fell into a deep gorge here Monday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Joginder Singh (driver), a resident of Khaula village, and Rajesh, Ekender Shahi, Laxmi and Dil Bahadur. natives of Nepal.

DELHI BMW ACCIDENT

Despite repeated pleas, accused took victims to hosp 19 km away

Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Navjot Singh (52), a resident of Hari Nagar, was killed in the accident on the Ring Road near the Delhi Cantonment Metro station Sunday afternoon



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The wife of the senior government oftween their motorcycle and a luxury car near the Delhi Cantonment Metro station had repeatedly pleaded with the accused couple to get them admitted to a nearby hospital, but to no avail, according to the FIR lodged in the case.

The woman who allegedly drove the BMW car that hit a motorcycle here, killing a senior finance ministry official, was arrested Monday, an official said. Earlier in the day. she was taken into custody after being discharged from the hospital, police said.

"The lady took us to a small hospital in GTB Nagar, far from the accident site," the bereaved woman told police in a statement, which is now part of the FIR. Meanwhile, police sources said the hospital where the victim was taken was linked to the accused. "So far, we have learned that the hospital, which is almost 19 kilometres away from the accident site, is linked to the accused. We are checking and verifying all the facts," said the sources.

Van driver Mohammad Gulfam, who rushed all four injured people to the hospital, has also made a similar claim. "I was driving a loading vehicle: I stopped and rushed the injured to a hospital in Azadpur after the man and the woman in the car asked me to take them there," he told PTI.

The police have contacted Gulfam to record his statement.

Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs. Navjot Singh (52), a resident of Hari Nagar, was killed in the accident on the Ring Road near the Delhi Cantonment Metro station Sunday afternoon. His wife sustained serious injuries. They were returning home after visiting the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara.

The woman, who was allegedly driving the BMW car, and her husband were also injured in the incident. The Gurugram couple was admitted to a hospital for treatment. They are in the business of manufacturing leather saddles, seats, covers, belts and other products.

The police said the woman driver of the BMW was taken into custody on Monday following her discharge from the hospital. A case of culpable homicide has been registered in the matter. In her statement to police, Navjot Singh's wife, Sandeep Kaur, said, "I was constantly requesting them to take us to the nearest hospital as my husband was unconscious and needed immediate treatment. Instead, the lady took us to a small hospital in GTB Nagar. That lady told me her name was Gagan Preet Kaur.'

'My husband was wearing a turban at the time of the crash. But I was wearing a helmet. The crash occurred around 1 pm Sunday," she was quoted as saying in the FIR.

The FIR records that the BMW was being driven by a woman with a male co-passenger. They put the injured couple into a van-type vehicle and were driven to GTB Nagar.

Rahul Gandhi visits flood-hit Punjab

Chandigarh, Sept 15: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the flood-hit areas in Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab Monday and interacted with those affected by the natural disaster.

After meeting the flood victims, he said "pain is clearly visible in their eyes, but their courage is unwavering".

Meanwhile, Congress leaders alleged that Gandhi was stopped by the local police from visiting Toor, a border village across the Ravi river in Gurdaspur. On the central relief package of Rs 1,600 crore for the state, the leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha agreed with the state Congress leaders saying that it was far too less than what was needed.

His visit came nearly a week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted an aerial survey of the flood-ravaged areas of Punjab and reviewed the

visit, Gandhi was accompanied by Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition in the

and other party leaders. Upon his arrival, Gandhi was briefed by the party leaders about the extent of damage and devastation caused in Punjab due to the recent floods.

Punjab Assembly Partap Singh

Bajwa, Amritsar MP Gurjeet

Singh Aujla, Gurdaspur MP

Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa

They also brought to his notice the alleged negligence of the state and central governments, which added to the

him that timely action by the state government and the Centre could have prevented the damage by about 75 per cent. After arriving in Amrit-

sar this morning, Gandhi

straightway headed to Ghone-

wal village in Ajnala and met

the flood-hit people to enquire

about the damage. Ghonewal village was among several areas in Ajnala which was badly hit by floodwaters.

"The flood has caused massive devastation in Punjab. Today I met the villagers in Ghonewal - ruined homes, damaged fields, shattered lives. The pain

is clearly visible in their eyes but their courage is unwaver ing," Gandhi said in a post on X

"Both the state and central governments must ensure that the relief package and compen sation reach the victims with out any delay, who need it the most at this time. I stand with every affected family in this tragedy. I will raise their voice and it is my resolve to provide them every possible help,' he said. Gandhi later visited flood-affected Gurchak village in Dera Baba Nanak in Gur daspur district. The Congress Monday accused the Punjab Police of not allowing party leader Rahul Gandhi to meet flood-affected villagers across the Ray river in Gurdaspur district.

However, party leaders al leged that Gandhi was stopped by the local police from visiting Toor, a border village across the Ravi river in Gurdaspur, Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring claimed the police cited security reasons.

Monorail train stops on

tracks in Mumbai; all

House of Kuki leader 'torched' in Manipur locate designated camps away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Churachandpur/Imphal. Sept 15: Tensions flared in Manipur's Churachandpur district after the residence of a Kuki leader was allegedly set on fire by a mob, officials said Monday. The residence of Kuki Na-

tional Organisation (KNO) leader Calvin Aikhenthang was torched late Sunday night, they

However, a section of locals in Churachandpur claimed that a short circuit triggered

KNO is a signatory to the Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the Centre. The residence of another

Kuki leader, Ginza Vualzong,



who is the spokesperson of the Kuki Zo Council (KZC) and the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), was also targeted by miscreants, but timely intervention by locals helped prevent the house from being set on fire, officials said. Two prominent Kuki-Zo

groups signed the SoO agreement with the Centre on re-ne gotiated terms and conditions September 4, under which they agreed to maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur, refrom vulnerable areas, and work towards a solution to bring lasting peace and stability to the state The signing of the SoO pact with KNO and the United Peo-

ple's Front (UPF) is also set to

have a positive impact on peace

efforts in the restive state, officials had said. Separately, civil society group Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) had decided to open National Highway-2, which passes through Manipur, for free

movement of commuters and

However, Monday, the KZC clarified that it has not "declared the reopening of NH-2" and that "no free movement has been permitted on this route.

essential goods.



Mumbai, Sept 15: A monorail train came to an abrupt halt on tracks due to a "technical snag" in Mumbai Monday morning, fol lowing which all 17 passengers onboard were rescued, officials said, adding the incident was the second in less than a month.

The incident took place at 7:16 am between the Antop Hil Bus Depot and GTBN monorail station in Wadala, they said.

"Today, a technical snag occurred in one of the mono trains. As per safety protocols. all 17 passengers on board were swiftly and safely transferred to another train and taken to the next station by 7:40 am," said a spokesperson of Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Limited (MMMOCL), which operates the monorail.

"The affected train is being towed away. Services between Sant Gadge Maharaj Chowk and Wadala were running on a single line with delays, while Wadala to Chembur services re mained operational as usual, MMMOCL said in a statement.

A Fire Brigade official said two fire engines and two turntables were dispatched to the site for the post-incident operation but their deployment was not needed as the passengers were evacuated after another rake was brought on the parallel track. Amid very heavy rains August 19, as many as 582 passengers were strand ed on a monorail near Mysore Colony station for several hours before being rescued by the Mumbai Fire Brigade.



An enthusiast practices Garba, a traditional dance ahead of nine days long Navratri festival, in Ahmedabad,

Guiarat, Monday

Entire Himalayan range facing ecological crisis: SC

The recent devastations in the form of high-intensity rainfall, cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, variations

in snowfall patterns, and receding glaciers were manifestations of climate change, an undeniable global phenomenon resulting from extensive industrialization, rising greenhouse gas emissions and unsustainable practices at regional, national and global levels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court Monday said the issue concerning ecology and environmental conditions was not going to be limited to Himachal Pradesh only as the entire Himalayan range, which was "very violent" this time, was facing it. A bench of Justices Vikram

Nath and Sandeep Mehta said it would pass its order September 23 in the suo motu matter concerning issues relating to ecology and environmental conditions prevailing in Himachal Pradesh.

"Ultimately, it is not going to be limited to Himachal only. It is the entire Himalayan range that is facing this. This time around, it has been very very violent," Justice Mehta

observed

During the hearing, Himachal Pradesh's advocate general and additional advocate general informed the bench about a report filed by the state in the matter.

"We will give you a brief order after summarising every thing so that you can get specific instructions," the bench said.

including tree cover.

pect, glaciers etc," he said.

there were no specifics in the

Senior advocate K Parmeshwar, who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the mat ter, said the report filed by the state covered many aspects, 'The report covers a number

of aspects. It might not be possible to deal with all the aspects at one go. They have covered from tree cover to mining as-

Parmeshwar flagged that He said the state had con-

said, adding that the canvass tended in the report that there were some concerns with was too broad. glacier reduction and glacier The state's additional advo-

movement but those specifics were not there. "All that the report promises is to set up of a committee to look into these," the amicus

cate general referred to a part of the report which said Himachal Pradesh was actively working on creation of a state-level glacier registry.

The report said the integrated studies of Himalayan cryosphere was conducted by comparing glacier inventories of period from 2016 to 2019 with vear 2001-2002 for various basins in Himachal Pradesh.

"The following findings of the scientific analysis reveals that while glacier numbers have largely remained stable or shown minor increases, their total area has declined, indicating gradual shrinkage," it said.

The report said the recent devastations in the form of high-intensity rainfall, cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, variations in snowfall patterns, and receding glaciers were manifestations of climate change, an undeniable global phenomenon resulting from extensive industrialization, rising greenhouse gas emissions and unsustainable practices at regional, national and global levels

On the concern raised by the court regarding destruction caused by hydropower projects, the report said such projects might not be considered the primary cause of destruction in the state.

"Recent flash floods and

cloudbursts have occurred in areas far away from hydropow er installations. These destructive events were mainly caused by cloudbursts happening at higher altitudes and mountain peaks where no hydropower projects exist," it said.

The report also said national highway projects in the state were undertaken after due diligence, planning and coordination with the various stakeholder departments, and includes public consultation where applicable.

On the court's concern re garding destruction caused by deforestation due to develop mental projects, the report said to rehabilitate and rejuvenate, the state through forest depart ment undertakes tree planting in degraded area, and even or the evicted encroachment.

It said between 2018 and 2025 the state witnessed a surge in extreme weather events, with 434 incidents recorded across districts. "These disasters claimed

123 lives and caused significant livestock losses, severely impacting rural communities reliant on agriculture, horticul ture, and animal husbandry, the report said.

international



am aware of the terrible reports regarding the murder of Chandra Nagamallaiah, a well-respected person in Dallas, Texas, who was brutally beheaded, in front of his wife and son, by an illegal alien from Cuba who should have never been in our country

UK SUMMONS RUSSIAN ENVOY

Britain's government said Mondav it has summoned the Russian ambassador in London following Moscow's "unprecedented violation" of NATO airspace. The Foreign Office called the incursions into Polish and Romanian airspace in recent days "unacceptable" and summoned Andrei Kelin, the Russian ambassador.





Brazil's democracy and

LUIZ INÁCIO LULA DA SILVA BRAZIL'S



of the global industrial and supply chains

president, I might be out in the streets with them...You let them know your sentiments, you let

them know how they hurt you, how they stole from you, shout at them and do everything, demonstrate, just keep it peaceful FERDINAND MARCOS IR

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

SHORT **TAKES**

Nepal: 3 ministers inducted into govt

Kathmandu: Three newly-appointed ministers, including former electricity board CEO Kulman Ghising, in the Sushila Karki-led interim government in Nepal took the oath of office on Monday. President Ramchandra Paudel administered the oath of office to the new ministers at a ceremony at the President's Office, Sheetal Niwas, which was damaged during the recent violent protests. The event was organised under a tent The Cabinet, mandated to hold parliamentary polls within six months, now has four members, including Prime Minister Karki, who will oversee the remaining ministerial portfolios. Ghising, former Nepal Electricity Authority CEO, has taken charge of three portfolios: energy, water resources and irrigation; physical infrastructure and transport: and urban development, while former finance secre Rameshwor Khanal has been sworn in as Finance Minister. Om Prakash Aryal, a prominent lawyer who played a key role in the recent Gen Z negotiations. has been sworn in as Minister for Home Affairs and for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

German local polls: AfD biggest winner

Berlin: Chancellor Friedrich Merz's party finished first in municipal polls in Germany's most populous state, but the biggest winner in the first electoral test since Merz's government took power was the far-right Alternative for Germany, which nearly tripled its showing compared with five years ago. Final results on Monday showed that Merz's centre-right **Christian Democratic Union** took 33.3 per cent of the vote in Sunday's elections for councils and mayors in North Rhine-Westphalia, a western region that is home to about 18 million people. Its partners in a national government that so far has failed to lift the country's mood, the centre-left Social Democrats - for whom the state was long a reliable heartland - took 22.1 per cent. Both were slightly below their score in the last municipal elections in 2020. But Alternative for Germany, or AfD, took 14.5 per cent of the vote - a gain of 9.4 percentage points. The antiimmigration AfD is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, but Sunday's showing underlined its arrival in recent years as a force in

Qatar hosts summit as Israel strikes Doha

Dubai, Sept 15: Qatar hosted a summit of leaders of Arab and Islamic nations Monday in the hopes of presenting a united response to Israel's attack on Hamas leaders in Doha last week. But the group has few ways to restrain Israel as its war in the Gaza Strip grinds on.

Israel launched its invasion of Gaza in response to Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack, and since then it has also retaliated against the militant group and other members of Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance elsewhere, including in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and now Qatar.

That's led to wider anger among Mideast nations already enraged by the over 64,000 Palestinians killed during the war in Gaza — and a growing concern that the US commitment to protect Gulf Arab states may not be strong enough.

However, it remains unclear iust what the summit will be able to achieve. Significant tensions among the nations meeting could blunt cooperation — and they also have few levers they can pull. Condemnations from coun-

tries that Israel considers enemies, like Iran, will mean little. Meanwhile, the nations attending that have diplomatic recognition deals with Israel may be reluctant to sever ties.

"Considering the deep tensions between the Gulf states and other regional actors, assembling the summit in less than a week, especially given its scale, is a notable achievement that underscores a shared sense of urgency in the region," the New York-



based Soufan Center said.

"The key question is whether ... (the summit will) signal a shift toward more consequential measures against Israel, including diplomatic downgrades, targeted economic actions and restrictions on airspace and access.

Qatar's ruling emir opened the summit by accusing Israel of not caring about its hostages held in Gaza and instead only working to "ensure Gaza is no longer livable." Israel has said the goals of its war include bringing all the hostages back and defeating Hamas.

"If Israel wishes to assassinate the Hamas leaders, why then engage in negotiations? Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani asked. "If you wish to insist on the liberation of hostages, why then do they assassinate all negotiators?

The speech was unusually fiery for the 45-year-old ruler of Qatar, which has served as key mediator in an effort to reach a ceasefire in the war.

"There is no room to deal with such a party that's cowardly and treacherous," he added. "Those who work consistently to assassinate the party in these

negotiations will certainly do everything to ensure the failure of these negotiations. When they claim that they seek the liberation of hostages, that's a mere lie.

A variety of regional leaders attended the summit, including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tavvip Erdogan. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Syria's interim president, Ahmad al-Sharaa.

Iran, which hit a base in Qatar in June, is attending the summit

After the US bombed Iranian nuclear sites in June, Iran struck Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, a major hub for American forces — a move that angered Qatar. Nevertheless, Iran sent President Masoud Pezeshkian to attend Monday's meeting. Before leaving Tehran, Pezeshkian noted the wide breadth of nations Israel has attacked since October 7.

"This regime has attacked many Islamic countries," he said. "It does whatever it wants and unfortunately, the United States and European countries also support these actions."

Framework deal on TikTok reached between US, China

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 15: A framework deal has been reached between China and the US for the ownership of popular social video platform TikTok, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said after weekend trade talks in Spain.

Bessent said in a press conference after the latest round of trade talks between the world's top two economies concluded in Madrid that US President Donald Trump and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping would speak Friday to possibly finalise the deal. He said the objective of the deal would be to switch to US ownership.

"We are not going to talk about the commercial terms of the deal," Bessent said. "It's between two private parties. But the commercial terms have been agreed upon.

Li Chenggang, China's international trade representative, said the two sides have reached 'basic framework consensus' to properly solve TikTok-related issues in a cooperative way. reduce investment barriers and promote related economic and trade cooperation, according to China's official news agency Xinhua. Li said the two sides had "candid, in-depth" discussions over TikTok and matters of concern to China

The meeting in Madrid is the fourth round of trade talks between US and Chinese officials since Trump launched a tariff war on Chinese goods in April. A fifth round of negotiations is likely to happen "in the coming weeks," Bessent said, with both governments planning for a possible summit between Trump and Xi later this year or early next year to solidify a trade agreement.

However, nothing has been confirmed, and analysts say possible trade bumps could de lay the visit.

Fed faces political pressure amid economic uncertainty



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 15: In a sign of how unusual this week's Federal Reserve meeting is, the decision it will make on interest rates usually the main event — is just one of the key unknowns to be resolved when officials gather Tuesday and Wednesday.

For now, it's not even clear who will be there. The meeting will likely include Lisa Cook, an embattled governor, unless an appeals court or the Supreme Court rules in favour of an effort by President Donald Trump to remove her from office. And it will probably include Stephen Miran, a top White House economic aide whom Trump has nominated to fill an empty seat on the Fed's board. Meanwhile, the US economy

is mired in uncertainty. Hiring has slowed sharply, while inflation remains stubbornly high.

So a key question for the Fed is: Do they worry more about people who are out of work and struggling to find jobs, or do they focus more on the struggles many Americans face in keeping up with rising costs for groceries and other items? The Fed's mandate from Congress requires it to seek both stable prices and full employment.

For now, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed policymakers have signalled the Fed is more concerned about weaker hiring, a key reason investors expect the central bank will reduce its benchmark interest rate by a quarter point on Wednesday to about 4.1 per cent. Still, stubbornly high in flation may force them to proceed slowly and limit how ma ny reductions they make. The central bank will also release its quarterly economic projec tions Wednesday, and economists project they will show that policymakers expect one or two additional cuts this year plus several more next year.

Ellen Meade, an economics professor at Duke University and former senior economist at the Fed, said it's a stark contrast to the early pandemic when it was clear the Fed had to rapidly reduce rates to boos the economy. And when infla tion surged in 2021 and 2022 it was also a straightforward call for the Fed, which moved quickly to raise borrowing costs to combat higher prices. But now, "it's a tough time,

Meade said. "It would be a tough time, even if the politics and the whole thing weren't going on the way they are, it would be a tough time. Some people would want to cut, some people would not want to cut.

UK: Man arrested for racially motivated rape of Sikh woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 15: The UK police investigating a racially aggravated sexual assault of a Sikh woman have arrested a man on suspicion of rape.

Police said the man, in his 30s, was detained Sunday and remains in custody as part of their enquiries into the "racially motivated rape" in Oldbury. West Midlands region of England, reported last Tuesday.

The West Midlands Police said the woman, in her 20s, is continuing to receive support as the investigations continue.

"This is a significant development in the investigation, and we want to thank the community for their continuing support," said Chief Superintendent Kim Madill of Sandwell Police.

"The investigation remains ongoing and we would urge people not to speculate as we work to identify and trace all those who may have been involved," she said. The police force also stressed the importance of allowing the judicial process to follow its course as legal proceedings are "now active in the case, which sent shockwaves within the community.

"I am deeply shocked by the horrific attack on a young Sikh woman in Oldbury. This was an act of extreme violence but is also being treated as racially aggravated, with the perpetrators reportedly telling her that she 'does not belong here'," Preet Kaur Gill, British Sikh member of Parliament from the West Midlands region, posted on social media.

"She does belong here. Our Sikh community and every community has the right to feel safe. respected, and valued.'



A woman poses for a souvenir photo with a cat statue on display at the commercial district, in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province, Monday

Illegal gold mining is fueling 'mercury boom' in Mexico

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Joaquin, Sept 15: A drill echoes through narrow tunnels deep within the mountain where miner Hugo Flores bores into rock in search of one of Earth's most toxic elements.

Buried in red stripes of minerals illuminated by his headlamp is mercury.

Here in the pine-covered mountains known as the Sierra Gorda - one of the most biodiverse stretches of Mexico - a "mercurv boom" is underway.

Soaring international gold prices are driving up the price of mercury, a toxic metal key in illegal gold mining, to all-time highs. While the demand triggers a mining rush in central Mexico, sustaining thousands of miners and their families, it also exposes them and the fragile environment to mercury poisoning. At the same time, this Mexican mercury is fueling illegal gold mining in the

areas and harming both people and the environment.

Global efforts to ban mercury mining have only made mercury from these centuries-old artisanal mines even more sought

"It's a way of life here," Flores said.

In towns like San Joaquin in the north-central state of Queretaro, the price of mercury has skyrocketed more than tenfold over the past 15 years, jumping from USD 20 per kilogram (2.2 pounds) in 2011 to between USD 240 and USD 350.

"For the first time in their lives, mercury is worth something, and the miners are saying: It's worth poisoning myself if I'm going to earn something," said Fernando Diaz-Barriga, a medical researcher who has long studied mercury mines in central Mexico

Miners follow veins of cinnabar - the ore holding mercury – like ants through narrow tunnels zig-zagging deep below



the mountain. They carve into a kilo of mercury. the rock and lug bags of stones Mexico is the world's secstrapped to their backs to the surface. The rock is shovelled into wood-fired brick ovens where the mercury heats into the United Nations. Buyers come from around a gas and separates from other minerals. The gas then cools into droplets of silver liquid that slowly drip down a pipe to be collected in small plastic Co-"They come and buy mercu-

ca-Cola bottles, each of which

sells for around USD 1,800. It

takes a ton of rock to produce

ond-largest mercury producer after China, yielding 200 tons a year, according to estimates by

the world to scoop up mercury for cheap from artisanal min-

ry for 500 pesos, and then sell it in Peru for 5,000," said Carlos Martínez, a leader of one of San Joaquin's mines. "The coyotes, as we call them, they're the ones that make money at the expense of others.'

Mercury mining in towns dotting Mexico's Sierra Gorda region dates back centuries. The metal was used in everything from thermometers to cosmetics and legally shipped to South America up until a few years ago, when many countries around the world banned its use. Today, the vast majority of Mexican mercury is trafficked to Colombia, Bolivia and Peru and distributed throughout the Amazon basin.

In the Amazon, the metal is used to extract gold from river soil in illegal gold mining operations increasingly controlled by criminal groups. The mining has tainted the rivers that bring life to the region.

In July, Peruvian authorities seized a record-breaking shipment of four tons – worth about half a million dollars - of mercury hidden inside bags of gravel headed from Mexico to

A July report by the Environmental Investigation Agency, a nonprofit watchdog that investigates environmental crime. said the Mexican Jalisco New Generation Cartel has entered some mercury mining operations in Mexico. But miners, re searchers and local officials say there's no cartel involvement and suggesting otherwise has criminalised vulnerable workers. "What we're doing isn't a crime," Martínez, 44, said. "We're just working.

The demand for gold is expected to continue as investors seek its tangible safety at a time of global economic uncertainty triggered, in part, by the Trump administration's tariffs, accord ing to J.P. Morgan and other banks. Miners say they expect the same for mercury.

"Globally, the demand for mercury is only going to continue," Martínez said. "This isn't going to go away.'

western Germany too.

Amazon, contaminating large



business



passing through very interesting times when the world is going through so much of turbulence, India is very stable growing at a consistent rate

ASHWINI VAISHNAW I MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS

RUPEE RISES 6 PAISE AGAINST US DOLLAR

The rupee witnessed range-bound trading and settled higher by 6 paise at 88.20 (provisional) against the US dollar Monday, as the domestic unit was caught between worries over US trade tariffs and hopes of a FED rate cut. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.25, then touched an intraday low of 88.30 and a high of 88.13 against the greenback during the day





ing to make India's automobile industry number within five years



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

manufacturers (both current and

SUNIL BARTHWAL | SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF

aviation corridor is a strategic step

in IndiGo's international expansion

and aligns perfectly with India's

growing economy and tourism

boost to Make in India

IndiGo is the

only Indian

airline, cur-

rently, to announce

between India and

PIETER ELBERS | CEO, INDIGO

SHORT **TAKES**

Ola files PLI claim

New Delhi: Ola Electric has

filed a claim of around ₹400

crore incentives under the

government's production-

compliance with rigorous

claim with eligible sales of about ₹3,000 crore for

FY25, translating into an

expected incentive of nearly

₹400 crore. The incentive.

calculated at a rate of 13 to

14 per cent, is expected to

significantly strengthen the

company's liquidity position

performance in the coming

quarters, the sources close

Continuing this momentum.

Ola has emerged as the top

achiever in PLI-eligible sales

in the two-wheeler category

for two consecutive

transformation.

vears, underscoring its

leadership in India's EV

Crude oil price surges

New Delhi: Crude oil

prices rise ₹35 to ₹5,561

futures market Monday

after Ukraine launched

on Russia's energy

per barrel in the domestic

large-scale drone attacks

infrastructure, disrupting

Commodity Exchange

(MCX), crude oil futures

increased ₹35, or 0.63 per

cent, to ₹5,561 per barrel in a business turnover of 6,521 lots. In addition, crude oil

futures for October delivery went up ₹28, or 0.51 per cent, to ₹5,554 per barrel in 9,107 lots. Globally, West Texas Intermediate (WTI)

crude oil was trading 0.30

per cent higher at \$62.88

a barrel in New York.

Merc price hike

per barrel while Brent Crude

rose 0.21 per cent to \$67.13

New Delhi: Luxury carmaker

Mercedes-Benz is looking

next year in order to offset

the impact of a weakened

according to the company's

to increase prices early

rupee against the euro,

for September delivery

key facilities. On the Multi

to the development said.

and deliver a positive

impact on its financial

localisation and regulatory requirements, according to sources. As per industry sources. Ola has filed the

linked incentive (PLI)

scheme, reinforcing its

Greece. This new

direct flights

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

future) can look at them will give a

New Delhi, Sept 15: India's ex-Our endeavour will be that we identify these products, put them in the public domain so that the

Gold imports were down nearago month.

The US was top exporting destination for India at \$6.86 billion showing a growth of 7.15 per cent year-on-year, followed by the UAE (\$3.24 billion), the Netherland (\$1.83 billion), China (\$1.21 billion) and the UK (1.14 billion) during August

simmering between India and the US, with the latter slapping

On the other hand, India imported maximum goods from China at \$10.91 billion, followed by Russia (\$4.83 billion), UAE (\$4.66 billion), the US (3.6 billion), and Saudi Arabia (\$2.5 billion). According to the data released by the ministry of commerce, cumulative merchandise and services exports increased to \$69.16 billion in August, compared to \$63.25 billion in corre-

The combined imports were valued at \$79.04 billion compared



leaving a trade deficit of \$9.88

The cumulative exports (merchandise and services) during April-August 2025 estimated at \$349.35 billion, as compared to \$329.03 billion in April-August 2024, showing a growth of 6.18 per cent.

Major drivers of merchandise exports growth in August 2025 include electronic goods (\$2.93 billion), engineering goods (\$9.9 billion), gems and jewellery (\$2.31 billion), petroleum products (\$4.48 billion) and drugs and pharmaceuticals (\$2.51 billion).

As per the data, India imported vegetable oils worth \$2 billion, fertilisers worth \$1.65 billion; coal, coke and briquettes worth \$2 billion; petroleum products worth 13.26 billion; chemicals worth \$2.49 billion, and electronic items worth \$9.73 billion in August.

Gold imports declined 56.67 per cent to \$5.43 billion in August from \$12.55 billion in the year-ago month.

The commerce ministry data showed non-petroleum, nongems and jewellery (gold, silver and precious metals) imports in August 2025 were \$41.02 billion compared to \$41.41 billion in August 2024. The estimated value of services export for August 2025 was \$34.06 billion as compared to \$30.36 billion in the year-ago month. Value of services imports were estimated at \$17.45 billion as compared to \$16.46

WPI INFLATION RISES TO 4-MONTH HIGH

Narrower food WPI deflation and higher core inflation have offset the deeper deflation in fuel in August, Barclays said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Wholesale price inflation rose to a four month high of 0.52 per cent in August as prices of food articles and manufactured items inched up, even though fuel and power basket witnessed easing.

Reversing the deflationary trend of the past two months, (-) 0.58 in July and (-) 0.19 per cent in June, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose to its highest level since April, when it was 0.85 per cent.

Wholesale price inflation was 1.25 per cent in August last year. "Positive rate of inflation

in August 2025 is primarily due to an increase in prices of food products, manufacturing, non-food articles, non-metallic mineral products and transport equipment etc," the industry ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Deflation in food articles narrowed to 3.06 per cent in August, from 6.29 per cent in the previous month. Deflation in vegetables and pulses eased to 14.18 per cent and 14.85 per cent from 28.96 per cent and 15.12 per cent, respectively.

In potato and onion, however, the deflation deepened to 44.11 per cent and 50.46 per cent in

Stock markets close lower ahead of Fed rate decision PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 15: Benchmark Sensex dropped nearly 119 points while Nifty snapped its eight-day winning run in a volatile trade Monday due to profit-taking in IT and auto shares ahead of the US Fed policy meeting.

The 30-share BSE Sensex de clined by 118.96 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 81,785.74. During the day, it hit a high of 81,998.51 and a low of 81,744.70.

The 50-share NSE Nifty settled lower by 44.80 points or 0.18 per cent to 25,069.20, halting its eightday uptrend.

Investors stayed on the sidelines as markets await the out come of this week's US Federal Reserve policy meeting, analysts

Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Infosys, Titan, Sun Pharma Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra and Power Grid were

the major laggards. However, Bajaj Finance, Eternal, UltraTech Cement and Reliance Industries were among the gainers. Broader markets were positive with the Smallcap gauge climbing 0.66 per cent and the Midcap index gaining 0.40 per cent. "Indian markets ended Monday's session on a muted note, with the benchmark indi ces slipping into the red amid volatile, range bound trade, Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst

Lemonn Markets Desk, said. Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT dropped the most by 0.63 per cent, followed by IT (0.60 per cent), consumer durables (0.50 per cent), teck (0.45 per cent) and auto (0.32 per cent).

Exports rise, imports decline

According to the data released by the ministry of commerce, cumulative merchandise and services exports increased to \$69.16 billion in August, compared to \$63.25 billion in corresponding month last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ports rose 6.7 per cent to \$35.1 billion in August annually, while imports declined 10.12 per cent to \$61.59 billion, according to government data released Mon-

ly 56 per cent in August, helping to trim merchandise trade deficit to \$26.49 billion in August, as against \$35.64 billion in the year-

Trade tensions have been

steep tariffs on Indian goods.

sponding month last year.

to \$84.99 billion in August 2024,

HMSI to pass on

full GST Benefits

Bhubaneswar: Honda Motorcycle &

that it will pass on the full benefit

customers across its two-wheeler

portfolio, covering all scooters and

motorcycles up to 350cc. Following

September 3 to reduce GST on two-

wheelers from 28 per cent to 18 per

depending on the model. The revised

plies to scooters and motorcycles up

to 350cc. HMSI is also assessing the

mpact of the newly introduced 40%

GST slab on premium motorcycles

above 350cc. The government's recent GST reform is expected to give

a significant boost to the automobile

sector by making two-wheelers more

accessible, particularly in rural and

semi-urban markets. Customers can check the exact model-wise price

reduction at their nearest authorised

Honda dealership. There has been

increase for the sale of Honda two

wheelers sectors post GST reforms

rates will be effective from Septem-

ber 22, 2025. While the tax cut ap-

cent, customers can now enjoy exshowroom savings of up to ₹18,800,

Scooter India (HMSI) has announced

to customers

billion in August 2024.



PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, and Re-KYC schemes. Barsarani jee, Branch Manager, Benupur branch proposed vote of thanks while Mitali Madhusmita, Assistant Manager, Priyabrata Pradhan, Head Cashier and Staff BP Singh conducted the programme. Regional Office staffs DRH Suresh Chandra, Chief Manager Mukund Karn, Sarat Mohanatra, Priyambada Nayak, Sandeen Choudhury,

Central Bank of India organises financial inclusion camp Bhubaneswar: A Financial Inclusion

Camp was organized by Central Bank of India, Benupur Branch at Momentz Convention, Balianta, Hanspal, Mahendra Dohare, Executive Director, Central Bank of India attended the event as the Chief dar. Chief General Manager of NA-BARD joined the programme as the Chief Speaker, Pankai Kumar, Bhubaneswar Regional Head, Central Bank of India, BR Ramakrishna Naik. Raipur Zonal Head, Ajaya Behera, Lead District Manager, Khordha



BOIOA Odisha conducts 44th Annual General Body Meeting



nual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of the Bank of India Officers' Association (BOIOA) Odisha Unit was held September 14 at the Railway Au ditorium, Bhubaneswar. The meeting was held under the dynamic leadership of Smrutiranjan Sahoo, President, and Kamaljit Mohapatra, General Secretary BOIOA, Odisha The event was graced by the resence of top leadership of the Federation, like Nilesh

G Nageshwar- President, Shvetang Trivedi- Working President, Sanjay Das- Chairman, Ganesh Pandey and Prakash Oraon. The Meeting was graced by the Senior Bank Executives Vikash Krishna, General Manager, FGMO, Bhubaneswar, Bijoy Kumar Malik, Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone and Srijit Sankar Behera, Zonal Manager, Sambalpur Zone who deliberate regarding the Road Map for the Bank of India in Odisha. The 44th AGBM concluded on a high note with a collective resolve to strengthen organizational unity, intensify efforts for officers' welfare, and contribute meaningfully to the growth and reputation of BOI.

Aditya Birla Group receives 'Star Employer' award

Bhubaneswar: Aditya Birla Group was conferred the Employment Excellence Award by Govt of Odisha Monday, as Star Employer' for outstanding contribution in employment generation in the State in Conventional Industries category. Ardhendu Mohapa tra, Head- Corp Affairs, Aditya Birla, Odisha received the felicitation from CM Mohan Charan Majhi at a state-level function at Bhubaneswar Minister (Industries), Sampad Chandra Swain, Chief Sec-

August, from 41.26 per cent and

44.38 per cent, respectively, in

Narrower food WPI deflation

and higher core inflation have

offset the deeper deflation in fuel in August, Barclays said, add-

ing it expects modest increases

In the case of manufactured

in WPI in the coming months.

products, inflation was high-

er at 2.55 per cent in August,

as against 2.05 per cent in the

Industry chamber PHDCCI

President Hemant Jain said

among manufactured products,

major contributors to inflation

were vegetable and animal oils

& fats, textiles, and rubber &

plastic products, which may

reflect in production costs with

a lag. ICRA Senior Economist

Rahul Agrawal said the hard-

ening in prices was broad-based

across all segments, except fuel

and power, which witnessed a

deeper deflation in August 2025

Negative inflation or defla-

tion in the 'fuel and power' bas-

ket was 3.17 per cent in August,

as against 2.43 per cent in July.

as compared to July 2025.

month before.



retary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg and Additional Chief

Vedanta organises mega health camp



Bhuhaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium, organised a free multispecialty health camp at Gunpur village in Kalahandi district, benefiting over 200 people from 26 villages in Thuamul Rampur and Kashipur blocks. The camp provided a wide range of medical services including orthopaedics, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, dermatol ogy, ENT, chest and tuberculosis care, along with free distribution of medicines The programme was inaugurated by Pradosh Kumar Panda, Block Public Health Officer (CHC Thuamul Rampur), alongside local healthcare professionals and community representatives. "Ensuring access to quality healthcare is a cornerstone of our development efforts," said Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium.

NITI report suggests AI adoption for Viksit Bharat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Accelerated adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across industries can contribute \$500-600 billion to India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2035 on the back of increased productivity and efficiency in the workforce, a NITI Aayog report said Monday.

The report titled 'AI for Viksit Bharat: The Opportunity for Accelerated Economic Growth' further said that over the next decade, the adoption of AI across sectors is expected to add \$17-26 trillion to the global economy.

"India's combination of a large STEM workforce, expanding R&D ecosystem, and growing digital and technology capabilities position the country to participate in this transformation, with the potential to capture 10-15 per cent of global

AI value," it said. According to the Aayog, proiections show that while AI will create many new roles, it will

also displace many existing

jobs, particularly in clerical, routine, and low-skill segments.

"Accelerated adoption of AI across industries can contribute \$500 billion -\$600 billion over and above India's current GDP growth by 2035, driven by increased productivity and efficiency in the workforce," the report said.

It said the analysis shows that financial services and manufacturing can be most impacted and might have up to 20-25 per cent of their sectoral GDP attributed to AI by 2035.

AI-led productivity and efficiency improvement could unlock \$50-55 billion in financial services, over and above the current estimated growth for the sector by 2035.

"AI could power automated compliance, fraud detection, and risk management through advanced anomaly detection techniques and privacy-preserving analytics such as secure multi-party computation and federated learning," the report said.

According to the report,



AI-enabled systems can reshape credit decisioning, collections, and portfolio management. By leveraging alternative data sources, banks can make more accurate, dynamic, and inclusive lending decisions

The report noted that potential AI opportunities for India presently include accelerating AI adoption across industries to improve productivity and efficiency, potentially bridging 30-35 per cent of the gap.

"These effects are expected to materialize across both domestic consumption and export markets," it said.

The report also observed that innovation in technology services, strengthening India's reputation as a technology services leader, contributing another 15-20 per cent to the step up could drive the development of higher-value solutions and new business models, enhancing India's competitiveness in the global market.

In manufacturing, the report said \$85-100 billion could be driven by AI-led productivity and efficiency improvement over and above India's current growth by 2035.

At its current growth rate of 5.7 per cent, India's GDP is projected to reach \$6.6 trillion by 2035

However, the report said under the aspirational 8 per cent growth trajectory outlined in the government's vision for the nation known as Viksit Bharat, India's GDP could increase to \$8.3 trillion, representing an incremental \$1.7 trillion compared

with the current growth path. Releasing the report, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised the need for regulations that foster technology innovations for the common good, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), but not stifle them

"We do not want regulations that literally wipe out technology itself. We want regulations because we want a responsible application," she said after releasing the report prepared by

Niti Aayog here. "India is a country which can understand the implication of a good which comes in our way although a good is never unmit igated, a good is never without riders, a good is never on its own good: it is for us all to use it in such a way that it is for the

common good. "I think AI is something which we should know how to keep well under our reins and serve for the common good. she said.

Observing that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not static, the finance minister said it is rapidly progressing, real-time and dynamic.

"At the same time, India must nurture frontier innovation, from Al-enabled drug discovery to software-defined vehicles, building the next engines of growth. The path to 8 per cent growth runs through decisive

AI adoption.



company so far increased price just 3.5-4 per cent. The lakh (A-Class) to ₹10 lakh (S-Class) due to GST rate rationalisation. Mercedes-Benz sold 18.928 units in India in 2024-25, with one out of every four cars sold

priced above ₹1.5 crore.

Cricket cold war: Handshake Vaishali defends Grand Swiss crown snub sparks Asia Cup storm

PCB alleges Code of Conduct breach in India game, wants match referee axed

The controversy erupted when India captain Suryakumar Yadav and his Pakistan counterpart Salman Agha did not engage in the customary handshake during the toss for their Group A contest and even after the end of the match in the Asia Cup tie Sunday. A handshake between captains of both teams during coin toss before matches in international cricket is a convention and not specified as a rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

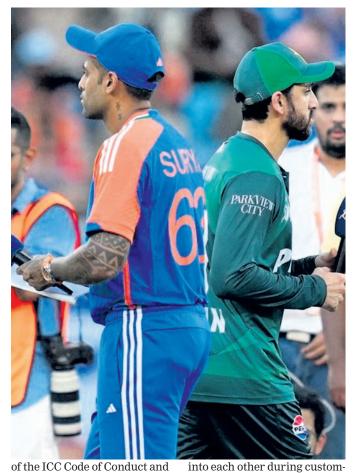
Dubai, Sept 15: The Indian players' refusal to exchange handshakes with their Pakistani counterparts after an Asia Cup clash here snowballed into a major controversy Monday as an irate PCB sought the removal of match referee Andy Pycroft, holding him responsible for the fiasco that has stirred fresh tensions between the two arch-rivals.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav had justified his team's stand after the seven-wicket win Sunday, stating that it was meant to show solidarity with the families of Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

This was after the team drew severe backlash for playing against the traditional foes. The Pakistan Cricket Board reacted angrily to the entire turn of events and after complaining to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), it has now sought the ICC's intervention.

Incidentally, PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi is the current head of ACC, while the ICC is helmed by India's Jay Shah. The Asia Cup, however, is not an ICC event and is managed by the ACC.

"The PCB has lodged a complaint with the ICC regarding violations by the Match Referee



of the ICC Code of Conduct and the MCC Laws pertaining to the Spirit of Cricket. The PCB has demanded an immediate removal of the Match Referee from the Asia Cup," Naqvi said

The PCB had earlier stated that Pycroft "asked (Pakistan) captain Salman Ali Agha, at the time of the toss, not to shake hands with his Indian coun-

Pakistan team manager Naved Cheema has also filed a complaint with the ACC alleging that it was on Pycroft's insistence that team sheets weren't exchanged between the two skippers as is the norm. The BCCI is yet to respond

to the PCB's statements but it is reliably learnt that if India make the tournament's final September 28, the players won't be sharing the presentation dais with Nagyi, who is expected to hand over the winner's trophy as ACC head.

Both teams avoided bumping

shake hands with opposition players after the seven-wicket win was "politically motivated", the skipper replied: "I feel few things, few things in life are ahead of sportsman's spirit also. We stand with victims of Pahalgam terror attack and dedicate this victory to our Armed Forces.' The sentiment was echoed by

head coach Gautam Gambhir while talking to the tournament broadcaster.

It is understood that BCCI and the team management got into a huddle to discuss their stance as opposition parties in India as well as the social media erupted in protest against the match, calling it a case of putting money above the sentiments of families devastated by the Pahalgam terror attack which killed 26 people in April.

Gambhir and senior players were unanimous about not shaking hands at any given time during the match. The decision wasn't an instant one and was taken after due deliberation, eventually green-lighted by senior people in the BCCI.

It must be noted that Gambhir's personal stand on playing Pakistan is quite clear -- "No sporting ties till terror activities continue on Indian soil."

It is understood that 'no handshake' is a policy decision that would be maintained throughout the course of the Asia Cup if the teams happen to meet again in a Super Four Clash next Sunday followed by a potential meeting in the final September 28.

"Look, if you read the rule book, there is no specification about shaking hands with the opposition. It is a goodwill gesture and a sort of convention not law that is followed globally across the sporting spectrum, a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"If there is no law, then the Indian cricket team is not bound to shake hands with an opposition with whom there is a history of strained relationship," he added.

Historically, not shaking hands for political reasons is not a new thing in internation-

The Grandmaster becomes third Indian to enter Candidates 2026

Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Sept 15: Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss for the second time in a row and made it to the women's Candidates tournament after a hard-fought draw against former world champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the 11th and final round here Monday.

Russian Kateryna Lagno played out a draw fairly quickly with Ulviyya Fataliyeva of Azerbaijan to end at the top of the table, along with Vaishali. on eight points out of a possible 11. Lagno became the other qualifier for the Candidates, apart from Vaishali, from here.

Vaishali had a little better tie-break score to win the tournament as she played with much higher ranked Zhongyi.

The Indian GM had also won the tournament in 2023 in Isle of Man, United Kingdom. Her victory here signifies that the Indian women are also going to hog the limelight like their male counterparts soon.

Irfan, Debashish brand ambassadors of OPTL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 15: The Odisha Pro T20 League (OPTL) organised by the Odisha Cricket Association and exclusively managed by Arivaa Sports, proudly announces two icons of Indian cricket, Irfan Pathan and Debashish Mohanty, as its official brand ambassadors for the inaugural season.

Irfan Pathan, a premier fast bowler and one of India's most celebrated cricketers, brings a wealth of international experience and deep regional roots to the league and joining him is Debasish Mohanty, a trailblazer from Odisha for the sport in India. Sanjay Raul, Former International Cricketer (BCCI Match Referee) will be the match referee for the entirety of the league.

The league will be a single leg event that will be played from the September 17 to 26, with 2 matches almost every single day. A total of 18 matches will be broadcast live on Star Sports Khel and streamed live on FanCode every day at 2 pm and 7 pm respectively as per the fixtures in both Hindi and



Divya Deshmukh and Kone ru Humpy have already qualified after finishing first and second respectively in the last women's World Cup. With Vaishali now joining them, it's already three Indian women in the fray to try and win the Candidates that will give them a shot at the world women's

None of the other Indians in the FIDE Grand Swiss could

chess title.

make it to the Candidates, that is reserved for eight players in all and two from here.

Anish Giri was the winner in the open section as he crushed Hans Moke Niemann of United

The last three spots will be filled in from the World Chess Cup to be held in Goa next month. The winner of the Candidates will challenge reigning world champion D Gukesh.

Talent shines at 5th All Odisha Pickleball Open



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The 5th All Odisha Pickleball Open, conducted by the Pickleball Association of Odisha in association with the All India Pickleball Association, was held over two days, 13-14 September, and concluded with a vibrant prize distribution ceremony.

The tournament witnessed intense competition across multiple categories, highlighting the sport's increasing popularity in Odisha. With participation from seasoned players as well as emerging youngsters, the event reflected

the state's growing contribu tion to the national pickleball movement. The closing ceremony was

graced by Ashis Garg (MD Group G), Soumitra Choudhary (former Odisha Ranji cricketer and eminent cricket coach), Bi iov Ketan Mishra (Vice Presi dent, Pickleball Association of Odisha), Subranshu Sarangi (Secretary), Ekalavya Maha patra (Tournament Director) and Santosh Jena (Executive Committee Member). The dignitaries congratulated the winners and lauded the participants for their dedication and

New FIH Pro League season to begin Dec 9

Lausanne: The 2025-26 season of the FIH Hockey Pro League will get underway December 9 in Argentina and Ireland, with a record 144 matches lined up across 10 host nations. The seventh edition of the "League of the Best" will feature two newcomers — Ireland women and Pakistan men — promoted from the FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2024-25. The winners of both the men's and women's leagues will directly qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Central lift Duleep Trophy after 11 years

Bangalore, Sept 15: Central Zone survived some nervous moments to beat South Zone by six wickets and clinch the Duleep Trophy after a hiatus of 11 years here Monday.

Chasing a modest target of 65. Central Zone's top-order batters were tested by South bowlers on a crumbling fifth day track at the BCCI CoE grounds, but they did not have too many runs to defend.

Akshay Wadkar (19 not out, 52 balls) and first-innings cen-



turion Yash Rathod (13 not out. 16 balls) were at crease when Central eventually went past

ary warm-up and then at the

toss, the rival skippers hand-

ed over their respective team

"Team manager Naveed

Cheema lodged a strong pro-

test against Indian players' be-

haviour of not shaking hands. It

was deemed as unsporting and

against the sport of the game.

As a protest we did not send our

captain to the post match cer-

emony," read a PCB statement

India's stand, which will be

discussed and debated for some

time to come, was in stark con-

trast to the apolitical position

that players tend to maintain

"Together, we came here, we

took a call and I feel we came

here just to play the game. I

think we gave the proper re-

ply," Suryakumar replied to a

PTI query when asked about

When a Pakistani journalist

asked whether the refusal to

the stance taken by his team.

when it comes to Pakistan.

sheets to Pycroft.

issued earlier.

the target at 66 for four in 20.3 overs to annex their seventh title in Duleep Trophy.

heart from the fight they showed in the second innings (426) and with the ball in the final innings, delaying Central's walk to victory. Left-arm spinner Ankit Sharma accounted for Danish Malewar (5) with a delivery that spun sharply and took the edge of the Central opener's bat en route to wicketkeeper

Mohammed Azharuddeen. For Patidar, it was his second title this year after guiding Royal Challengers Bengaluru to victory in the IPL, and he was understandably delighted.

Gold - Yashraj Nayak Silver - Ansuman Babu

35+ MEN'S SINGLES Silver - Sunil Sahoo

OPEN DOUBLES (MEN'S) Gold - Rajesh Pradhan & Roshan Mishra

Silver - Sumeet Panda & Ansuman Babu Bronze - Yashraj Nayak & Eureka Apta

Gold - Rajesh Pradhan & Lagnajeet Pattanaik Silver - Manmeet Mohanty & Sunil Sahoo Bronze - Santosh Jena & Ajay Nishank

0+ MEN'S DOUBLES Gold - Santosh Jena & Siba Jena Silver - Pradeep Singh & Udip Das 60+ MEN'S DOUBLES Gold - Pradeep Singh & Udip Das Silver - MN Biswal & RK Das Bronze – Bijoy Mishra & Arun Das

BEGINNER DOUBLES Silver - Sumeet Patel & Rishav Patra

WOMEN'S SINGLES (OPEN) Gold - Prasidhi Poddar Silver - Aaradhva Verma Bronze – Sakshi Agarwal

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (OPEN) Gold - Prasidhi Poddar & Sneha Garg Silver - Anushka Alice & Subhashree Bronze - Anisha & Joanna

MIXED DOUBLES Gold – Ekalavya Mahapatra & Prasidhi Poddar Silver - Anisha Panigrahy & Roshan Mishra Bronze - Anmol Das & Sakshi Agarwal

Unstoppable Duplantis soars to new heights

The athlete breaks pole vault world record for 14th time to capture third world championship title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 15: Armand "Mondo" Duplantis broke the pole vault world record for the . 14th time Monday night, clearing 6.30 meters to capture his third world championship. Duplantis, who grew up in Louisiana but competes for his mother's native Sweden, easily won his 49th straight meet and fifth straight major title, including Olympics, then kept the crowd around for another drama-rich half-hour to watch him go for

the record. He cleared his top height (20 feet, 8 inches) on his third and final try -- the bar still bouncing but not falling as he leaped off the mat and jumped into second-place finisher Emmanouil Karalis' arms to start the cele-

Duplantis gets \$70,000 for the victory plus a \$100,000 bonus for setting the record at the world championships. The jam-packed stadium that stuck around for his finale gets a great memory.



"To give you guys this moment, it's just amazing," Duplantis said in an in-stadium

interview The 25-year-old first broke the record February 8, 2020, clearing 6.17 meters and knocking France's 2012 Olympic champion, Renaud Lavillenie, off the top spot.

Since then, Duplantis has improved upon the record by one centimeter every time, giving him more opportunities to pocket bonuses like the one he gets at this event.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS NEXT FOR ME AT THIS MOMENT. I **DON'T CARE. I WILL JUST ENJOY THIS RIGHT NOW ARMAND "MONDO" DUPLANTIS**

As great a showman as an athlete, Duplantis shared handshakes and hugs with all those guys after Karalis missed at 6.20 meters to guarantee Duplantis the win.

He headed over to the edge of the track to consult with his coach, walked back near the runway and took a seat, then stood up, chalked up his hands and let the drama begin.

Just as he did a year ago at the Paris Olympics, Duplantis missed his first two tries, leaving himself with one, last all-or-

nothing attempt. After sitting for about five minutes, he got up, took off, reached a speed of more than 35 kilometers per hour (22 mph), then went vaulting over the highest height ever cleared -- enough room to fit a full-sized pickup truck.

Odisha men finish second in All-India **T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 15: The third All-India T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship, organised under the auspices of the Tennis Ball Cricket Association of India (TBCAI), was held at the Shree Jagannath Cricket Stadium Sunday.

The tournament was hosted by the Odisha T10 Tennis Cricket Association in collaboration with the Shree Jagannath Darshan Charitable Trust.

Due to rain, the men's final was delayed and played Monday morning, with Jharkhand emerging as champions while Odisha settled for the runners-up position.

After editions in Lucknow and Goa, the championship's third installment in the holy city of Puri has added a new chapter to its national-level journey. Odisha, finishing runners-up in both the men's and women's categories, left behind strong memories.

In the first men's semifinal, Jharkhand defeated AIIB by



seven wickets. The second semifinal between Odisha and Uttar Pradesh was disrupted by rain, and Odisha were declared

winners. On Monday batting first, Odisha post 76 runs for the loss of six wickets in the allotted eight overs. Chasing a target of 77, Jharkhand overhauled the score in 6.1 overs with only two wickets down

Jharkhand's Chhotu Khan was named Player of the Match,

while Odisha's Bishal Jena won Player of the Series. Odisha's Kiran Saha was adjudged Besi Batter, Muktikant Patra Best Bowler, and Niranjan Pradhan Best Fielder.

TBCAI president Daitapati Bhabani Prasad Dasmohapatra governing body chairman Nishikant Mishra, executive sec retary Santosh Kumar Pradhan and other officials presented trophies and medals to the champion and runners-up teams.

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